

Editor's Preface

From September 6 to 9, 2023, the WERA Task Force Global Research in Extended Education Conference 2024 was held in Bern, Switzerland. Researchers and practitioners from across the globe gathered to present their work, sharing insights that contribute to the advancement of future research and offer practical implications in the field.

This issue features a carefully curated selection of high-quality papers presented at the Bern conference. It continues a longstanding tradition in which researchers present their work at the conference, receive feedback from the audience and experts, and revise their papers for inclusion in a special issue of our journal.

Through this special issue, we also celebrate the collaboration between the journal's editors and the guest editors who organized the conference. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Michelle, Regular and Lynn, who played vital roles as guest editors. They invited conference presenters to submit abstracts if they were interested in publishing their work in the journal. Following an initial review of these abstracts, eligible authors were invited to submit full papers for further peer review. Throughout this process, the guest editors were instrumental in recommending distinguished academic reviewers, greatly aiding the quality of the final papers.

As a result, five outstanding papers, each having undergone a thorough review process, have been published in this special issue. These papers exemplify high academic standards and align closely with the themes of the Bern conference. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the authors of these excellent papers, as well as to the reviewers whose insightful feedback helped refine the papers. For a deeper understanding of each paper's key findings and its academic and policy implications, I encourage readers to read the introductions provided by the guest editors.

Looking ahead to 2025, two major conferences in the field of extended education will take place. The first, organized by the Global Extended Learning and Youth Development Association (GELYDA), will be held at Reykjavik University in Iceland from June 11 to 13, under the theme The Science and Practice of Extended Learning, Youth Development, and Wellbeing. The second, organized by the WERA Task Force Global Research in Extended Education in collaboration with Linköping University in Sweden, will take place from September 25 to 27, on the theme Extended Education in the Future: Opportunities and Challenges.

I wish both conferences great success and look forward to an enriching exchange of ideas, where scholars and practitioners from around the world will present and discuss high-quality research, gaining valuable insights that will advance the field.

Sincerely,
Sang Hoon Bae, Editor-in-Chief
International Journal for Research on Extended Education (IJREE)