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Call for Papers: A Special Issue of the Journal of Pre-College Engineering Education Research on “Provocations”

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Abstract

This special issue on Provocations aims to propel scholarly discourse in pre-college engineering education with thought-provoking papers. Without provocation we risk haphazardly designing research studies, courses, and curricula that can hinder transformation or veneer what is critical. We expect the special issue will foster an epistemological dissonance while insisting the field of pre-college engineering education redefine its purpose, assumptions, and values.

Keywords

equity, pre-college, praxis, provocative

Document Type

Front Matter



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Abstract

This special issue on Provocations aims to propel scholarly discourse in pre-college engineering education with thought-provoking papers. Without provocation we risk haphazardly designing research studies, courses, and curricula that can hinder transformation or veneer what is critical. We expect the special issue will foster an epistemological dissonance while insisting the field of pre-college engineering education redefine its purpose, assumptions, and values.

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Provocation is a state of disequilibrium but necessary for growth and transformation (Pizzolato, 2005). This special issue on Provocations aims to propel scholarly discourse to consider the complexities of educating children as part of a multicultural society under the monocultural rule of whiteness. Without provocation we risk haphazardly designing research studies, courses, and curricula that present a veneer of transformation while further enshrining the detrimental mechanisms of social hierarchy and oppression. As pre-college engineering educators, scholars, and practitioners, this is our opportunity to think deeply, reflect, and evaluate the fidelity between our values and our actions. Indeed, this moment calls for critical praxis (Arnold et al., 2012). Engaging with scholarly discourse through *Provocations*, we will think through prior decisions, locate blind spots, and consider alternatives. We need to expand discourse and scholarship that help the pre-college engineering education community see injustices in the education system while also offering strategies for transformation and dissemination to wider audiences (Holly, 2021).

The Provocations section of *J-PEER* seeks reflective, descriptive, and persuasive essays that promote dialogue and storytelling about challenges and dilemmas, as well as adaptations and opportunities in pre-college engineering education. These articles will likely create an epistemological dissonance while insisting the field of pre-college engineering education redefine itself. The manuscripts will be peer-reviewed for their quality and impact and evaluated based on their thought-provoking, theory-refining, and field-shaping potential. We welcome submissions from anyone, though we are particularly interested in submissions from educators and citizens outside of post-secondary education. We want to make space for those who regularly engage in pre-college engineering education, but are not supported or incentivized to pursue traditional research publication avenues.

Review Criteria

Manuscripts will be evaluated on the ways in which they (1) speak clearly to the special issue theme, (2) meet the review and publication deadlines, and (3) follow the specific Provocations special issue review criteria outlined below. Authors are encouraged to reach out to the guest editor with questions about fit.

- **Provocative:** Present intellectually stimulating point of view to help shape the field and improve practices in pre-college engineering education research.
- **Relevance and Significance:** State clearly the scope of the manuscript and its significance to pre-college engineering education research or practice; justify the intellectual contribution and resulting implications for the field.
- **Evidence Base:** Provide compelling data and evidence to support claims, ideas, or results building on the current bodies of knowledge as well as experiential observations. Non-positivist ways of knowing/sense-making are welcome.
- **Clarity of Communication:** Communicate arguments clearly, succinctly, and concisely. Present data and other forms of evidence clearly with tables, figures, and supplementary materials that enhance the narrative.
- **Format:** The full manuscripts should be blinded with no author information and include maximum 100-word abstract, maximum 2,500 words excluding abstract and references, and presented in 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced. The APA 7 format should be used throughout the manuscript (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html).

Timeline

- **Summary/Abstracts:** Structured 100-word abstracts will be accepted on a rolling basis through July 10, 2023. Abstracts should include the following: topic, claim(s), relevance, and implications. Abstracts should be sent directly to the guest editor. Please include author information on the abstracts. However, final manuscripts should be fully blinded as they will go through double-blinded peer review.
- **Invitations:** Invitations to submit full manuscripts will be sent to authors on a rolling basis, but no later than August 4, 2023. The authors will be invited to submit their full manuscripts to the *J-PEER* system by selecting the Special Issue on Provocations.
- **Initial Submissions:** Full manuscripts are due by August 20, 2023 and will be sent for peer review at that time. Full manuscripts are expected to follow *J-PEER*'s author guidelines and should be submitted to the journal by selecting "Provocations" under the article type.
- **Decisions:** Initial reviews and decisions will be returned on December 1, 2023. Authors will be notified with an initial decision (accepted, minor revisions required, major revisions required, or rejected) and reviewer comments. The initial acceptance does not guarantee publication, as that decision will depend on the quality of the final manuscript.
- **Revised Manuscripts:** Revisions are due on January 7, 2024. Feedback on revisions will be returned by February 9, 2024.
- **Final Manuscripts:** Finalized manuscripts should be submitted and ready for copy-editing by March 15, 2024.
- **Anticipated Publication Date:** April 2024.

Submission Instructions

Abstracts should be emailed directly to the guest editor James Holly, Jr. (jhollyjr@umich.edu) with a subject line of "J-PEER Provocations." For general questions about the special issue and *J-PEER*, please contact the editor Senay Purzer (purzer@purdue.edu).

Author bio

James Holly, Jr. is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at University of Michigan.

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