

RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION
BSRLM'S NEW INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL:
THE EXPERIENCE SO FAR...

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Research in Mathematics Education is the new international, peer-reviewed official journal of BSRLM. Launched in 2007, it succeeds the annual publications RME Volumes 1-9, and is published by Routledge. At the March 1st, 2008 day conference the Editors of RME invited BSRLM members to a discussion about their journal's present and future. Prior to general discussion, the Editors updated the audience about: setting up the journal (Editorial Boards, Publisher), submissions received so far (quality and quantity), the reviewing process, promotion – and briefly discussed the contents of issue 10(1). A discussion of RME's vision, strategies for attracting significant papers and promotion followed. Some members of the Editorial Board and International Advisory Board were also present. The Editors intend that the discussion will continue at future day conferences.

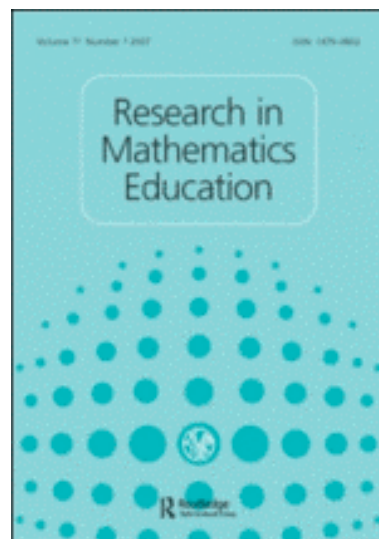
INTRODUCTION

Research in Mathematics Education, is BSRLM's new international, peer-reviewed journal. It was launched in 2007, it follows the publication of *RME Volumes 1-9* and is published by Routledge. Its first issue, *10(1)*, was at the time of writing in press (it appeared online on February 25). In this session we discussed the journal's present and future. The structure of the session was as follows.

First, the Editors updated the BSRLM members on

- setting up the journal, the composition of the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board and the relationship with the publisher;
- the quality and quantity of the submissions received so far;
- the reviewing process;
- the promotion of the journal so far;
- the contents of issue 10(1).

Discussion regarding *RME's* vision, strategies for attracting significant papers and promotion and other matters followed. Members of the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board were present. In what follows we report on the two parts of the session.



BSRLM'S *RME* VOLUMES 1 TO 9

BSRLM organises three day-conferences every year, each attended by up to 100 researchers. This scholarly activity is disseminated without editorial intervention in the published Informal Proceedings of the Society, now available from <http://www.bsrlm.org.uk>. In the last decade, contributors have been invited to submit extended versions of their conference papers for publication in an annual refereed BSRLM publication, titled *Research in Mathematics Education*. The papers in the nine volumes to date are therefore representative of the best and most interesting work undertaken by members of the Society, demonstrating the involvement of a research community grappling in a rigorous way with complex issues of national and international concern. (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p1)

RME Volumes 1-9 will be available to subscribers of the electronic version of the journal. The first two volumes were:

Laurinda Brown (1999) *Making Meanings in Mathematics: Refereed Proceedings of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics*. York: QED Publications.

Tim Rowland and Candia Morgan (2000) *Research in Mathematics Education Volume 2: Papers of the British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics*. London: British Society for Research into Learning Mathematics.

Thereafter between 2001 and 2007 the volumes were published by BSRLM and edited by the following editorial teams:

Candia Morgan and Keith Jones (2001)

Jan Winter and Sue Pope (2002)

Sue Pope and Olwen MacNamara (2003)

Olwen MacNamara and Richard Barwell (2004)

Richard Barwell and Andrew Noyes (2005)

Andrew Noyes and Hilary Povey (2006)

Liz Bills, Jeremy Hodgen and Hilary Povey (2007)

***RME* FROM VOLUME 10**

The contract with Taylor and Francis (Routledge) was approved by the membership and agreed in 2006. *RME* was conceived as the official journal of BSRLM and as an international, refereed, English-language journal with three sections/ kinds of contribution.

Research Reports. Each issue is expected to contain normally five, up to 8,000 words ('volume equivalent').

Book Reviews. Each issue is expected to contain one to three, typically around 1,500 words each.

Current Reports. Each issue is expected to contain approximately ten summaries, of around 800 words each, of papers presented at recent BSRLM day conferences.

