

From the Editors

In many ways Teacher Journeys 2020 was, much like “anything 2020”, unique. Though we had already lined up a venue and begun preparations for a traditional face-to-face conference in the west part of Tokyo, the growing number of COVID-19 infections forced us to cancel these plans in early spring. At that time, we had a tentative back-up plan for an experimental style of asynchronous online conference, a kind of curated selection of video presentations in which teachers shared their struggles and successes with emergency remote teaching. We weren’t entirely confident that there would be much interest in presenting at such a conference, or whether the videos would ultimately be well received. Luckily, the reception far exceeded our expectations. Educators from around Japan and the world submitted 32 video presentations which were posted in weekly batches to TD SIG’s YouTube channel during the Autumn of 2020. As of June 2021, these presentations have amassed over 2,500 views and 114 hours of watch time. The videos, many linked in the papers which follow, are still available on our channel and continue to be viewed regularly. In a sense, Teacher Journeys 2020 is still continuing well beyond 2020.

In the most important ways however, Teacher Journeys 2020 was not unique. Just as in the eight Teacher Journeys conferences which preceded it, educators shared stories of growth with honesty and vulnerability while others listened and learned. This basic, teacher-centered approach to professional development through narrative inquiry is fundamental to the conference aims and reflects the spirit of Teacher Journeys, no matter the format or platform. We are thrilled to be able to further share many of the stories from the conference in written form in this special edition of Explorations in Teacher Development.

This special edition features 16 highly practical, informative, and personal narratives of issues relating to emergency remote teaching. Our aim with this collection of papers is to not only further document the unique situation that we have found ourselves in over the past year for posterity purposes, but to provide a resource through which we can learn from one another’s experiences. The papers in this special edition follow a unified format, with each

contribution opening with a short vignette to set the scene and establish the educational context being reflected upon. Following this, authors propose a set of objectives for how their stories could be used by others. The authors then expand upon these objectives by suggesting a variety of detailed practical implications, all aimed at supporting fellow teachers through offering usable ideas for the classroom or general guidance. Finally, each writer concludes their papers with a reflective statement in which they take stock of their experiences from 2020 and make plans for the future.

The publication of this special edition is the culmination of a combined effort of a large group of people. We would like to wholeheartedly thank the people listed below who dedicated their time to reviewing submissions, revising papers through copyediting, liaising with authors, or helping with development of this journal’s concept. We’d also like to give thanks to Lisa M. Hunsberger for expertly producing the layout of this journal. These have been difficult and challenging times for all of us, so we’re grateful that you could kindly dedicate a piece of your energy and commitment to this project.

In concluding, we would like to place on record our sincere thanks to our outgoing Publications Chair Bill Snyder. Over the past few years, Bill has contributed to making sure Explorations in Teacher Development has remained an innovative and academically rigorous offering, providing valuable guidance and input to contributors along the way. Towards the end of this edition, we’re delighted to announce the formation of our new incoming Publications team. We hope the new team will continue Bill’s work and help to progress the journal further.

Best wishes,
Michael Ellis
Ewen MacDonald
Matthew W. Turner
Special edition co-editors