

COMPARATIVE EDUCATION REVIEW
ANNUAL REPORT, 2009

Presented to President Gita Steiner-Khamsi,
the Board of Directors, and the Membership of CIES

By David Post, Editor
Mark Ginsburg, Emily Hannum, Aaron Benavot, and Heidi Ross, Coeditors

Chicago, February 28, 2010

February 2010 finds the *Comparative Education Review* well, with a vigorous editorial board and an engaged readership.¹ In addition to David Post, Mark Ginsburg, and Emily Hannum, we now include Aaron Benavot as a coeditor. Aaron recently began a position at the University at Albany–State University of New York, after completing several years at UNESCO and, before that, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the University of Georgia. Heidi Ross is coordinating our special issue on “Educators and the Environment,” Chris Bjork oversees the *CER* book reviews, and for many years Rosalind Raby has produced an annual bibliography. Because of a jump in the number of submissions this past year, we wish to include an additional coeditor beginning this coming July, a scholar whose area and disciplinary expertise compliments our own, and who brings years of experience with the *CER* and CIES: Prof. Amy Stambach, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Beyond this team, we depend on the work of hundreds of scholars worldwide who read and comment—often at length—on manuscripts forwarded to them by two very able managing editors, Sarah Fuller and Saamira Halabi. We are grateful for the continued support of *CER* by our home institutions, especially Penn State, which donates half the cost of our managing editors. We wish also to acknowledge the consummate professionalism of our counterparts at the University of Chicago Press, who make the journal look so good while traveling so far.

Retrospective of CER

Since the late 1950s, *CER* authors and editors of this journal have promoted comparative analysis of national and international education. But *CER* also underwent a makeover as the field it helped create expanded and became more complex. The journal’s evolution reflects the changes experienced generally by North American scholarly publications. As the number of submissions increased over the years and as their length increased with expectations of greater depth, *CER* became something more—and less—than a “service organ” of the professional society from which it emerged (in the words of George Bereday’s first editorial). We became less a medium for the rapid dissemination of educational developments, while becoming more of a repository and an arbiter of theory, method, and evidence. Cognate changes in publishing—the proliferation of edited volumes, on the one hand, and readers’ instantaneous access to Internet facts and working papers, on the other—have not so much threatened *CER* (our circulation and manuscript submission rates more than doubled in recent years) as they have reinforced its unique niche.

Although *CER* articles tend to have long shelf lives, we pay the price of time: unfortunately, and although not the norm, years can pass between the date of an author’s initial submission and the day when—if accepted—his or her article appears in print and in the parallel electronic version. *CER* has been less able to offer instant commentary or research on world developments, even as the pace of change accelerated. As is the case with many scholarly journals, the gap between the dates when a piece is written and finally published is a challenge for both readers and authors.

¹ Portions of this annual report are also being published in our February 2010 editorial.

Review Process, Response Times, and Open-Access to Reviews

For many contributors, the submission-response interval seems mysterious, opaque, even liminal. This year we have tried to make the process more transparent by placing on our Web site an open file of reviews and editorial responses. We selected about one-third of the articles published over the past five years, choosing a variety of styles, methods, disciplinary orientations, and geographic areas. We are grateful to the authors we selected for allowing this open access to their files, especially since the editorial response letters always request improvement, and the reviewer reports are critiques. These authors' willingness to participate speaks volumes about their security and integrity as scholars. To access this file, click on either the "for reviewers" or the "for authors" tab at the *CER* home page.

For many researchers wishing to publish time-sensitive information, there are disadvantages to submitting their work to a selective, refereed journal as opposed to a targeted, edited volume, a Web journal, a blog, or an agency report. But we hope potential authors who browse through the open file of reviews will take away at least two messages. First, even the articles written by very experienced and distinguished authors - persons with many publications to their credit - went through several versions before their acceptance by the referees and editors. Second, the final product, the finished article, is, at least in part, a collective effort achieved through engagement with a committed, lively community.

Ways the CER Tries to Be Proactive

There are ways for journals like the *CER* to remain topical and responsive to readers' interests and to avoid becoming *merely* an arbiter and repository of scholarship, as important as that job remains. These strategies require proactive work by editors. Since 2003, we have featured moderated discussions on topics that the editorial board believes should be of interest to readers. In these discussions, the aim has been to highlight new debates or topics that would otherwise be absent from *CER*, with its very long lag time between research and publication.

Book reviews are another way to remain current. We make an effort to draw attention to publications that have generated considerable interest in the field, as well as titles that may not be familiar to *CER* readers. The 31 reviews published in 2009 covered books focusing on topics from the globalization of racism to the role that schools played in supporting resistance to the Bosnian War to the work of Isaac Kandel. Subscribers are encouraged to share their ideas about books that merit review in the journal. We always take those suggestions seriously and strive to publish a collection of reviews that vary in terms of thematic, geographic, and temporal subject matter.

Special issues can also help *CER* stay engaged with current developments. As was the case with our previous special issues (on public health, on Islam, on post-conflict), we are happy that our call for papers on "Educators and the Environment" elicited responses from scholars whose research does not typically appear in *CER*, thus widening the circle of our intellectual and professional community. At the same time, we must candidly report that we have been disappointed at relatively the smaller number of submissions for this issue (compared to previous topics), despite the fact that we extended the deadline for submission more than once. We do not yet know how many submissions to this "Educators and the Environment" issue will emerge as articles following the customary review.

