# **REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL** EDUCATION ONLINE

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# Review of International GEOGRAPHICAL EDUCATION ONLINE Volume 7, Number 3, Winter 2017

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Author: Joseph KERSKI, Reviewer: Inga GRYL.....

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Use of) Geography Textbooks?
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Model Supported by Geocaching in Environmental Education
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# **Reviewer List for Volume 7**

The following names -RIGEO's reviewers for Volume 7 - represent the foundation of the peer-review process. The Review of International Geographical Education Online editorial team thanks to all our reviewers, not just those whose guidance shaped the articles that appears in this volume, but also those who counseled us on articles needing substantial revision or even rejection. The reviews were timely, constructive, and represent a substantial time commitment on behalf of submitting authors. Thank you for your effort and spend your valuable time on behalf of *RIGEO*.

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# **From the Editors**

# Dear readers of RIGEO,

Welcome to last issue of Review of International Geographical Education Online-RIGEO for 2017. This is the twentieth issue (Volume 7, Number 3) of the RIGEO since 2011. The year of 2017 was important for RIGEO as it was started to be indexed by ERIC and Scopus.

First paper is entitled "How do the German and Dutch Curriculum Contexts influence (the Use of) Geography Textbooks" written by Krause, U., Béneker, T., van Tartwijk, J., Uhlenwinkel, A. & Bolhuis, S. They describe research on how differences in framing influence the design of geography textbooks and lessons in higher secondary

schools (ages 16-18). In a comparative case study, they analyzed geography textbooks, observed lessons, and interviewed editors and teachers in a country with weak framing (Germany) and a country with strong framing (the Netherlands). The results of study showed that weaker framing goes hand in hand with textbooks focusing on knowledge and offering higher-order tasks. In the country with weaker framing, teachers use more question and answer teaching strategies, students deliver more presentations, and more assignments are used that are aimed at practicing higher-order cognitive skills. Interviews carried out with teachers in both countries underline the fact that stronger framing of the curriculum can cause stress and has a strong impact on the teaching practice. This explains the different teaching patterns in both countries, despite similar teaching orientations.

Second paper of this issue is from Turkey entitled "The Views of Preservice Teachers for Problem-Based Learning Model Supported by Geocaching in Environmental Education" written by written by Rukiye Adanalı and Mete Alim. In this study, within Educational Geocaching Game (IGG) which is the complementary activity of the problem-based learning (PBL) process, treasure boxes containing various clues and tasks for the students to help them at their PBL research reports, had been prepared and students' opinions regarding the effectiveness of this game was taken. The findings showed that PBL-IGG did not lead to a significant difference regarding the students' problem-solving skills. However, in the light of the interviews, it was revealed that PBL-IGG increased the students' social and cognitive skills and map skills as well; that the students had positive attitudes towards PBL-IGG. They also stated that IGG applications made the lesson more enjoyable, increased awareness and motivation towards the environment. It is expected that the results will be useful to encourage using IGG learning strategy in geography and environmental education and make a contribution to new researches.

Next article is from Greece titled "Digital Literacy Integration in Educational Practice: Creating a Learning Community, Through a Geographic Project in Mytilene Senior High School, Greece" developed by Exarchou, E., Klonari, A., Lambrinos, N., Vaitis, M. This study focused on the analysis of Grade-12 (Senior) students' sociocultural constructivist interactions using Web 2.0 applications during a geographical research process. In the study methodology context, a transdisciplinary case study (TdCS) with ethnographic and research action data was designed, implemented and analyzed in real teaching conditions for this study. The goal of the research process was students to integrate into authentic activities that that relate to their experiences and create a learning community, developing cognitive geographic knowledge.

The forth article is from Turkey entitled "What is Secondary School Students' Awareness on Disasters? A Case Study" written by Adnan Pınar. The aim of that study conducted to determine the basic disaster consciousness and awareness level of secondary school students. The study was designed according to case study technique from qualitative research methods. The study group was composed of fifty students attending the secondary education institutions in Konya. The data obtained through the structured interview technique was evaluated through the descriptive analysis method. Accordingly, it was concluded that secondary students classified the disaster concept as a phenomenon related only to natural factors, failed to identify the human factors causing the disaster, classified the disaster types as natural disasters and failed to classify the dimension of the disasters, lacked sufficient knowledge in disaster preparedness as well as predictions with regards to the disaster types they may face in their regions. In addition, students also considered the level of development of the country as a determining factor in disaster management. In light of these results, education on disasters should start in the family and be developed through local municipalities and non-governmental organizations in order to raise awareness regarding disasters.

The last paper of this issue is about "Geography Teachers' Views on Effective Geography Teaching" written by Ali Osman Kocalar and Hilmi Demirkaya. A qualitative method has been used in order to examine the teachers' effectiveness in geography teaching. In three different types of high school, 19 geography teachers were interviewed using a semi-structured interview form prepared by the researchers. During the interview, the researchers asked the teachers some questions about their teaching methods, teaching techniques and materials used, skills provided, classroom management, and developments made through in-service training. The data acquired were evaluated through content analysis and some categories were formed. According to the findings, it is seen that the geography teachers are effective in education and training. According to the results obtained from the research, it is determined that the geography teachers use the materials, methods and techniques in accordance with the curriculum. In addition, it is seen that they participate in the in-service training in order to develop and maintain the effective teaching.

This issue of RIGEO is completed with a book review by Inga Gryl from University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany. The title of the book is "Interpreting Our World–100 Discoveries that Revolutionized Geography" written by Joseph Kerski from ESRI, Denver, USA.

Hope to meet you in next issue.

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