

International Journal of Complexity in Education

Call for Papers: Complexity and Wicked Problems in Education

Guest co-editors: Dr. Joanna K. Garner (Old Dominion University)

and Dr. Karen Harris (Arizona State University)

The **International Journal of Complexity in Education** is a refereed professional journal that presents up-to-date educational research focusing on the rapidly expanding science of complexity. The mission of the journal is to advance education theory and practice through the application of concepts and methods derived from complexity and nonlinear dynamical systems theories. IJCE takes a broad view of what these concepts entail, and they might include chaos theory, nonlinear dynamical systems theory, catastrophe theory, self-organized criticality, power laws, agent-based modeling, fractals and more. The journal is intended as a forum for constructive peer interactions among scholars working within the paradigm of complexity or take an active interest in becoming more deeply engaged in work from a complexity perspective.

This special issue will focus on the application of complex systems theories and methodologies to wicked problems in education. **Wicked problems are high-stakes, transdisciplinary, dilemma-rich issues that are enmeshed with sociocultural systems and devoid of singular, permanent solutions. By nature, wicked problems manifest properties of complex dynamic systems, including predictable and unpredictable linear and nonlinear change over time, contextual sensitivity, and interdependence among constructs and processes at varying units-of-analysis.** Examples of wicked problems in education may include but are not limited to issues such as: increasing educational equity and improving race relations; conducting and disseminating classroom-based intervention research; developing school leaders and teachers for the changing educational landscape; addressing the educational impacts of the evolving COVID-19 pandemic on students, families, and teachers; and advancing educational research as a scientific discipline. Such topics exemplify the dynamic and intersecting nature of a variety of societal systems and present challenges to researchers who have historically been predisposed to conducting scholarship from within mechanistic and reductionistic paradigms.

We invite researchers to submit papers that explore theoretical issues, methodological applications, and empirical solutions. We are particularly interested in papers that construe educational phenomena as wicked problems, explore whether and how such phenomena manifest characteristics of complex dynamic systems, and further understanding of complex and “wicked” educational issues. Papers can be conceptual or empirical using quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods designs and analytical techniques. Areas of foci may include K-12 education, higher education, or lifelong learning. The goal of this special issue is to produce ontological, epistemological, and methodological insights into educational phenomena through the lenses of complex systems and wicked problems. Papers from both new researchers and established scholars are welcome.

Technical information about submissions:

We invite potential authors to submit an **article proposal** that includes the following: (a) a cover sheet with the proposed title of the manuscript and names and affiliations of authors; (b) a one-page brief that describes the type of paper (theoretical, empirical) and the specific wicked problem in education that will be addressed, the advantage(s) of using a complex systems perspective to examine the problem, and a summary of the current research that reveals the contribution to be made by the paper.

Point of Contact for article proposals: Dr. Joanna K. Garner, jkgarner@odu.edu

Anticipated timeline:

Deadline for submission of article proposals:	June 15 th , 2022
Accepting/rejecting proposals:	July 31 st , 2022
Submission of the first draft:	February 15 th , 2023
Feedback from reviewers to authors:	May 15 th , 2023
Revised paper due:	August 15 th , 2023
Feedback from second round of review (if necessary):	October 15 th , 2023
All final papers received:	November 15 th , 2023
Publication date:	Spring, 2024

IJCE website and guidelines for authors:

<https://complexityineducation.com/index.php/ljce/aboutthejournal>

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Full paper style and format: The acceptable format for electronic submission is MS-Word. All manuscripts should conform to APA guidelines as outlined in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* 7th Edition (2020), except for the Figure set-up, which should conform to APA 6th Edition.

Manuscripts should be submitted single spaced, and all pages should be numbered. Tables and figures should be placed at the bottom of the manuscript, with markers in the text concerning their placement. All tables and figures should have headers and be numbered consecutively.

A title page should be provided separately from the rest of the manuscript. The title page should contain the identifying information, i.e., author name(s) and institutional affiliation(s). It should also include an abstract and up to five keywords, as well as a suggested running head.

All manuscripts are to be submitted in English, and authors should ensure that the language is idiomatic and without grammatical errors.