

## Editorial

### Twenty-first Issue of the Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education

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Welcome to the first issue of the thirteenth volume of the Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education (JPBLHE). This is our annual issue and contains eleven research papers, three case studies, and one *Invited Author* paper, making the issue one of the largest to this date. We have witnessed a growth in submissions this past year, and that is also showing in the actual number of publications. We are grateful for this tendency and are working hard at raising awareness of the journal and increasing its impact in the global research field of problem-based learning in higher education.

This year we publish this one issue, the annual issue. It is, as stated, considerably larger than previous years. We interpret this noticeable growth in submissions to our journal mostly as a sign that PBL in higher education is becoming more widespread. This is also reflected in the spread of countries from which the authors come (listed alphabetically): Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Hungary, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. It truly reflects an international journal. In addition, we suspect that since JPBLHE is a "Diamond Open Access" journal, which means that publishing is free for both authors and readers, this makes the opportunity for publishing with us attractive to more authors, since publication is not dependent on the authors' financial support and funds. Publishing thus remains open to authors who find the very high Article Processing Charges (APC's) of other journals too expensive, they have a

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research grant where open access publishing is mandatory, or out of principle they want to publish open access. We are most glad to be able to keep this opportunity open and provide our publication channel for free. The reason why we can publish Diamond Open Access is that JPBLHE is part of the AAU Open Journals of Aalborg University. The journal's content is archived at the AAU Library server. Many thanks to AAU for providing, and funding, this platform for JPBLHE and many other journals (list: <https://journals.aau.dk/>).

In line with our wish to be an open and international journal, we initiated a Spanish Section for our annual issue to publish papers and cases in Spanish and with abstracts in both English and Spanish. Among other reasons, a plurality of languages in the same journal gives insight into areas of research and researchers that may not otherwise know of each other. The editor of our Spanish Section is Professor John Vergel from Universidad del Rosario in Bogota, Colombia. We are off to a good start since we already have papers in Spanish submitted and currently under review. We look very much forward to also see this initiative grow into a sustainable and constructive section in the journal. We encourage our readers to spread the news of the Spanish Section to their colleagues in the Spanish speaking world.

Our invited author this year is Professor Julie Borup Jensen, Aalborg University. Last year (Vol 12, Issue 1) we published the first paper in our new series *Invited Author*. This series of papers is meant to give prominent researchers in the field of PBL a chance to write something from the heart. Professor Julie Borup Jensen is, as stated, the second Invited Author, with Professor John Mitchell, University College London as the first. Professor Jensen does research within capacity building in the areas of organizational and professional learning, creativity and aesthetic knowing in social processes, organizational aesthetics, and practice in subject matter. Her paper addresses the issue of 'finding the problem', when students work with PBL projects. She draws on a theoretical landscape of John Dewey and experimental learning, exploring a concept of critical creativity through two empirical cases. It is an exciting paper, which we hope will gain the attention it deserves.

Finally, we would like to thank all the reviewers who have donated their time and wisdom to help to improve the papers and case studies in this issue:

Robert Lawlor  
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