

Introduction by the ICED 2020 organisers

In this special issue of the *ETH Learning and Teaching Journal* we are proud to present the proceedings of a conference that never was: ICED 2020.

In fact, however, ICED 2020 “was”. Much thought went into it on the part of many people, who spent years conceptualising its theme, soliciting and selecting abstracts, and planning the physical conference itself. After the conference was cancelled, more than 100 undaunted authors from around the world took their planned presentations, workshops and posters and turned them into the proceedings before you. These address a myriad of topics ranging from “Whose future? Which graduate?” to the views of recruiters in the domain of knowledge work, peer tutoring programmes in South Africa, the integration of transferable skills into existing curricula, “future literacy” and futures research, and the reflections of displaced Syrian academics. Contributors include Nobel prizewinner Carl Wieman and the incumbent president of ICED Kasturi Behari-Leak (the opening and closing ICED 2020 keynotes, respectively). They also include the ICED 2020 Student Ambassador group and the members of the interdisciplinary panel.

What “wasn’t” were the personal interactions; the meals taken together; the coffee breaks in the ETH Main Building; the spontaneous conversations struck up in the hallway; the sightseeing in beautiful Zurich and Switzerland (Swiss chocolate enjoyed in its native environment!); the alphorn music and the gala dinner; the friendships and collaborations revisited or begun; and much more. We are so sorry not to have spent time with you.

However, what still is, is the scholarship. May this compilation be a lasting record of the conference that wasn’t – and yet was.

For all of their efforts we thank the Rector of ETH Zurich and a distinguished international scientific committee, who donated their precious time to the endeavour; the ICED Board, who was the conference backbone; the Swiss Faculty Development Network, who supplied invaluable input and support; and all members of and helpers to the ETH organising team, who were the boots on the ground.

The ICED 2020 conference organisers:

Philip Barth, Karin Brown, Katherine Hahn Halbheer, Gerd Kortemeyer, Joy Schuurmans Stekhoven, Benno Volk

Editorial note:

The articles in the proceedings were adapted from what would have been papers, workshops and posters presented orally by an utterly diverse international group of authors. All were accepted presenters, and as such peer review had already taken place at the abstract submission stage. These facts, and time and budget constraints, determined the editorial concept for this *L TJ* proceedings issue, which is to be regarded as only lightly copy-edited. Submitters were informed from the outset that they were responsible for the quality of their own English. Individual contributors were given latitude in choosing either UK or US English, and divergent usages of grammar, spelling and punctuation were tolerated, as long as consistency was maintained within each article. For the visual consistency of the whole, a compulsory template was provided. Contributions were first checked for appropriateness; they were then proofread and – where necessary for comprehensibility – lightly corrected. Any substantial alterations were referred to the respective author(s) for approval. No changes were made without a reason; the bottom lines were general adherence to the template, and comprehensibility and consistency within each article. Some minor post-template standardisation was also applied to certain sections (e.g., References).