

Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad

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Volume 35, Issue 1, pp. I-II

DOI: 10.36366/frontiers.v35i1.841

[www.frontiersjournal.org](http://www.frontiersjournal.org)



# Introduction: Hear From Our New Editor

Elaine Meyer-Lee<sup>1</sup>

## Welcome to the April Issue

I would like to welcome all readers to the April 2023 issue of Frontiers: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Study Abroad. While this is technically my first issue as Editor, all credit for the excellent content in it goes to the previous editor, Dr. Audrey Murrell, as well as to the ongoing Managing Editor Dr. Amelia Dietrich and our Editorial Assistant Anas Almassri. I am delighted to be onboard as of January and to be working now on the November issue.

## Introducing Myself

I am currently Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic at Goucher College. Before that, however, I served as a senior international officer for 18 years, and I have been a development psychologist studying college student development within the context of intercultural higher education for the past 30 years. I first decided to pursue my doctorate in 1991 after realizing during my master's work that there had not been enough solid data on the growth processes which we hoped to facilitate through study abroad, then a burgeoning field. I have since not only published and presented my own multi-method longitudinal research and consulted to many colleges, but I have also tried to resource broader scholarship and assessment efforts in the field however I can. I was part of the first meetings to establish The Forum on Education Abroad, served on its initial Outcomes Assessment committee, and wrote a chapter in its handbook on that topic. I have served on conference

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committees for NAFSA: the Association of International Educators, American Council on Education Internationalization Collaborative, Association of International Education Administrators, and Diversity Abroad, always with an eye toward increasing the quality and quantity of scholarship being disseminated. While my own scholarship is now expanding into broader areas of higher education leadership, I try to keep a finger in the field of international education and still serve on the board of ISEP (International Student Exchange Program) and the college advisory board of the Institute for American Universities.

## Looking Ahead

I was therefore honored to be invited to become the next editor of *Frontiers*, the premier peer-reviewed journal in our field. The imperative to equip our students with the intercultural competence necessary to collaboratively solve the complex global problems we face is more urgent than ever. To inform this effective educational practice we need the most nuanced and sophisticated theories grounded in rigorous data. I look forward to working with our team and editorial board to build on *Frontiers*' robust thought leadership in this area. We will analyze our recent content to reflect on what and who we might be missing, strengthen partnerships in this space, and experiment with new categories of submissions that emphasize links between research and practice. I thoroughly enjoyed the large and lively session at the recent annual conference of The Forum on Education Abroad in Seattle, which helped us envision our next chapter. I look forward to working with members of the editorial board and all future authors, reviewers, and readers to bring it to fruition.