

Learning and Instruction - The Journal of the European Association for Research on Learning and Instruction (EARLI)

2018 Open Call for a Special Issue

As an international, multi-disciplinary, peer-refereed journal, *Learning and Instruction* provides a platform for the publication of the most advanced scientific research in the areas of learning, development, instruction and teaching. Usually once a year the Editorial Team announces an Open Call for a Special Issue, which gives a group of authors the possibility to work on an interconnected set of papers about an innovative theme. This 2018 Open Call for a Special Issue of *Learning and Instruction* solicits high-quality proposals that will be evaluated in a highly competitive procedure.

The journal only welcomes original empirical investigations. The papers may represent a variety of theoretical perspectives and different methodological approaches. For manuscripts with an innovative or weighty methodology section, supplementary on-line material outlining the methodology is welcome (e.g., equations, data-treatment, syntax code, example data). They may refer to any age level, from infants to adults and to a diversity of learning and instructional settings, from laboratory experiments to field studies. The major criteria in the review and the selection process concern the significance of the contribution to the area of learning and instruction.

Proposals for a Special Issue may therefore include empirical studies based on different theoretical approaches and methodologies. The topic must represent an area of high interest and relevance for the journal. Special Issue proposals do not have to focus on research areas that have already been extensively covered in the journal. However, please consider that the following topics have already been addressed in recent Special Issues (or special sections) of *Learning and Instruction* (or are being addressed in the special issues under preparation): calibration of learning; rational number concept; students' engagement; classroom discourse; and bridging cognitive load and self-regulated learning research.

Proposals for a Special Issue should have a well-articulated unifying theme and reflect, at an international level, the best work in a particular research area, either a mature area or an important emerging area, in which future investigation may be boosted by the publication of a set of excellent papers. Usually Special Issues contain contributions of researchers from a number of different countries.

Specifically, a proposal for a Special Issue should include:

- the name and address for communication of the guest editor(s);
- a 500-word rationale explaining the scope and significance of the proposed theme;
- a list of the authors of at least 6 contributions and 2 commentators, all with affiliations;
- a 1000-word abstract for each of the 5-6 contributions, including at least 5 key references;
- a preliminary time schedule for the preparation of the Special Issue;

- 10 possible reviewers of the single papers, who are not involved in any.

Please take into account that an author can be involved in only one paper. The maximum length of a paper is 8,000 words (including references, tables and figures).

Proposals for Special Issues should be sent by 31st January 2018 directly to the Incoming Editor-in-Chief, Associate Professor Lars-Erik Malmberg (lars-erik.malmberg@education.ox.ac.uk), who will forward them to the associate editors for evaluation. The selection of the highest-quality proposal is the outcome of a collaborative evaluation by all members of the editorial team according to the following criteria:

- Suitability of the topic for *Learning and Instruction*
- Overall quality of the proposal: originality and contribution to the field
- Theoretical background and rationale of proposal and individual papers
- Methodological adequacy of the individual papers
- Clarity and significance of the results
- Quality of discussion and conclusions
- Completeness of the proposal
- Guest editor(s)' experience in editorial work

The proposal review process will take 4 to 6 weeks. Once the highest-quality proposal has been selected among those submitted, it will be the responsibility of the Guest Editor(s) to proceed within the agreed time-line. The papers for the selected proposal should be submitted online. Each will undergo a regular peer review.

Please do not hesitate to contact the editor-in-chief for further details and clarifications.

We are looking forward to receiving your creative proposals.

Lars-Erik Malmberg, Gert Rijlaarsdam, Tim Mainhard, Erica de Vries, Fani Lauermann, Danielle McNamara

10th November, 2017