

EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S REPORT TO THE PESGB AGM 26th March 2022

I have now been in the role of Executive Editor for twelve months, having succeeded Bob Davis in March last year. I am glad to report that 2021 was a successful year for our journal, if a rather challenging one.

Volume 55 (2021)

We can be pleased with the scope and content of Volume 55. The volume comprises six issues incorporating 86 articles and running to 1158 pages. We published two Special Issues, one on *The Educational Value of Monuments*, edited by Emma Williams and Paul Standish, and one on *Kant on Education and Improvement*, edited by Martin Sticker and me. Regular issues included themed Suites on 'Political Education for Human Transformation', 'Teaching Under COVID-19', and 'On the Road with René Arcilla and Wim Wenders'. The volume also included Richard Marshall's interview with Lee MacIntyre and, of course, many compelling original articles, among which Alice Sullivan and Juith Suissa's 'The Gender Wars' deserves special mention for stimulating much discussion and attaining a remarkable Altmetric score.

The volume presents a wide range of philosophical topics, traditions of thought, and styles of reasoning, and combines abstract philosophical reflection on epistemic, metaphysical and ethical questions in education alongside discussions of vital topical questions of practice and policy. I hope readers find the content illuminating and inspiring.

Editorial Team

The editorial team is functioning very well. I am pleased that Emma Williams and Paul Standish have now accepted five-year terms of appointment and will be the journal's co-editors until 2026. We have very regular Zoom meetings to oversee all aspects of the journal. Emma and Paul put in a huge amount of time and do a wonderful job. I am also pleased that our assistant editor team of Doret de Ruyter, Judith Suissa, David Aldridge and Marianna Papastephanou acquired four new members: Sheron Fraser-Burgess, Adrian Skilbeck, Koichiro Misawa and Lovisa Bergdahl. I am extremely grateful to them and to our two Associate Editors, Richard Smith and Bob Davis, for the invaluable work they do, and to the other members of the Editorial Board for their input and support. The standard of refereeing is very high and invariably helpful to authors. We were excited when Richard Marshall took over as Reviews Editor, but alas Richard had to step down after only a few weeks in the role. I am delighted to report that we have found an able successor in Alexis Gibbs.

Special Issues and Suites

Special issues and themed Suites of papers are a vital part of the journal and we have many exciting projects lined up, which include: *Classics of German Vocational Educational Theory*, edited by Christopher Winch, Dina Kuhlee, and Christian Steib; *Beyond Virtues and Vices*, edited by Sharon Hunter, Karsten Kenklies and David Lewin; *Paul Hirst*, edited by Patricia White and David Bridges; and a Policy Special Issue on *Sex Education*, edited by Michael Hand and Stephen Parker. Further Special Issues on Decolonizing the Curriculum and on Epistemic Injustice are in development. The topics of Suites in development include: democratic education; the legacy of Gareth Matthews; Plato's importance for philosophy of education; and the educational significance of 'the Quartet' (Anscombe, Murdoch, Foot and Midgley).

We are always keen to receive new proposals for Suites and Special Issues. In response to suggestions from CORE, new guidelines for the submission of proposals for Special Issues and Suites have been developed and are now posted to the journal's Wiley site. They provide more information about the process, include a provision for the use of open calls for papers, and affirm the journal's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. My thanks to Judith Suissa, Sharon Fraser-Burgess and Oli Belas for helpful input. It is very important that the journal is perceived as a welcoming venue for members of visible minorities and that there is vibrant discussion on its pages of issues of equity, diversity and inclusion, which are so pertinent to so many dimensions of education.

Video Abstracts

We continue to offer authors the opportunity to create video abstracts to promote their papers and provide expert technical support. Video abstracts appear in the electronic version of the paper and are hosted on the JOPE YouTube page. Three new abstracts were recently uploaded (by Anna Pagès, Ilya Zrudlo and Kevin Williams). Thanks to everyone at PESGB who helps with this process and with JOPE promotion in general: JOPE Twittermeister Bob Davis; Sharon Smith; Mary Richardson; Oli Belas; and Vicki Horner at Wiley.

Challenges

The challenges we faced in the past year have principally concerned production issues. Our publisher, Wiley, introduced new 'smart' systems at almost every level of the production process (article submission, copy-editing, typesetting, proofing...) which did not go smoothly, creating significant delays and producing a huge workload for the editorial team.

In addition, the publisher required the journal to switch to a new journal design, necessitated by the new systems. The new look has provoked criticism on aesthetic grounds and because the small font is difficult to read, especially in the print version. We chose the font from a limited number of options, all in 10-point. Wiley have informed us that it is not possible to use another font size.

In addition, the landscape of contemporary publishing is constantly shifting in ways that are hard to predict. At present, the viability of a journal depends on its capacity to publish more and more content ("growth" is a constant watchword), especially revenue-generating open access content. This trend will obviously create more work for everyone involved, and also requires planning, marketing and promotion on an ever-increasing scale.

Finally, I would like to thank our authors for their submissions and our readers for their interest and engagement. I'm looking forward to more exciting issues of JOPE in 2022.

David Bakhurst
Executive Editor, 18th March, 2022