RME: COMPOSITION OF THE BOARDS

... implementing the express wish of BSRLM members, is the opening up of *RME* to contributors from around the world, whilst still retaining the heritage of high-quality, UK-based research. In this spirit, the inaugural Editorial Board is drawn from the membership of BSRLM, while the distinguished members of the journal's International Advisory Board reflect its inclusive and outward-looking intentions. (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p1)

In the autumn of 2006 Elena Nardi and Tim Rowland were appointed Editors by the BSRLM Executive for 2008-2010 and in January 2007 Linda Haggarty and Jan Winter were appointed as Current Reports Editor and Book Reviews Editors respectively. At the same time the following were appointed as members of the Editorial Board and the International Advisory Board and as the managing team from Taylor and Francis. Hilary Povey and Kenneth Ruthven act as Advisory Editors.

Editorial Board	International Advisory Board
Janet Ainley, Leicester	Jill Adler, South Africa/UK
Paul Andrews, Cambridge	Teresa Assude, France
Richard Barwell, Ottawa	Margaret Brown, UK
Liz Bills, Oxford	Dan Chazan, USA
Tony Harries, Durham	Susie Groves, Australia
Jeremy Hodgen, London	Markku Hannula, Finland/Estonia
Keith Jones, Southampton	Barbara Jaworski, UK/Norway
Lyndon Martin, East Anglia	Stephen Lerman, UK
Candia Morgan, London	Fan Lianghuo, Singapore
Derek Woodrow, Manchester	Romulo Lins, Brazil
Advisory Editors	David Pimm, Canada
Hilary Povey, Sheffield	Demetra Pitta-Pantazi, Cyprus
Kenneth Ruthven, Cambridge	Despina Potari, Greece
Current Reports Editor	Heinz Steinbring, Germany
Linda Haggarty, Open University	Pessia Tsamir, Israel
Book Reviews Editor	Laura Van Zoest, USA
Jan Winter, Bristol	Renuka Vithal, South Africa
Managing Editor, Production Editor	Keith Weber, USA
Richard Frith, Sally Smith	Julian Williams, UK
Editorial Assistant	Terry Wood, USA
Dawn Corby	Rina Zazkis, Canada

In April 2007 *RME*'s first *Call for Papers* was issued.

REVIEWING PROCESS

Research Papers. At the time of writing approximately forty research papers have been submitted to *RME*. Twenty-eight of these were deemed appropriate for sending to reviewers. The rest were rejected by the Editors before sending out to reviewers.

Upon receipt, papers are allocated to one of the two Editors who hold primary responsibility for the submission thereafter (in consultation with each other). Papers are sent to two reviewers, usually members of the EB and IAB or specialists in the area of the paper. Reviewers are typically given six weeks to return their review. So far most have complied! Upon receipt of the reviews, the Editors compose a *Decision Letter* which includes the two reviews and the Editors' overall view of the paper, and a decision (and requested revisions, if applicable). Often this is also accompanied by an annotated version of the manuscript, *Text with Editor Comments*.

So far about 50% of submissions have been rejected after the first round of reviews. The majority of the others were invited to 'Revise and Resubmit'. Resubmitted papers are sent to one (exceptionally both) of the original reviewers. This reviewer is typically given two weeks to send their re-review and a similar editorial *Decision Letter* etc. follows.

Regarding the workload of the Review Panel, the Editors aim that EB members are not sent more than about six reviews per year and IAB members one or two. Other specialists are likely to be invited as one-offs, although we hope that some are E/IAB members in the making!

The viability of a peer-reviewed journal is dependent on the goodwill of those experts who accept our requests to make critical assessments of the papers submitted to us. Our experience to date is that the quality of *RME* reviews is second to none, and this has been highly-appreciated by the authors of proposals. The brunt of this work has been borne by the Editorial Board, assisted by the International Advisory Board. We offer all reviewers our sincere thanks. (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p1)

A list of those who have assisted *RME* in this way will be published annually.

Current Reports. The CR Editor invites BSRLM conference presenters to submit a 800-word summary of their Informal Proceedings Paper (800 words corresponds to two *RME* pages). The CR Editor reviews submissions, prepares a selection of about ten per issue, and works with the authors on finalising the text (in consultation with the Editors).

