

Preface

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the conclusion of the COVID-19 pandemic, the resilience and dedication of the research community in advancing knowledge in the area of extended education have been truly remarkable. This is evident in the multitude of recent research papers submitted to the *International Journal of Research on Extended Education (IJREE)* for publication.

This issue comprises four outstanding research articles and a thought-provoking book review. Three of the articles explore various aspects of extended education in Norway, Switzerland, and the United States. The fourth article provides valuable insights into the trends and dynamics of research in the private tutoring domain. Additionally, we feature a comprehensive review of the book “Shadow Education in the Middle East: Private Supplementary Tutoring and its Policy Implications” by Mark Bray and Anas Hajar, which contributes significantly to our understanding of this educational phenomenon in the Middle Eastern context.

In the first article, the authors employ innovative methodologies using CiteSpace software to construct visual maps, enabling a comprehensive understanding of knowledge domains in the realm of shadow education. Their analysis, based on 351 documents sourced from the Web of Science database, reveals the rapid expansion of shadow education and emphasizes the need for increased collaboration within academia. The article also emphasizes the importance of recognizing the diverse forms of shadow education and the role of parental involvement in promoting self-driven learning abilities.

The second article delves into the dynamics of social inequality within Norwegian day-care facilities, known as *Skolefritidsordning* (SFOs). By re-analyzing a national evaluation of SFOs, the study uncovers new exclusion mechanisms resulting from policy reforms. It sheds light on the challenges faced by SFO staff in balancing system demands and children’s needs, providing valuable insights into the dynamics of social inequality within the extended education landscape.

Furthermore, the third article focuses on cooperation among extended education providers and partners in Switzerland. Through a quantitative survey conducted in a pioneering canton, the study explores the perspectives of cooperation partners and reveals the link between cooperation and job satisfaction. This research addresses a significant knowledge gap in understanding cooperation within extended education in Switzerland.

In the following article, the authors examine Creative Youth Development (CYD) programs and their adaptation to virtual program environments in 2020. By uncovering the challenges faced by organizations and presenting strategies for adapting culminating events during the pandemic, the study emphasizes the importance of youth leadership, connection, and creative strategies for engaging young individuals, with broader implications for the field of youth development.

Lastly, we present a comprehensive review of the book titled “Shadow Education in the Middle East: Private Supplementary Tutoring and its Policy Implications” by Mark Bray and Anas Hajar. The reviewer acknowledges the book’s significant contribution in defining the international scope and key elements of shadow education, as well as its exploration of the Middle Eastern context. By enabling cross-regional comparisons and fostering a global

conversation on private tutoring in the Middle East, the book enhances our understanding of this educational phenomenon in a meaningful way.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to the editors of IJREE and the dedicated reviewers for their invaluable contributions. It is through their unwavering support and commitment that IJREE has solidified its position as a world-renowned journal in the field of extended education.

With great enthusiasm, we invite you to delve into the articles featured in this issue. May they inspire fruitful discussions, spark new ideas, and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in our collective pursuit of excellence in extended education.

Sincerely,

Sang Hoon Bae

Editor-in-chief, International Journal of Research on Extended Education (IJREE)