



## Basic Education in Mexico: The Wicked Fortune of Reforms

by **Dr. Carlos Ornelas**

Professor of Education and Communications  
Metropolitan Autonomous University  
Xochimilco, Mexico City  
CICE Visiting Professor



### Abstract

In international comparative education research on educational reforms, scholars tend to explain why change efforts fail. The issue is not insignificant; suffice to say that in the history of attempts of institutional moves, there are many more failures than successes.

Hans Weiler argues that states tend to maximize profits arising from designing and pretending they are running educational reforms while trying to minimize the political costs associated with its implementation. Ginsburg and Cooper argue that sometimes the mismatch between rhetoric and action is the result of the policy of an elite group that does not establish a clear commitment to change. In such cases, rhetoric functions as a "placebo". Torsten Husen emphasizes the neglect of the educational actors act not crave any change in their routines and traditions. He argues that the common problem of school systems is the "cement coverage" that stifles innovative spirit.

In this seminar I will examine three attempts to reform basic education in Mexico that failed, mostly because the survival of corporatism in political power relations.

**Date:** April 24th (Thu.) 16:30-18:00

**Venue:** CICE Seminar Room (IDEC 6F), Hiroshima University

Everyone is welcome!  
どなたでも聴講できます!

【Inquiries/問い合わせ先】

**Center for the Study of International Cooperation in Education**

(CICE: 教育開発国際協力研究センター)

Email: [cice@hiroshima-u.ac.jp](mailto:cice@hiroshima-u.ac.jp) / TEL: 082-424-6959