Book Reviews. The BR Editor, also in consultation with the Editors, invites specialists in the field, from the EB/IAB Boards and elsewhere, to review recent publications in mathematics education research.

PROMOTION

RME is currently promoted by the publisher at many international and national conferences (e.g, AERA, ICME, PME and elsewhere), through email alerts (e.g. via the ICME, PME, CERME, Nottingham lists) and – even! – through adverts in newspapers such as the one in the THES on the right! Members of the EB and IAB have also been requested to order subscriptions and, more generally to promote the journal in their regions, e.g. through bringing the journal to the attention of colleagues and encouraging the submission of high-quality papers.



***RME* 10(1) CONTENTS: RESEARCH PAPERS**

The journal welcomes high-quality research in any methodological tradition and is open to innovative and unusual approaches. We are delighted to publish five research papers, selected, following peer review, from a good number submitted for this inaugural issue. These papers are admirably representative of regional and methodological variety, and span mathematics teaching and learning from primary school to university. (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p2)

I would rather die’: reasons given by 16-year-olds for not continuing their study of mathematics, ***Margaret Brown, Peter Brown, and Tamara Bibby***

The capacity of two Australian eighth-grade textbooks for promoting proportional reasoning, ***Shelley Dole and Mal Shield***

‘If you can count to ten you can count to infinity really’: fostering conceptual mathematical thinking in the first year of primary school, ***Paola Iannone and Anne D. Cockburn***

Student perspectives on the relationship between a curve and its tangent in the transition from Euclidean Geometry to Analysis, ***Irene Biza, Constantinos Christou, and Theodossios Zachariades***

The role of affect in learning real analysis: a case study, ***Keith Weber***

***RME* 10(1) CONTENTS: BOOK REVIEW**

This issue also includes a thematic review of three recent books on mathematics education research in Mainland China. As Keith Jones, the reviewer, comments, these act “not only as a window on mathematics educators in China but also, crucially, as a mirror in which to reflect on approaches and concerns in other countries around the world.” (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p2)

Windows on mathematics education research in mainland China: a thematic review, ***Keith Jones***

RME 10(1) CONTENTS: CURRENT REPORTS

The third section of the journal, Current Reports, consists of ten two-page, finely-honed summaries of research papers recently published in the online informal proceedings of BSRLM. These are representative of the activity of the vibrant research community at the heart of the journal: we hope that some of these summaries will re-appear in subsequent issues as full papers. (Rowland and Nardi, 2008, p2)

Towards a systemic functional analysis of mathematical visual forms, *Jehad Alshwaikh*

Using Dynamic Geometry to introduce Calculus concepts: CalGeo and the case of derivative, *Irene Biza; Theodossios Zachariades*

Graphing and graphing calculators in examinations, *Roger Brown*

The role of ICTs in learning algebra: a systematic review, *Maria Goulding; Chris Kyriacou*

Arithmetical notating as a diagrammatic activity, *Ian Jones*

Contexts for "pure" mathematics: a framework for analysing A-level mathematics papers, *Chris Little; Keith Jones*

Coding strategic behaviour in mathematical problem solving, *Andri Marcou*

Mathematical images and identities: entertainment, education, social justice, *Heather Mendick; Debbie Epstein; Marie-Pierre Moreau*

Variations on a theme: introducing new representations of fraction into two classrooms, *Candia Morgan*

An examination of primary teachers' teaching practices from Initial Teacher Education into first teaching posts, *Sandy Pepperel*

The issue closes with an announcement of the **Janet Duffin Prize**, which we hope will act as a distinctive incentive for publishing in *RME*!

DISCUSSION

The issues raised in the discussion included: how *RME* builds the publishing capacity of BSRLM membership; the epistemological personal / flavour of *RME*; its theoretical and methodological eclecticism; the need to balance its international character with an emphasis on its British provenance (e.g. through ensuring that authors are aware of, and refer to, relevant UK research); and, finally the strengths and weaknesses of the blind reviewing process. The discussion is due to continue in future conferences. Communicate with the Editors at rme@uea.ac.uk and www.informaworld.com.rme!

REFERENCES

Rowland, T. and Nardi, E. (2008) Editorial, *Research in Mathematics Education*, 10(1), 1-2.