

Prof. Dr. **Barbara Weber**, University of British Columbia, Canada

Barbara Weber is Professor and Chair of the Interdisciplinary Studies Graduate Program (ISGP) at the University of British Columbia. She is also associated with the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology and an Adjunct Professor in the Philosophy Department. Before her arrival at UBC, she held the Professorship for Civic Engagement and Values Education at the Philosophy Department at the University of Regensburg. In her work, she engages with phenomenological and hermeneutic theories in order to rethink the relationship between embodiment, empathy, reason (*Vernunft*), and the political space, which has led to a radically different understanding of the cultivation of a global public space and Human Rights Philosophies (Weber, 2013).

In her works on hermeneutic and phenomenological theories around natality, she understands childhood as an existential state of being human (Kohan & Weber 2020). The goal of education is no longer the “exodus from childhood.” Instead, education is seen as the possibility to respond to the arrival of a new human being dialogically. The experience of natality is not chronologically determined but could happen at any time in life. This dialogical understanding of childhood and natality might allow us to “liquify” stagnate concepts around the experience of time, embodiment, and thinking. Being in the world becomes a dialogical adventure that is “underway” through understanding (*im Verstehen unterwegs sein*).

Weber has worked as a performance artist, choreographer, and dancer of ballet, German expressionist dance, *Bharatanatyam*, and *Butoh*. Her performance works combined poetry and philosophical aphorisms with embodied “answers” conveyed through the dancer’s movements, starting a bodily conversation around existential states of being in the world and what it means to have fallen into time and space.