

BIOGRAPHY

Ana Krajnc (1938), Professor Emerita, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), President of the Slovenian Third Age University

Ana Krajnc earned degrees in education (1961) and psychology (1962) from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts. She completed her master's degree in 1969 while working as a researcher at the University of Ljubljana's Institute of Sociology and Philosophy. In 1971 she completed her PhD with a dissertation titled *Evaluating Education and Social Mobility*.¹ Krajnc also did her post-doctoral studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, where she focused primarily on adult education.²

As the national coordinator of the international Study of Adult Education and Social Participation, Krajnc published her first book in English at the OISE in Toronto (*The Identification of Educational Values as a Factor in Adult Education: A Cross-National Approach*, 1973).

Krajnc began her career as a counsellor at the Slovenian Employment Service (1962–64), after which she was a researcher and coordinator at the University of Ljubljana's Institute of Sociology and Philosophy (1962–69). In 1969 she began teaching at the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Arts. She initiated her first cycle of lectures on adult education in 1972, having done research on the topic at the University of Toronto.

In her position at the University of Ljubljana, Krajnc introduced and developed its adult education program. The program later expanded to encompass the master's and doctoral levels as well. Ana Krajnc developed individual courses in adult education at other universities, too (Koper, Maribor, Nova Gorica, Novo mesto, and Rijeka). She participated in developing the continuing education teacher-training module, within which she continued to teach until 2017 (at the Universities of Ljubljana and Maribor).

Throughout her career Krajnc took on leadership roles: she has served as a vice dean of the Faculty of Arts (1977–79), the director of the Center for the Development of the University of Ljubljana (1990–92), and she is currently the president of the Slovenian Third Age University (2008–). After retiring in 2001, she continued to give lectures at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (Center for Pedagogic Education) and at the Faculty of Education, University of Maribor.

Since 2017 she has concentrated all her activities on the Slovenian Third Age University and her work in international associations, such as the European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG). She has been a great supporter of younger adult educators and other experts and innovators in adult education. The book *Liber Amicorum*³ follows the professional paths of those who have become, under her supervision, significant adult educators in Slovenia and internationally.

¹ Her bibliography is available at: <http://izumbib.izum.si/bibliografije/Y20190517093542-04800.html>.

² She was awarded a grant to study in Canada in the academic year 1971/72. Her advisor was J. Robbins Kidd. During the same year she visited a number of other Canadian universities with a CADESS Scholarship.

³ Ličen, N., Findeisen, D., Šantej, A. (eds.). (2018). *Človek mora biti dovolj drzen, da zagovarja svoje vrednote: liber amicorum* [People Should Be Bold Enough to Defend Their Values: Liber Amicorum]. Ljubljana: Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete. <https://e-knjige.ff.uni-lj.si/znanstvena-zalozba/catalog/book/127>

Ana Krajnc's work has been characterized by cooperation with institutions in Slovenia as well as abroad. She has collaborated with numerous individuals and institutions internationally. Her personal encounters with notable adult education researchers and theorists (e.g., J. Robbins Kidd, Paulo Freire, Allen Tough, Kjell Rubenson, Liam Carey, Maria Slowey, Budd L. Hall, Peter Jarvis, and Peter Mayo) were crucial. She has worked at various universities worldwide (either as a researcher or visiting professor): the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (University of Toronto), Institute of Education (Geneva), National Institute for Adult and Continuing Education (Leicester), Oxford University, University of Tübingen, University of London, Charles University (Prague), School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (Paris), University of Florence, European Bureau for Adult Education (London, later Florence), University of Regensburg, Leipzig University, Institute for International Cooperation, German Adult Education Association (Bonn), University of British Columbia (Vancouver), University of Ulm, ZAWiW (Ulm), Irlen Institute for Reading Disabilities (San Francisco), and others. Ana Krajnc has also cooperated with colleagues from the universities of former Yugoslavia (Belgrade, Zagreb, Sarajevo, and Skopje).

For a number of terms (1975–97) she was a board member of the International Council for Adult Education (ICAE), a member of the executive committee of the International Congress of University Adult Education (ICUAE), a member of the international adult education group at UNESCO, a member of the International Society for Comparative Adult Education,⁴ and the president of the Andragogic Association of Yugoslavia (1980–82). In the academic year 1989/90 she was a representative to the International Council for Adult Education at the United Nations in Vienna. Her international participation is still reflected in various current collaborations and international adult education projects.

Ana Krajnc has always combined research with practical innovation. She has developed a great number of new practices, such as continuing education for teachers and adult educators at the University of Ljubljana in two forms: Days of Pedagogy and Andragogy and the Summer School for Adult Educators. When she was a vice dean of the Faculty of Arts, she encouraged the establishment of the Center for Pedagogic Education. She also promoted the development of pre-retirement education, for which she helped to prepare the program "My Retirement – My New Challenge" (1999). Summer School for Adult Educators ("Together with You for the Development of Your Community," 1995–2003) introduced participatory action research by inviting a group of international researchers to work in the local environment. The project promoted creating new opportunities in dialog with the local residents. The school combined the principles of participatory research with innovation in the local environment, and it became an example of good practice included in the UNESCO ALPHA study. In collaboration with others, Ana Krajnc wrote and created the film *You Will Have to Do It Yourself*, which presented the ALPHA research project at the International Conference on Adult Education CONFINTEA V in Hamburg (1997).

