

# DGfE and WERA: Internationalisation pathways

*Liesel Ebersöhn*

The World Education Research Association (WERA) is an association of associations with established and emerging international networks spanning the Global South and -North, as well as Eastern and Western hemispheres. The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaft (DGfE) is one of the founding Association Members of WERA in 2009. WERA has an annual Focal Meeting which is hosted together with one of the WERA Association members. This ensures WERA-presence in regional spaces – bringing global capacity to local spaces for knowledge sharing. Each WERA Association is invited to propose a WERA Invited Symposium at every annual conference. The DGfE has made use of this platform for internationalisation fruitfully for many years.

Over the years DGfE has created opportunities for WERA-participation in Germany at annual conferences in the form of, for example, invited symposia. WERA also provides opportunities for DGfE-members to participate in a range of flagship international education research activities via established pathways.

WERA disseminates information on international collaborative opportunities to the DGfE by means of email correspondence with the DGfE-representative on council, who then distributes available opportunities to individual DGfE-members. WERA also sends direct emails on international collaborative opportunities to researchers who are Individual Members of WERA.

Besides an obvious emphasis on generating education knowledge that is rigorous and responsive to global challenges related to education, many WERA activities privilege a cognitive justice agenda – emphasising equitable research capacity development so that quality evidence from across the globe can be shared in quality ways. On global research capacity development In the following section flagship WERA activities, as well as possible ways for DGfE-members to collaborate on these, are briefly outlined.

*International Research Networks (IRN)*: DGfE-members may wish to propose IRNs with colleagues from other countries and regions. International Research Networks aim to distil knowledge on a particular world-wide education questions and consist of a globally representative network of education research (South-North-East-West) of both established and early career researchers. WERA announces a call for IRN-proposals every two years. Each IRN is invited to propose a WERA Invited Symposium at every annual conference. Similarly, IRNs are invited to submit research from their work for peer-review in the WERA Routledge publication series, *Global Perspectives in Education Research* (GPER).

*Doctoral and Early Career Network (DEC)*: WERA affords emergent DGfE-researchers with structured opportunities for internationalisation early

on in their careers. The DEC-network is a vibrant space for early career and emergent scholars to strengthen research capacity and international research networks. An elected early career scholar from one of the WERA associations leads the DEC-network with a Senior Mentor (a member of the WERA Executive Committee) and a DEC Executive Committee. The DEC organises opportunities such as online networking meetings, onsite social and informational sessions at annual WERA Focal meetings, and discussion forums on pertinent topics to the group. Each WERA Association (including the DGfE) has a DEC-representative who disseminates information on DEC-opportunities to their regional research community.

*Mentoring Programme:* Internationalisation is possible for DgFE-mentees and mentors alike. The WERA Mentoring Programme provides an opportunity for emergent researchers from WERA Associations to be mentored by education researchers from across the world. The WERA Secretariat request Associations (including DGfE) to nominate mentors. When the Mentoring Programme is announced mentees may request to be placed with a mentor for thematic and career mentorship.

*Visiting Researcher Award:* DGfE-members may wish to consult with one another to consider models in which they wish to invite and host academic researchers in ways that support internationalisation. Annually Associations post a competitive call to host visiting researchers. Such calls are collaborative in nature and may include, for example, a university research centre collaborating with an Association to resource the visit of a researcher.

*Webinars:* DGfE-members could engage in internationalisation focused on equitable research capacity development by offering to present online seminars. The aim of WERA-webinars is to share research capacity across WERA Associations to support quality education research. In the past webinar topics included preparing submissions for conference papers, as well as academic writing.

*Publications:* For peer-reviewed international publications, DGfE-members who participated in Focal Meetings, Invited Symposia or International Research Networks may all submit manuscripts for peer-review and possible inclusion in the WERA Routledge publication series, *Global Perspectives in Education Research (GPER)*. In addition, DGfE-members may wish to propose a book to the editors of the WERA Springer publication series focusing on policy-related education research.

Opportunities for international engagement are open to any DGfE-member and can be accessed online at <https://www.weraonline.org/>.