
FOREWORD

Prof. Joy Papier
Editor-in-Chief, JOVACET
Director: Institute for Post-School Studies
SARCHI Chair: Post-School Studies – TVET Teaching and Learning

It gives me great pleasure to present the second issue of our fledgling journal, *JOVACET*, an early 2019 publication. This special issue celebrates a successful conference held in November 2018 in Cape Town and attended by a range of local and international academics. The conference was hosted by the Adult Education Studies Unit of our UWC Institute for Post-School Studies, under the rubric, Access, barriers to participation and success for adult learners: Rethinking equity and social justice in post-school education. It was opened with a thought-provoking address by our keynote speaker, Prof. Crain Soudien, Chief Executive Officer of the Human Sciences Research Council.

As its name denotes, *JOVACET* caters for scholarship in the domains of both vocational education and training and adult and continuing education and training. While each of these is a subfield of education in its own right, with particular epistemologies and traditions, they also have many points of intersection and synergy. The intersections and synergies serve to enrich and expand our understandings of what it means to learn, and teach, outside of formal school contexts. This is especially appropriate to youth and adult learners in general education or young or mature adult learners in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) contexts, whether they are learning formally or informally. Post-school education and training in the ‘south’ is therefore a vibrant and exciting space for innovative research and knowledge production, for which *JOVACET* hopes to be a vehicle. We also envisage this journal playing a developmental role, where established local and international scholars serve as mentors to and role models for emerging researchers who are seeking to hone their research and publication skills. Such an initiative is sorely needed in what can often be an alienating, even hostile, publishing environment for new scholars.

We are privileged to have had as guest editors for this special issue two highly regarded and experienced academics: Emerita Professor Shirley Walters, former director of the Division for Lifelong Learning at the University of the Western Cape, and Professor Zelda Groener, former director of the Centre for Adult and Continuing Education at the same university. Their roots in adult learning and education run deep, and both are steeped in the discourses that have characterised adult education and training over many years. In the editorial to this issue, they weave a coherent and comprehensive overview of the articles that have been included, articles which have emanated from papers presented at the 2018 conference.

We express our appreciation to the authors who have chosen this publication for their scholarly contributions, and who stayed the distance through the rigorous peer-review process. Your efforts will no doubt be appreciated by our readers, many of whom reside beyond the borders of South Africa and the continent. We trust that you and other aspiring authors will continue to publish in future editions of *JOVACET*.

Our thanks go again to our supportive Editorial Board members for their consistent encouragement, many of whom are on our excellent team of reviewers. Our national and international peer reviewers, who give so generously of their time in meticulous and developmental feedback, deserve our heartfelt thanks too. Be assured that we value your commitment despite the numerous demands you have on your time. Thank you to those who invited academics in their circles to serve as reviewers and passed these referrals on to us. New reviewers are always most welcome, and we ask that you continue to help us widen our network by putting yourself forward as a potential reviewer.

In conclusion, I need again to pay tribute to our journal administrator, Dr Catherine Robertson, for her diligence, tenacity and patience, and for the critical role she plays in getting the journal to publication.