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## Transformations in the editorial team of the JAEE

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EDITORIAL



## Transformations in the editorial team of the JAEE

Dear reader,

As I have been mentioning in earlier Editorials, the editing process of the JAEE is going to change. For more than ten years, Angela Pachau has been the driving editorial assistant behind the JAEE. However, due to strategic priorities of the chair group of Education and Learning Sciences of Wageningen University, the job of editorial assistant is downsized to only half a day a week as of January 2019. Therefore, the work of Angela has to be taken over by others. Making a virtue of necessity, and taking the next step in the process of continuous quality improvement, we are going to make major changes in the group of colleagues who have been and still are working with us.

This is what we are going to do. We will change the current role of Editor-in-Chief, change the role of Associate Editor to Co-Editor, and dissolve the Editorial Advisory Board and the role of International Representative. Let me further elaborate that.

Since my retirement from the chair group of Education and Competence Studies on 1 January 2017, I am looking forward to introducing a successor as Editor-in-Chief for the JAEE. That is not because I am tired of the JAEE. On the contrary, I am enjoying my role, and believe stronger than ever that the JAEE has a unique position worldwide in sharing experience and expertise in educating students for leadership roles in the agri-food complex and developing professionals in and around the sector of responsible food production, logistics, processing, management, research and innovation. With current tendencies of nationalism and protectionism, it is more important than ever to secure safe, healthy, affordable and sufficient food production and distribution worldwide. I am convinced the JAEE can contribute to the global understanding of the importance of these processes and enlighten debates about learning and development of professionals who are active in the agri-food complex.

Against this background, I am very excited to announce that Dr. Kristin Davis will be my successor as editor of the JAEE. For most, if not all, readers, she does not need any introduction. But for those who do not know her, here are a couple of highlights from her career. Originally from Syracuse (NY), raised in Kenya, living in Pretoria, South Africa, Kristin has a doctorate in international agricultural extension with a minor in farming systems from the University of Florida. She started work as a researcher with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2004. She was seconded to the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) in Zurich as Executive Secretary from 2010–2016. She has been working as Project Director for the USAID-funded project Developing Local Extension Capacity (DLEC). Currently, she is also teaching at the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development of the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Frequent readers of the JAEE will appreciate that Kristin was the lead author of the award-winning article of the year 2008, with co-authors Ekboir and Spielman. The title of the publication was ‘Strengthening agricultural education and training in sub-Saharan Africa from an innovation systems perspective: A case study of Mozambique’. Apart from that Kristin has a strong publication record. I am sure the JAEE will have an excellent next Editor with her. To gradually introduce Kristin in the role of Editor, and to shape the new editing processes, we both have decided that I will stay on for a while, and that we will share the role of Editor together. I look forward to this co-construction and collaboration process very much. We will not speak about the role of Editor-in-Chief anymore. This is

related to the next change which will be made, which is to introduce the role of Co-Editor. For the time being, we will work with five Co-Editors.

The role of Co-Editor will entail more than the past role of Associate Editor. The Co-Editors will be responsible for:

1. First screening of manuscripts to see if the manuscripts comply with the standards of the JAEE in terms of format, style, language and quality;
2. Assigning reviewers who are supposed to make rigorous reviews;
3. Receiving reviews and interpreting these; based on that, compose decision letter with essential comments; send the decision letter and reviews to author(s);
4. Receiving revised version and sending this for checking to reviewers, inviting them to send a profound reaction in case they advise for publication (with further revisions).
5. Receiving advise of reviewers and informing author(s).
6. Repeating the process if necessary. The purpose is to arrive at the maximum quality of the manuscript.
7. If finally accepted – approving the manuscript for production.

This process is fundamentally different from our previous working process, so it will be new for all of us, and require a period of searching for efficient and effective ways of dealing with the workload, but I am sure this new process has the potential to get the JAEE to the next level of quality journals.

As I said, there will be five Co-Editors. This number may change in the future, subject to our experiences during the year to come. I have seen a leading journal in the Social Science Citation Index, which works with two editors and forty (yes: 40!) advising editors. This is not exactly the target we should be setting, but if enlarging the group of Co-Editors would be wise, we could choose to do that.

Let me now introduce the Co-Editors. Two of them you know already as Associate Editors: Alex Koutsouris from the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece, and Rasheed Sulaiman of the Centre for Research and Innovation and Science Policy (CRISP), India. I am happy they both agreed to continue their valuable work for the JAEE, and to put even more effort in the editorial process than they did until now.

