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EDITORIAL

From the Editorial "Desk"

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Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the 6th volume of AEJ.

In this issue we present a collection of 11 interesting articles that cover astronomy education, research, practice, curriculum & resource development, and response to prior work. The articles present studies that capture the range of work being done by members of our every-growing community. While there is always a perception that "research" is the gold standard, we should appreciate that enabling a synergy between research and practice requires a range of outputs, and astronomy education has relied heavily this variety.

Based on feedback from reviewers, we have added two new sections to the journal:

- Curriculum and Resource Development
- Program Reports and Evaluation

In this edition:

Astronomy Education Research

- Maji et al. - Status of Astronomy Education in India: A Baseline Survey
- Rollinde et al. - An embodied encounter with the Solar System
- Kapodistrias et al. - Representations in Higher Education Astronomy: A Semiotic Audit.
- Sermeus and Salimpour - A global demographic survey of planetarians

Astronomy Education and Practice

- Fleenor et al. - Student astronomers, observational astrophysics, and “doing science”
- Duston et al. - Using Remote Telescopes to Chase Supernovae with Undergraduate Students
- Scott - Learning Astronomy by Teaching
- McMurran et al. - Physics & Astronomy Community Excellence: Structured Near-Peer Mentorship in Doctoral Degree Programs
- Calders et al. - MOMSTER: a mobile radio meteor detection kit for STEAM learning linked to citizen science

Curriculum and Resource Development

- Bellotti et al. - The Leiden/ESA Astrophysics Program for Summer Students (LEAPS)

Response to Prior Work

- Houran and Rodeghier - Rethinking “Pseudoscience” in Impey et al. (2025)

We are working towards getting the conference proceedings for the 2025 AstroEdu Conference in Melbourne ready for AEJ. It is going slower than we anticipated and we thank you for your patience.

As always we are immensely grateful to the work the reviewers do in reviewing articles, which is an unpaid task. We understand that the time committent can be huge, and therefore, we are asking for more reviewers with **experience to sign up**, so that the workload can be distributed among members of the astronomy education community.

AEJ is slowly gaining familiarity in the astronomy education community gauged by the amount of manuscripts submitted to the journal, which has been consistently increasing since the journal’s launch seven years. The next stage is to get AEJ indexed by indexers like SCOPUS, and that work is ongoing but we welcome help from anyone experienced who has done this before. If you have such experience and want to assist then send us an email.

Over the past seven years AEJ has been developed and maintained through pro-bono work. Given that the aim for the journal is to grow, there will come a time when AEJ has to consider some financial structures to ensure that it is accessible and sustainable into the future. There are many ways to ensure this, and we would like to hold a discussion to see what would be the most appropriate way forward.

Taken all this into account, we reach out to you and invite you to a Zoom meeting on the 23rd September at 15:00 CEST to discuss the future of our successful Astronomy Education Journal. If you are interested in attending please **complete this form.**

Prof. Urban Eriksson and Dr. Saeed Salimpour,
Co-Editors