Krajnc co-founded the Slovenian Third Age University (1984), which has become a nationwide network of fifty-two local universities with 12,000 older students. Since 2008 she has been the

⁴ In 1998 the international ISCAE conference was held in Slovenia
<http://www.iscae.org/conferences/1998conf/isc-conf98.htm>.

president of the Slovenian Third Age University. She has worked with other staff to set up training for older adult education experts.

In 2015 Krajnc established the Dyslexia Institute as part of the Slovenian Third Age University. It is intended for children and adults with specific learning difficulties related to dyslexia. The Institute assists people with dyslexia and raises public awareness of dyslexia.

Krajnc was one of the first in Slovenia to draw attention to, and do research on, functional (il)literacy. She participated in developing educational programs for mentors of groups for people with poor functional literacy.

In addition, she developed special mentorship programs for the Each-One-Teach-One network, which encourages the development of digital literacy, especially for older adults. The network includes people of other ages, too.

With her work, Ana Krajnc has promoted the development of communities and encouraged collaborative communities⁵ in education as a response to the “commodification” of education and the transition to a knowledge society. Recently she has been developing the concepts of intergenerational solidarity and the “silver economy,” which should take account of lifelong learning and older adults’ paid work and other activities. She believes that education is a value that should be accessible to all. Her work embodies this belief.

In 1995 Ana Krajnc founded *Andragoška spoznanja* (Studies in Adult Education and Learning), the first Slovenian scholarly journal for adult education, which has since become an international academic journal.⁶ She was the editor-in-chief of the journal until 2013.

Krajnc has participated in international research projects.⁷ Her most significant studies are given below:⁸

- Social Mobility and Job Fluctuation, Institute for Sociology, Ljubljana, 1968
- Decision-Making Processes, Social Participation and Self-Government, Institute for Sociology, Ljubljana, 1969
- Social Participation and Adult Education, international project coordinator: University of Oregon, Eugene; national coordinator: Institute for Sociology, Ljubljana, 1967–1972

⁵ Krajnc, A. (2010). Spreminjanje družbene strukture in vseživljenjsko izobraževanje – iz industrijske v družbo znanja [The Changes in the Social Structure and Lifelong Learning – from an Industrial to a Knowledge Society]. *Andragoška spoznanja*, 16(2), 12–25.

⁶ *Andragoška spoznanja* <https://revije.ff.uni-lj.si/AndragoskaSpoznanja/issue/view/664>

⁷ In 2018, a collection of papers was published to celebrate her birthday and comprehensive research career: Ličen, N., Mezgec, M. (eds.). (2018). *Sodobne paradigme raziskovanja izobraževanja in učenja odraslih: eseji v počastitev jubileja Ane Krajnc* [Contemporary Research Paradigms of Adult Education and Learning: A Festschrift for Ana Krajnc]. Ljubljana: Znanstvena založba Filozofske fakultete. <https://e-knjige.ff.uni-lj.si/znanstvena-zalozba>.

⁸ She has always paid special attention in her research to issues relating to personality, motivation, identity, and community. Her work has been influenced by humanist psychology (Carl Rogers, Abraham Maslow) and critical social theory, especially adult education experts (Paulo Freire, Jack Mezirow), as well as other sociologists (Alvin Toffler, Jeremy Rifkin) and philosophers (Michel Serres).

- The Systems of Adult Education in Europe, international research, UNESCO, Paris, Centre for Leisure and Education, Prague, 1976–1981
- The System of Adult Education in Yugoslavia, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, 1975
- Social Roles and Methods in Distance Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, 1977
- Three Stages of Socio-Economic Development and Change in the Social Functions of Adult Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, 1978
- Adults and Their Motivation for Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, 1981
- The Future of Adult Education in Europe, EURO DELPHI research, EU project, coordinator: University of Leuven, Belgium, national coordinator, 1994–1996
- Adults' Learning Difficulties and Dyslexia, FORWARD EU project, project coordinator: Norway, National institute for Adult Education, national coordinator, 1996–2004
- Adults' Learning Projects as a Basic Form of Lifelong Education among People with Higher Education, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, 2009
- Reading Difficulties, Dyslexia and the Application of the Irlen Test, Slovenian Third Age University, Dyslexia Institute, Ljubljana, 1995–2010
- Social Stereotypes and Education of Older People as a Constituent Part of Lifelong Learning in Slovenia, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana 2007–2014
- Social Relations and Social Benefits in Small Study Groups in the Network of Slovenian Third Age University, Slovenian Third Age University, Ljubljana, 2015

Ana Krajnc is a well-known public lecturer and speaker, and she regularly appears in the media (on the radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines). Her latest books (2014, 2015) have been well-received both by experts and practitioners. Her international research meant that she pioneered a number of innovations in Slovenia, among which is the recent example of her e-literacy program for older people.

Krajnc has received many awards for her work. In 1988 she received the most distinguished education award in the Republic of Slovenia (the Žagar Award), and in 2002 she was awarded the honorary title of professor emerita for her substantial contributions to the development of the University of Ljubljana. She received the Award of the Faculty of Arts (1999). In 2011 Ana Krajnc and Dušana Findeisen were granted an award for social innovation (SPIRIT Slovenia – Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Internationalization, Foreign Investments, and Technology). In 2012 the Association for Education in the Third Age (or the Slovenian Third Age University, National Association for Education and Social Inclusion,⁹ of which Ana Krajnc is the president) was presented with the national education award.

⁹ Slovenian Third Age University <http://www.utzo.si/en/>