The three other Co-Editors are Laurens Klerkx, Rick Rudd and Kim Dooley. Laurens Klerkx has already been working for the JAEE as member of the Editorial Committee and respected reviewer. He is associate professor at the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Group at Wageningen University, with an MSc in Tropical Landuse (2002) and a PhD in Communication and Innovation Studies (2008) from Wageningen University. Laurens has published extensively in the field of extension studies and innovation studies with over a 100 peer-reviewed articles and chapters, including very well cited ones such as 'Adaptive management in agricultural innovation systems: The interactions between innovation networks and their environment'. He has published several articles in JAEE, and has also guest edited three special issues of JAEE in 2013, 2016 and 2017. Laurens is also on the editorial board of Agricultural Systems, and is part of the steering committee of the International Farming Systems Association (Europe Group). As a direct colleague from an adjacent chair group at Wageningen University, we had several meetings about manuscripts. I am very satisfied that Laurens will be stepping up his contributions to the JAEE in the new role as Co-Editor.

Two new Co-Editors may be less familiar to the JAEE readership, although internationally oriented colleagues from the field of agricultural education research may know the names of Kim Dooley and Rick Rudd. Both are representing the field of agricultural education.

Kim Dooley is Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Operations at the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communications of Texas A&M University in College Station, USA. Kim has her undergraduate B.S. (1984), as well as her M.Ed. (1987) and Ph.D. (1995) from Texas A&M University. Kim has over 50 refereed journal articles and a book titled 'Advanced Methods in Distance Education: Applications and Practices for Educators, Administrators, and Learners'. She is Managing Editor of our collegial 'Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education', and regional representative for the 'Journal of Agricultural Education'. Kim also published in the NACTA journal, which is largely unknown to the JAEE readership, but which is important in our field, as it is the key publication of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture, which is a '... professional society that focuses on the scholarship of teaching and learning agriculture and related disciplines at the postsecondary level' (<https://www.nactateachers.org/index.php>).

Rick Rudd is Professor and Department Head of the Department of Agricultural, Leadership, and Community Education at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg (VA), USA. He has his B.S. Agriculture (1985) from The Ohio State University, his M.S. Agricultural Education (1988) from The Ohio State University and his Ph.D. Vocational and Technical Education (1994) from Virginia Tech. I am happy that the JAEE welcomes a Co-Editor with strong roots in vocational education research, which is extremely important in the agricultural educational column, from secondary to higher education level. I am also pleased to know that vocational education or workforce education enjoys a renaissance in the USA, for instance by initiatives in the direction of a new apprenticeship system. Like Kim Dooley, Rick has published widely in the Journal of Agricultural Education, a journal which is probably also quite unknown for a large part of the JAEE readership. Rick is past President of the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (2012–2013), and the Association of Leadership Educators (2005–2006).

So much for the group of Co-Editors, although I should say that I am in contact with a colleague from China who is active in the field of Higher Agricultural Education, and who may join the group in a later stage.

Next the changes in the Editorial Advisory Board. Giving the current status and developments in the journal, we have decided to dissolve this Board. In the first years of the JAEE when it was published by Taylor and Francis, the Advisory Board played an important role. Many new colleagues were included in the editing teams, and the members of the Editorial Advisory Board provided seniority. However, colleagues retired, or went in other directions. Younger colleagues of the past are seniors now. The change of the Board plays out differently for the different members.

- Dr. PJ Beers, former colleague at the chair group of Education and Competence Studies and currently at DRIFT of the Erasmus University, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, will leave the journal after having served the JAEE in various roles. I thank PJ for his valuable contributions to the JAEE.
- Prof. Artur F.A.F. Christóvão is currently at the rectors office of the Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Portugal and is unable to maintain an active position in the JAEE. I also thank Artur for all he has done for the JAEE.
- Emeritus Prof. Chris Garforth, retired from the University of Reading, UK, is really retired, and I would like to thank him for his valuable contributions to the JAEE.
- Prof. Cees Leeuwis of the Social Sciences Group of Wageningen University is a well-known authority in the field of agricultural communication and innovation, is the leader of the section of chair groups which co-constituted the JAEE, and is interested to stay active for the JAEE in the role as member of the Editorial Committee.

- Associate Prof. Elske van de Fliert of the University of Queensland, Australia has moved in another direction with her work, and likes to step down from Editorial Committee. I thank Elske for all she has been doing for the JAEE.
- Dr. Steven Worth of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa is keen on staying active for the JAEE and will join the Editorial Committee.

