

Editor's Preface

From September 11 to 14, 2024, the WERA Task Force Global Research in Extended Education Conference was held in Brisbane, Australia under the theme “Bricolage: Research Methodologies and Perspectives in Extended Education.” A broadly representative scholarly community assembled to present findings derived from sustained, context-sensitive inquiry. Alongside university and institute researchers, policymakers at national and local levels, and practitioners who shoulder the vital work of educating and caring for students across diverse settings, participants listened closely, offered critical perspectives, and engaged in vigorous scholarly discourse.

As a presenter and moderator, I witnessed the radiance of intellectual exchange. It is my considered judgment that the extended education research community has gained fresh insight and renewed momentum, strengthening theoretical foundations, methodological pluralism, and practice-oriented scholarship across its domains.

During the organizing process, the conference leadership advanced a judicious proposal to the IJREE editors: to curate a special issue featuring distinguished papers from the meeting so that a broader global readership might engage with, critique, and build upon these contributions. The IJREE editors welcomed this initiative with genuine enthusiasm.

The six articles included in this special issue advanced through a two-stage vetting process. First, abstracts submitted by authors wishing to develop their conference presentations underwent rigorous initial screening to determine eligibility for full-manuscript submission. Subsequently, completed papers were submitted and subjected to thorough peer review, consistent with IJREE's standards of methodological rigor, conceptual clarity, and relevance to extended education. The final acceptances reflect the exemplary quality of the research and its contribution to the field.

Throughout the editorial process, four guest editors – Jennifer Cartmel and Marilyn Casley of Griffith University, Bruce Hurst of the University of Melbourne, and Kylie Brannelly of NOSHA (National Outside School Hours Association) collaborated closely with the IJREE editorial office and dedicated extraordinary effort. Without their commitment and collegial leadership, this special issue would not have come to fruition. On behalf of the IJREE Editorial Board and the extended education scholarly community, I express our sincere gratitude.

We extend warm congratulations to the authors, who refined their manuscripts with care, responded thoughtfully to demanding reviewer feedback, and achieved publication through scholarly perseverance. Their work elevates and enriches the intellectual assets of extended education. We also thank the reviewers for their willingness to undertake multiple rounds of evaluation and for their incisive comments and guidance, which measurably strengthened each article's contribution.

Looking ahead, we remain confident that the biennial conferences organized by WERA TF and GELYDA (Global Extended Learning and Youth Development Association), together with IJREE will continue to serve as important platforms for disseminating scholarly achievements, fostering international dialogue, and catalyzing research-to-practice translation in extended education.

Finally, please note that from June 24 to 26, 2026, GELYDA and the Korean Afterschool Study Association will host the annual conference at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul,

Republic of Korea. We anticipate a vibrant celebration of knowledge in which researchers, policymakers, practitioners, and NGOs in this field present and debate their work, strengthening professional ties, advancing shared understanding, and deepening the collegial spirit that animates this community.

Sincerely,

Sang Hoon Bae, Editor-in-Chief

International Journal for Research on Extended Education (IJREE)