



Editorial

The editorial board

Welcome to the first issue of IPED. We are delighted to be able to launch the issue with a range of new papers and a book review, in addition to the two commentaries on the journal and this first issue.

We have two full papers from Richards and Tsourfouli. Richards' paper focusses on a neglected area of diversity studies – Asperger Syndrome. While Autistic Spectrum Disorders have received considerable attention within areas of study such as education and psychology, much less is known about the role Asperger Syndrome may play in the experiences of employees. This paper adds to our understanding and provides a foundation for future empirical work. Tsourfouli examines an important aspect of higher education in the UK: international Ph.D students. As Tsourfouli's work shows international Ph.D students' experiences are affected by a number of identities and factors, including gender and nationality. In the context of rapid changes to UK higher education and the continued pressures on international student visas, Tsourfouli's work presents an important theoretical context.

In addition to the two full papers, we have a research note from Sayce et al and a student essay from Green. Sayce et al's research note presents data from a qualitative study of equality and diversity managers in UK higher education. Adopting an usual approach of email interviews, Sayce et al reveal the tensions experienced by these equality practitioners, providing directions for future work. Green's student essay explores apprenticeships, and the need for family support for these schemes to be successful. We also have a book review from Sayce on Felizitas Sagebiel's 'The gender perspective of young people's images of science, engineering and technology (SET)'. Professor Jo Brewis of Leicester University has kindly provided a commentary on this first issue and the journal more broadly.

Bringing together this first issue has required support from a range of people including Linda Kerr (Heriot Watt's research librarian), The Intercultural Research Centre (Heriot Watt) and all of our reviewers. We hope you enjoy this first issue and look forward to hearing your thoughts. We welcome contributions and suggestions for future issues.

Kate Sang on behalf of the The Editorial Board.