

*Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad*

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# Introduction: Updates on AI, DEI, context, and partnerships

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## Keywords

Artificial intelligence; diversity, equity, and inclusion; editorial; partnerships

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## Introduction

In this annual update, I am pleased to report on several new initiatives of our editorial team and board to keep our journal publishing relevant scholarship on education abroad of the highest quality. As higher education around the world has been roiled by the many changes brought on by generative artificial intelligence, and as U.S. institutions are enduring an unprecedented federal assault on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts, our board has helped our journal navigate both challenges. In addition, we have conducted an informative exercise to map our position relative to adjacent journals in our context. I want to acknowledge the key role of our executive editorial assistant Dr. Anas N. Almassri in shepherding these initiatives. Finally, if you have not yet heard our [announcements](#), we have now welcomed two premier sponsoring partners: CEA CAPA and The Center for Research on Abroad and International Student Engagement (RAISE Center) at Wake Forest University. Both partners will bring new joint content and programming while strengthening our editorial independence, thanks to the deft work of our managing editor Dr. Amelia J. Dietrich.

## Artificial intelligence

I am deeply grateful to the sub-group of our editorial board who drafted an excellent and comprehensive new policy to guide the work of our authors

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and editors in this fast-moving revolution. As I cannot improve upon their words, I will quote here the preamble:

This policy outlines the stance of *Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad* on responsible, transparent, and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI) in scholarly research and publication.

As use of AI, especially generative AI, becomes more appealing in research and academic settings, *Frontiers* carefully recognizes AI's potential to support human intellectual labor but strictly maintains that the former cannot replace the latter.

This policy establishes boundaries for prohibited and permissible AI use for publications in *Frontiers* while reaffirming that authorship and full responsibility and accountability remain with human researchers and authors. The policy provides that the demanding labor of critique, interpretation, reflexivity and/or creativity involved in doing research is essential, indispensable to *human* intellectual advancement.

Grounded in principles of academic integrity and transparency, the policy guides authors, reviewers, and editors across all stages of the research and publication process. It emphasizes the importance of disclosing AI use, ensuring ethical research and review practices, and maintaining critical reflection about the potential biases, limitations, and broader societal impacts associated with AI use. In launching this policy, which will be updated regularly, *Frontiers* aims to uphold principles of research excellence amidst a rapidly evolving AI landscape. – [Frontiers Policy on AI Use](#)

## **Diversity, equity, and inclusion**

In the current U.S. political climate of attacks on social justice and these initiatives being rolled back, *Frontiers* will continue to offer a space where such scholarship and praxis are welcomed and nurtured. Our commitment to these principles in the international environment of study abroad research and practice includes (i) continuing efforts to attract scholarship and editorial contributions from a globally broader segment of colleagues; (ii) valuing research that disaggregates data by socially constructed identities, centers underrepresented students or leaders, or engages with critical analysis of current discourses, institutional practices, and systemic barriers; and (iii)

monitoring the implementation of these values in our own processes and policies.

## Context mapping

Another sub-group of our editorial board surveyed the journals that were closest to our mission. This exercise confirmed our focus on education abroad as unique, and our interdisciplinarity and free open access as highly valuable. It also affirmed our current governance structure as healthy and functional, as well as the comparatively strong visibility and thoroughness of our editorial policies. The review identified areas for growth, and our *Frontiers* executive team are already advancing plans to index the journal in the Web of Science and Scopus. Related to our commitments above, we also aspire to become even more international in our base of authors and readership and to continue to invest in early career colleagues. I will describe one new initiative toward the latter further below.

At our last board meeting, we decided to join a larger effort to add to each article a “Publication Facts Label” to support research transparency and integrity, such as the example in Figure (1) below.

FIGURE (1)

PUBLICATION FACTS LABEL

<b>Publication Facts</b>	
This article	Other articles
Peer reviewers 2	2.4
<b>Author statements</b>	
Data availability <a href="#">Yes</a>	18%
External funding <a href="#">Yes</a>	32%
Competing interests No	3%
This journal	Other journals
Articles accepted 23%	38%
Days to publication 134	145
Indexed in <a href="#">DOGSWS</a>	
Editorial team <a href="#">list</a>	
Society <a href="#">FRHS</a>	
Publisher <a href="#">Waismann Journals</a>	
To learn about these publication facts, click <a href="#">?</a>	

SOURCE: [PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE PROJECT](#)

## Partnerships

Finally, as I hope you have seen in our full December [announcement](#), I am delighted that The RAISE Center and CEA CAPA have joined us as sponsoring

partners to advance our mission to foster creative, rigorous, and necessary scholarship on education abroad. As CEA CAPA articulated well, their support will “broaden the journal’s reach and impact, while remaining true to the values that have long defined Frontiers’ work.”

Each of these partnerships includes both a joint event and an ensuing sponsored special issue, and last month we co-hosted the sold-out and successful 2026 Woolf Symposium with CEA CAPA. In July, we will pilot the RAISE Frontiers Education Abroad Research Residency, a new event and emerging community of practice that will bring together scholars of varying experience to a three-day intensive program dedicated to advancing the landscape of education abroad research. After this pilot with members of our own boards, we intend for it to become an open annual event to develop emerging scholars in the field. I am grateful for the support of both organizations to amplify the voices of scholars while maintaining the integrity and independence that define our work, and we are in conversations with one more potential major sponsor.

## **Thank you**

We are delighted to be enjoying an increasing number of submissions, and I appreciate all the work of the authors who are included in this issue. Finally, as always, dear readers, I am grateful to you for all that you are doing to contribute to the field of education abroad and to scholarly exchange within it, and for your support for our journal as a leading platform for that exchange.

## **Editor Biography**

**Elaine Meyer-Lee**, Ed.D., is Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs at Goucher College. She previously served as an SIO for 18 years at other institutions and has been broadly active in the fields of international, intercultural, leadership, and diversity/inclusion higher education since earning her doctorate in human development and psychology from Harvard in 1999. Her numerous fellowships and grants include a Fulbright, and she currently serves on the boards of ISEP and American Conference of Academic Deans, and on the Haverford College Corporation.