

Editorial

Since its inception, *Educate~* has covered the full breadth of the field of education and related disciplines. The first regular issue of our eighth volume is no exception and puts the spotlight on sociological and health-related issues. They have their place in an education journal as they help define the issues that educators, researchers and other stakeholders need to understand in order to work professionally and effectively. The two research papers in this issue focus on young people and use quite different research methods to provide evidence that fosters the understanding of the selected groups.

In the first research paper, Omolola Abiola Adedokun and Mark A. Balschweid from Purdue University in Indiana/USA analyse the influence of social capital on educational achievement for rural adolescents and focus on self-esteem and delinquency as mediating factors. Their analysis of data from a national longitudinal study provides statistical evidence that these factors are influential, and the authors highlight a range of arguments to explain their findings.

The second research paper reports on Grace E. Spencer's empirical work at the Thomas Coram Research Unit of the Institute of Education, University of London. The paper examines young people's perceptions of health-related risks and how their perspectives are being formed, based on a range of interviews and resulting in a number of emerging key issues and trends and their implications for health promotion policy, practice and future research.

A regular feature of *Educate~* is our media review section: Tiija Elisabet Rinta reviews 'Music, informal learning and the school: a new classroom policy' by Lucy Green, and Faezeh Seyedarabi reviews 'Doing a literature search: a comprehensive guide for the social sciences' by Chris Hart.

This issue of *Educate~* concludes with the abstracts from the Doctoral School Summer Conference 2008 at the Institute of Education. On the 20th and 21st June 2008, 62 doctoral students presented their research projects, plans and findings to an appreciative, knowledgeable and critical audience. Should you want to learn more about any project, the Editorial Board can put you in touch with the researchers.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed to this year's first regular issue: the authors of research papers and media reviews and the reviewers for their efforts, the publishers Ashgate and Sage for their supply of books, our editorial assistant Kate Sym for being so effective, and our readers for your interest. Please continue to send in your work and consider registering as a reviewer.

The Editorial Board
July 2008
London