

Editorial

Supporting Beginner Researchers

When IJMCS was launched nine years ago, one of our central objectives was to support the development of beginner researchers. What we refer to as beginner researchers is labelled as Early Career Researchers elsewhere. A crucial question is to be framed around how this support might be shaped. An insight that helps to respond to this question emerges from O'Brien, Graf & McKellar (2019) who argue that one of the greatest needs of ECRs is to help them engage with the process of publishing. They note that, in the same way as experienced academics and researchers are under pressure to publish, ECRs experience similar pressure to publish. However, they note further that ECRs need to gain a good scholarly standing from their work rather than just maintain that standing. An established means of progression for all academics is through publishing. According to Nicholas, Rodríguez-Bravo, et al., (2018) being aware of the challenges faced by ECRs in the context of publishing is crucial, and it is important that publishers find ways of improving the experience of ECRs.

This edition of IJMCS is our attempt at providing this support to ECRs. First, we have consciously dedicated it to publications from beginner researchers and have structured our feedback in a developmental mode. In effect, although the articles are now accepted and published, substantial feedforward have been provided to the contributors. Our hope is that the combination of the exposure and confidence that being published and the improvement that the feedforward received will facilitate their development as researchers. In doing this, we hope that we have made a significant stride towards the achievement of one of our objectives. There is a wide range of issues covered in this edition and they all directly relate to aspects of practice in education.

We recommend all the articles to you and hope you will enjoy reading them.

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Professor James Ogunleye

References

Nicholas, Rodríguez-Bravo, et al., (2018). What publishers can take away from the latest early career researcher research. *Learned Publishing*, 31: 249–253.

O'Brien, A., Graf, C., & McKellar, K. (2019). How publishers and editors can help early career researchers: Recommendations from a roundtable discussion. *Learned Publishing*, 32.