

EDITORIAL

Welcome to AEJ

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1 Introduction

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to launch for the general public, in particular those with interests in research and teaching of Astronomy, the first issue of the Astronomy Education Journal (AEJ).

The AEJ was announced with the first call for papers in 2nd December 2020. Since then, there were 35 submitted papers, 9 papers were rejected, and 10 papers are yet in the review process.

In this issue we publish seven articles in two sections:

- Astronomy Education Research
- Astronomy Education and Practice

2 Astronomy Education Research

- Assessing preservice elementary teachers' enactment of science practices using children's astronomy storybooks, by *Julia D. Plummer, Kyungjin Cho, Christopher Palma, Daniel F. Barringer, Timothy Gleason and Katie Nolan*.
- Interactive cosmology visualization using the Hubble Ultra Deep Field data in the classroom, by *Liam J. Nolan, Mira R. Mechtley, Rogier A. Windhorst, Karen Knierman, Teresa A. Ashcraft, Seth H. Cohen, Scott Tompkins and Lisa M. Will*

3 Astronomy Education and Practice

- A historical method approach to teaching Kepler's 2nd law, by *Wladimir Lyra*.
- An observational project for a large class – determination of the duration of the sidereal day, by *William Tobin*.
- Timing pulsars: An exercise in statistical analysis and the scientific process, by *John R. Walkup, Joseph White and Roger Key*.
- Resource guides for astronomy educators and their students, by *Andrew Fraknoi*.
- Should we teach general relativity in high school? Why and how?, by *Jorge E. Horvath and Pedro. H. R. S. Moraes*

4 Background

At the inaugural IAU Astronomy Education Conference (AstroEdu) in 2019, we announced the intention to launch a new Astronomy Education Journal (AEJ). Today, we are happy to inform you that the journal is publishing its first issue. This online journal aims to

be a key global publication platform for both researchers and practitioners, in the field of Astronomy Education, Research, and Methods.

AEJ aims to meet the needs of the astronomy education community by providing a location for all manner of practical, news-worthy and scholarly publications involving developments in the field. In a sense, the journal tries to capture the original spirit whilst taking on board the important lessons from the, now out-of-print, *Astronomy Education Review*.

By focusing on building community collaboration, disseminating important news and opinions, while also maintaining a section on more formal, technical, Astronomy Education Research (AER). This research section intends to compliment the current scholarly discipline-based work undertaken by, for example, *Latin-American Journal of Astronomy Education (RELEA)*, the *Journal of Astronomy & Earth Sciences Education (JAESE)* and, recently, the acceptance of AER articles into *Physical Review Physics Education Research (PRPER)*.

Inspired by our sibling, IAU Commission C2: *Communicating Astronomy with the Public* journal, the CAP journal, we will accept various types of articles. AEJ will draw on journals such as the CAP Journal, *Nature*, and *Science*, to incorporate both peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles. There will be a peer-reviewed section of research articles that will be incorporated into AEJ's scholarly indices. These research articles will be formally peer-reviewed as traditional scientific journal manuscripts and, as such, need to be of a sufficient scholarly standard as recommended by, for example, Scopus. In addition, there is also scope for published invited reviews written by specialists of the area of AER. There will also be a less formal, non-peer-reviewed, but edited and curated section that contains other relevant material, such as, news, announcements, interviews, opinions, resources, correspondences, best-practices, classroom and astronomical activities, to help circulate information among the community.

More information about the journal and instructions for authors can be found at: <https://www.astroedjournal.org>. We welcome everyone to submit manuscripts to AEJ.

You can use the text above to advertise this release of AEJ in your countries or international platforms to reach the interested readers and authors.

5 Acknowledgements

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