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From the Editor: Choosing Solidarity versus Contest

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Dear Readers,

Friends, colleagues, comrades from all over the World;

I am happy to meet you with the new issue of IJEP. I thank all of the authors of the articles, members of the publication and editorial boards, and the readers. Every issue of the IJEP is a fruit of challenge and a strong indicator of the solidarity and resistance to market-driven academic publishing. Of course, it is not a unique venue for this kind of struggle and academic understanding, which puts the labor to reveal the reality behind the visible. I believe that the authors and all contributors of the IJEP share a mutual understanding and direction regarding free scientific research and publishing. In our world, it is very challenging to stay away from the rewards and punishments directed at the scientific actions and motivations of the scholars. It is usual that we feel the suppression about how to move forward and survive in a nonsense academic expectations and promotion requirements in a climate titled “academic capitalism”. Above all, at a point, showing courage and solidarity can be the best option to survive in a climate under the domination of big companies and institutionalized and monetarized mainstreaming journals.

In this journey, working for an academic and critical journal, I met with a lot of great people. One of them was Prof. Guy Senese. I am in debt to him for his priceless contributions to IJEP as author, referee, and at the end, as guest editor. Along with his contribution to IJEP, his support to many young scholars in their academic journey is tremendous.

I am glad that I became a part of a community which Senese reminds it as “a big Union” we created through our heart, commitment for good in solidarity. We are writing, reading, collaborating like to sing a song. We are doing mistakes; we are doing it again sometimes but we are evolving, doing better at every step. Just like Freire mentions that we are not completed, we are in progress with a lot of lacks! No matter that every activity and engagement we managed can be stopped, cancelled or come to the end. Until that time, it is important how much we contributed to the struggle of the oppressed; development of a democratic culture nationally and internationally; just and emancipatory education and more equal World, “the another World”. We know that we are reading “the World and the Words” (Freire, 1987/2005) together. In their words authors provide their world to us. I am grateful to them.

Guest editor Senese has provided a call for paper at the start of his study and shared it in some communities. At the end we concluded with the strong papers what we are looking for to share. A description about the papers and the motivation of the special issue can be traced at his editorial piece. Professor Senese (2020) has mentioned the studies and their stories in his editorial piece at earlier issue of IJEP (Vol 13, No2).

We aware that the academic climate required and forced us to reevaluate international and national efforts for development in every issue. We evaluate and consider to meet requirements and expectations accordance with our academic union's principles and its capacity. On the other hand, specific to academic area, there are some difficulties experienced by the both novice and experienced academicians not only in national but also in international levels. Among these, the rising of contest instead of solidarity among academic communities with the purpose of adjusting themselves to market conditions; pressure from political decisions on academic liberty; impact value or some other quantitative features of articles published in indexed journals or in any other venue; administrative and financial rewards on projects; and importance of the quantity of the articles rather than their social contribution can be mentioned. However, existence of academicians who are dedicated to academic values, ethics (not the market ethics), and principles regarding academic liberty/freedom helps us to keep our hopes alive for the next years. I want to claim that those values and principles may help to foster the contributions of the connection of international academic community to cooperative in research and learning; supports to the tendency of learning and being sensitive to the problems of each other in communities. In this context, in addition to following the methodological criteria for a manuscript which submitted to IJEP, we care about the critics and suggestions in a constructive manner during the review of them. Members of the academic community can develop their studies with the help of anonymous reviewers and open discussions. They can enlighten the efforts by providing knowledge on larger social environment and presenting new approaches and data to the old problems and then support each other's learning. I hope that IJEP is going to continue being a part of these efforts and continue to take supports from different community members.

In neoliberal era we live in and academic capitalism already on its way, we may not totally stay away from the characteristic behaviors defined by this term. Some journals are expecting the authors to pay a high amount money for their articles to be published, sometimes for only to have their papers to be published earlier. Academics are under pressure and they want to publish paper in the "prestigious" journals as expected and its meaning became publishing in a journal indexed by a prestigious company. Obviously, this pressure is causing the "corrosion of characters", which Sennett (2000) mentioned this for employees and unemployed people at the new flexible markets. After a long process and reviews, editors may take an e-mail or phone call from an author who like to withdraw his/her/their manuscript due to some unexpected problems, actually to publish in a more promotion providing journal. That demands could be a chance for a journal which solidarity and struggle are its fundamental values to survive, for electing and revealing some random authors who brought by the wind who has not any critical world views and being dragged along by the neoliberal competing benefits and market driven motivations. It may be a sign of the "corrosion of character" that emerged under the pressuring conditions of academic capitalism or a side effect of the market driven academic policies.

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At this point, I would like to share a foundational information that IJEP is a bi-lingual journal. Authors can submit English and Turkish manuscripts with a structured English summary. At the next issues, you may see the Turkish papers with the English summaries. We hope that this option can provide a more courage to colleagues and comrades from Turkey about to share their papers. At this stage, I should mention that all research papers will be continue to be refereed and editorial evaluations regarding journals' scope will be applied.

I invite all colleagues, educators, teachers, undergraduate and graduate students, researchers to join us as readers, authors and board members to continue and strengthen IJEP.

I hope you will enjoy to read the great articles and excited by the great effort and experiences reflected in the articles through the authors' personal life experiences.

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