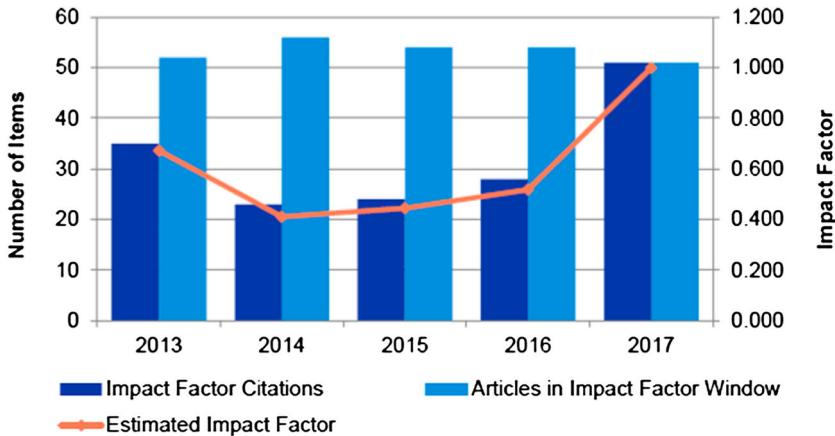
The Editorial Advisory Board also had a seat for the Editor of the Journal of International Agricultural and Extension Education (JIAEE). The reciprocal relationship of the editors of the JAEE and JIAEE will be continued to strengthen both journals. Kristina Hains, current editor of the JIAEE will be named JIAEE Representative to express the collegial cooperation between the journals.

The office of regional representative will be dissolved as well. This means that Horacio Santoyo will retire from the JAEE. It is his own wish as he has experienced it as being extremely difficult to get publications from Latin-America at the level of the international state of theory and research for the JAEE. We respect his decision, and thank Horacio for all his efforts to establish relationships with Spanish and Portuguese speaking colleagues from the field of agricultural education and extension and the JAEE.

This means we will work with three roles in the JAEE during the coming period: Editors, Co-Editors and the Editorial Committee (the JIAEE representative has an independent role). I have been describing the changes regarding the Editors, Co-Editors and Editorial Advisory Board and stated that some the board members will move to the Editorial Committee. For the Editorial Committee we do not change much at the moment. There is one exception. Like the JIAEE representative, the representative of the Journal of Agricultural Education (JAE), Prof. Harry N. Boone of West Virginia University, USA, who is now a member of the Editorial Committee, will get a specific seat: JAE representative. We think this describes his position in the JAEE better. For the rest of the Editorial Committee, a couple of years ago we have changed the composition of the Editorial Committee considerably. We have strengthened the group by inviting various colleagues with excellent reputations in their fields of expertise. We are very content with the changes we made and the current composition of the group. We hope the members of the Editorial Committee will stay with us for a long time and will keep working hard with us to further improve the impact of the journal.

As Editors, Co-Editors and Editorial Committee we are lining up and preparing to start the editing process for the coming years. May it be successful. I have good faith that it will. In my previous Editorial I already presented the bibliographical performance improvement of the JAEE based on Scopus data. I can now confirm the positive trends I described by sharing the latest information provided by Taylor and Francis regarding the citations in the Social Science Citations Index. The 2017 Estimated impact factor calculated by Taylor and Francis staff by dividing 2017 citations to 2015 and 2016 journal papers by the total number of papers published in the journal in 2015 and 2016. Important to note is that editorials and other miscellaneous items do not count towards the denominator in the equation but, if cited, can count towards the numerator. For the JAEE the total of 2017 citations to the 2015 and 2016 papers is 51, the total number of items published in 2015 and 2016 is also 51. Hence, the Estimated 2017 Impact Factor is  $51/51 = 1.000$ . This is an all-time high for the JAEE (see [Figure 1](#)), and very promising.

The 2017 Estimated Impact Factor would place the Journal at place 132 out of 235 journals in the subject category 'Education & Educational Research category'. To arrive in Q2 the JAEE would have to climb 15 places in the list, although this is not an absolute number as the list of journals and their Impact Factors is dynamic. In the list of journals in the category 'Education,



**Figure 1.** Development of Estimated Impact Factor of JAEE 2013–2017.

Scientific Disciplines' the journal would be placed at number 27 out of 41 journals. Arriving at Q2 would mean that the journal would have to climb 7 places on the list.

Other than that, subscriptions and sales agreements are 6% up (2017 compared with 2016), and article downloads have increased by 49% from 2016 to 2017.

I hope you agree with me that the goal to arrive in Q2 is feasible and that you will join me in our effort to get the journal listed in SSCI. Citations to the JAEE in SSCI-listed journals is the key to this.

In SSCI or not, I am proud of what the JAEE has achieved until now. Of course this would not have been possible without the commitment of the many authors and reviewers. Good manuscripts are the cornerstone of any successful journal. And we get better and better manuscripts in, and the reviews are also much more elaborate than years ago. Therefore, I would like to thank all who have been, and still are, active for the journal: authors and reviewers and others. It is your work that makes the JAEE the JAEE. Thank you very very much.

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