



Editorial

Relaunch of International Journal of Educational and Life Transitions

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Introduction

The International Journal of Educational and Life Transitions (IJELT) is an international peer reviewed journal which publishes articles and multimedia outputs of interest to researchers, practitioners and policy makers in the field of educational and life transitions across the world. IJELT is a diamond Open Access journal making it free to readers and there are no publication fees for authors.

IJELT, established in September 2021, is a testimony to the University of Dundee's commitment to open access. The journal has recently transitioned to a new platform hosted by University of Dundee with support from Library Open Research and Publishing Services. We are now able to accept submissions and invite you to consider submitting a paper to IJELT. Please see the [website](#) for more information about the journal and how to [make a submission](#). The journal has [six collections](#) each with section editors who support with promotion of the collection and the editorial process. However, submissions are not restricted to these collections as long as they meet the focus and scope of the journal.

Since its inception, the journal has benefitted from the support of the [Research Centre for Transformative Change: Education and Life Transitions \(TCELT\)](#) and its [International Network of Transitions Researchers](#). The international and interdisciplinary editorial team currently comprises an Editor-in-Chief, four Deputy Editors and an

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Editorial Board with 34 members from 16 countries. The international reach of the editorial team has been beneficial in promoting the journal. To date, the journal has published 39 articles with representation (authors and/or location of studies) from 11 countries (UK, Cameroon, New Zealand, Australia, Austria, Ireland, Chile, Argentina, Germany, Canada, United Arab Emirates). Its readership has extended beyond these countries across multiple continents.

In collaboration with TCELT, IJELT organised the [inaugural International Conference on Educational and Life Transitions \(ICELT\)](#) from 21st-23rd August 2025. Over the three days of the conference, there were more than 90 very diverse, high-quality presentations which were interdisciplinary and cross-sector in nature. ICELT had 280+ delegates from a wide range of countries. As intimated in the opening address by Professor Divya Jindal-Snape, the conference was used as an opportunity to begin the process of developing an International Framework for Transitions Research and Practice. During the conference we gathered delegates' views using Padlet. In the final session, Dr Beth Hannah facilitated a discussion around 9 themes. It is intended to summarise the views and share with delegates. The next conference is scheduled to take place in 2027 and will be led by Professor Jonathan Glazzard, University of Hull. We invite you to contact him if you would like to be involved.

Deputy Editors

In July 2025, we [announced](#) the appointment of four deputy editors each with a specific role.

Dr William D. Barlow

As Deputy Editor for the International Journal of Educational and Life Transitions (IJELT), I am responsible for supporting early career researchers (ECRs) as they develop the skills necessary to participate confidently in the editorial and peer review processes. My intention in this role is to build a supportive and developmental environment that demystifies academic publishing, encourages reflective scholarly practice, and empowers researchers to shape the evolving field of transitions research through high-quality contributions.

I plan to establish structured opportunities for ECRs to engage directly with the editorial workflow, offering guided experience in reviewing, editing, and responding to feedback. Through mentorship and collaborative learning, I aim to foster inclusive editorial spaces where emerging scholars can build confidence, refine their academic voice, and connect with a global community of researchers with shared interests in educational and life transitions. A core objective is to ensure that early career contributors experience publishing not just as a process of dissemination, but as part of an ongoing cycle of learning, collaboration, and professional growth.

In continuing my editorial work, I will also contribute to special issues that expand interdisciplinary understanding of transitions, including the [Primary-Secondary School Transitions collection](#), which I co-edit with Professor Divya Jindal-Snape, Dr Charlotte Bagnall, and Professor Jennifer Symonds. This experience has reinforced my commitment to facilitating platforms where established and

emerging voices can come together to explore how theory, practice, and policy intersect to support people navigating critical points of change in their educational journeys.

Professor Jonathan Glazzard

As well as supporting the editing and reviewing process, I am also excited to be leading on creative outputs. We are committed to inclusive approaches to support the dissemination of research, and we are committed to a diverse range of formats, including comic strips, podcasts, animations, digitalised performances and talking heads. This is not an exhaustive list, but it provides a flavour of the various modes of representation that we are keen to support in our journal. For colleagues in the UK, we are pleased that REF 2029 is also encouraging creative research outputs, and we are happy to engage in discussions with colleagues about how we can support them in this aspect. We recognise that diverse ways of representing outputs supports researchers to engage with a wide range of stakeholders. We are particularly interested in creative outputs which have been co-produced with research participants, and we welcome contributions which help to further advance inclusion and social justice in society.

I am also a Collection Editor for [LGBTQ+ Educational and Life Transitions | International Journal of Educational and Life Transitions](#). This special collection focuses on LGBTQIA+ lives across all stages of the lifespan and is cross-disciplinary. We welcome outputs which focus on systemic discrimination, resilience, agency, identity, un/belonging, trauma and hope. We are particularly interested in the use of creative research methods, including duoethnography, sensory and visual research methods as well as more traditional methods.

Dr Kieran Hodgkin

I am excited to undertake the role of Deputy Editor for communication for IJELT. I have worked as a reviewer for IJELT for several years and have seen the journal develop thanks to the hard work of colleagues. As part of my role, I will be responsible for ongoing communication with Editorial Board members, peer reviewers and promoting IJELT. The relaunch of IJELT provides a perfect opportunity to review how we communicate with our editorial board and peer reviewers. This will include regular updates via the new platform, a consideration of how we use social media to promote the journal and professional development opportunities for colleagues interested in taking on various responsibilities.

The success of IJELT, ICELT and TCELT has helped grow a community of colleagues interested in education and life transitions. The next step is to build on this success and continue to grow our community.

Dr Rhiannon Packer

I am delighted to take on the role of Deputy Editor for IJELT, with a dedicated focus on supporting Early Career Researchers (ECRs). Having served as a reviewer for IJELT for several years and as Collection Editor for [Transitions from School and Beyond](#), I understand the importance of creating opportunities for emerging scholars to share their work and develop their academic voice.

In this capacity, I am committed to providing ECRs with meaningful avenues to disseminate their work to a wider audience through IJELT. This will include structured guidance, practical advice, and clear frameworks to support new authors as they navigate the publishing process.

It is a privilege to contribute to the development of the next generation of researchers, and I look forward to working collaboratively to ensure their voices are heard and valued within the academic community.

Conclusion

We are delighted about the relaunch of the journal and look forward to working with readers, authors, reviewers and editors to help the journal grow and flourish. We welcome ideas for how to improve the journal and invite you to contact us.

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Competing interests

The authors have no competing interests to declare.