Journal of
Problem Based Learning
in Higher Education

VOL 14 • 1

Vol 14, No. 1, 2026 – Page I-III

Editorial

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

Bettina Dahl Søndergaard * | Aalborg University, Denmark
Patrik Kjærsdam Telléus | Aalborg University, Denmark

Welcome to Issue 1, volume 14 of the *Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education*. We are very proud of this issue containing an insightful discussion of the nature of problem-based teaching and learning by our invited authors Mogens Allan Niss and Martin Niss, also father and son. Martin and Mogens are both from our Danish PBL sister university, Roskilde University, and are well known figures in the PBL community. The issue also includes nine research papers, five Cases of PBL in practice, and our very first paper for the Spanish section. The submissions come from around the world: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Hungary, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Puerto Rico, Republic of Korea, and Turkey. When we started this journal 14 years ago, we intended it to become an international journal, which indeed it has. We want to thank all the authors for contributing to making JPBLHE an international home for PBL research in higher education.

As mentioned, this is our 14th volume. Our first volume was published in August 2013. In the old days in Denmark, most children attended school for only seven years, leaving in the year they turned 14. The end of schooling also coincided with being confirmed in the national Lutheran church. Both occurrences jointly marked the transition from childhood to adulthood, with the expectation of the child leaving his/her parents' home and finding a job and life of his/her own. Things are naturally and fortunately different now, but let us use the story to ask ourselves, if we have now, as of a 14th volume, reached adulthood?

* Corresponding author:
Bettina Dahl Søndergaard, Email: bdahls@plan.aau.dk

We are experiencing a growing interest in our journal, more authors submit their work to us and our citation ranking is rising as the papers get cited, so we are growing up. To some extent, however, we are still living with our mother, Aalborg University. We are fully funded by the university, and the editorial board members get credited in our local system of work distribution. This has the advantage that we can be a Diamond Open Access journal where publishing is completely free for both authors and readers. At the same time, we have noticed that it is now becoming increasingly expensive for both authors and readers to access other journals. We find it essential to remain a Diamond Open Access journal to both create possibilities for everyone to publish their research, and for everyone to read it. It is problematic when researchers cannot publish their research if they cannot afford the Article Processing Charges. They do not receive the credit for this research, and it is also a problem for the world if we do not get to know about this research either if it is not published or if we cannot afford to read it. Hence, sometimes it is not so bad to live at home with one's mother.

But times are also changing. As everywhere, we are also discussing AI – a lot. How will this affect research and publication? During this year, we have therefore added some requirements concerning AI to our submission guide. And as all editors these days, we are discussing what is good practice when it comes to AI, and what should count as not. Most likely our current requirements concerning AI will be revised before the next ordinary issue and probably revised again after that. Changes happen so fast. Regardless, we want to remain a journal that publishes quality research done by humans. Stay tuned for updates on our journal website for AI requirement and policy.

This year has seen some changes in the editorial team. Associate professor and long-time member Nikolaj Stegeager has left us to take on the responsibility of being director of Institute for Advanced Study in PBL. We thank Nikolaj for his valuable work and his deliberative voice over the years. Joining in his place, in the early autumn we welcomed associate professor Line Bune Juhl to the editorial team. For next year we expect to see further changes, since the workload of the editorial team has multiplied over the last couple of years. No doubt, amongst other causes, a result of the introduction of AI to the scientific community.

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

Leila Ali

Eva Bendix Petersen

Antonella Lotti
Lykke Brogaard Bertel
Milena Alcocer Tocora
Tetiana Horokhivska
Henrik Vardinghus-Nielsen
Julie Marie Isager
Franklin Cuenca Soto
Mads Peter Klindt
Niels Erik Ruan Lyngdorf
Muh. Fitrah
Lin Henriksen
Giajenthiran Velmurugan
Ron Ulseth
Lidan He
Svend Hauekrog Christiansen
Natalia Buitrago Ricaurte
Ikhfi Imaniah
Frederik Voetmann Christiansen
Justin Whitney
Camilla Rams Rathleff
Amando Pimentel Sigun