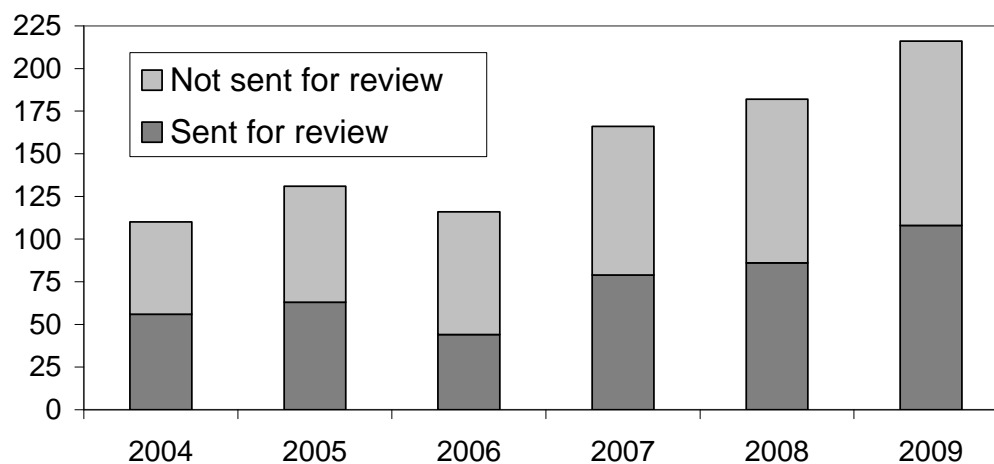
In the remainder of this report we give information about manuscripts submitted and published in 2009. We also wish to acknowledge the 267 reviewers of our 2009 submissions (see Appendix A). Our proposed budget and request for funding from CIES next year is presented Appendix B. Appendix B. proposes the contributions from our partner institutions, and from the CIES. It includes a proposal for a one-time meeting in Philadelphia of the editorial board to plan the next several years of special issues, moderated discussions, and continue discussions initiated during our last retreat, two years ago. A retreat is especially needed to benefit fully from two new coeditors (Aaron Benavot and Amy Stambach).

Manuscript Flow for 2009

Last year we reported that, during 2008, we received 182 new submissions. We screened out 96 of these, and we forwarded 86 manuscripts (47%) for reviewer input. In 2008 we also processed 36 resubmissions from pieces originally submitted in previous years. Of those resubmissions, we returned 22 resubmissions to reviewers, and we conducted only an internal editorial review on 14 manuscripts. This review process involved 223 referees for 2008 submissions, with many colleagues providing input on more than one manuscript.

For 2009 we can report both a greater number submissions and, consequently, a greater number of articles sent for external review. During 2009 we received **216 new submissions**. We screened out 108 of these (though offering detailed suggestions to authors, many of whom ultimately resubmitted new versions of their manuscripts in response to our initial suggestions, which we then forwarded to reviewers). We sent 108 manuscripts (50%) for reviewer input. We also processed **59 resubmissions** from pieces originally submitted in previous years. Of these resubmissions, we returned 43 resubmissions to the original reviewers for further comment, and we conducted an internal editorial review on 16 manuscripts. This review process, in total involved 267 referees for 2009 submissions. Again, many of these colleagues have provided input on two or more manuscripts. The overall trends since 2004 can be observed in Figure 1. In part, to help us continue giving each author the attention for which our journal is known, we have decided to invite an additional coeditor, Amy Stambach, who brings us complimentary area and disciplinary expertise. Subject to CIES board approval, she will begin in July 2010.

Figure 1.
Numbers of manuscript submissions and preliminary screening decisions, 2004-2009



The reviewers for the 2009-year submissions are acknowledged in Appendix A. to this report. We are grateful to them for the extraordinary care they take with CER manuscripts. Some CER reviewers submit many pages of assessment and advice for authors (see the open file on the CER website for examples). We continue to share with reviewers an anonymous copy of the decision letter to the author, which contains the complete set of reviews.

Characteristics of Manuscripts and Authors

We collect information on the geographic source and focus of published articles and submitted manuscripts, as well as the gender of the first authors of published articles and submitted manuscripts. With regard to geographical source, we do not know the citizenship of authors who submit manuscripts to us, but we do know their current location. Last year, 80 out of the 216 (37%) first authors submitting to the CER were based in the United States. This is similar to 2008, when 67 out of the 182 (36%) were first

authors submitting to the CER were based in the United States. In 2009, 92 manuscripts were by multiple authors, while 124 were single-author pieces, also quite similar in distribution to previous years.

Table 1 summarizes the geographical focus of articles published as well as of the manuscripts submitted in 2009, and Table 2 shows the focus of articles we have published since 2004. Although, somewhat unusually, we published no articles with an Africa focus during 2009, we can report there are a large number of accepted articles with research conducted in Africa. *Seven* of these articles will appear in the May 2010 issue. Our May issue was not originally planned with a special focus on Africa, and we made no formal call for papers. However, we were able to take advantage of a coincidence of submissions of high-quality scholarship on Africa this past year and we now have several potentially important papers that have now passed through the regular submission system. We know that publication in a single volume will promote cross-reading and make a whole greater than the sum of the parts.

Table 1:
Focus of Published and Submitted Manuscripts in 2009

	AF	AS	EU	LA	ME	NA	OC	Multi	Theory	Total
Articles Published	0	4	2	1	1	0	0	7	1	16
New Submissions	25	53	31	9	18	7	0	71	2	216

Table 2:
Focus of Published Manuscripts, 2004-2009

Articles Published	AF	AS	EU	LA	ME	NA	OC	Multi	Theory	Total
2009	0	4	2	1	1	0	0	7	1	16
2008	3	3	3	2	0	0	1	9	0	21
2007	2	3	1	2	0	2		3	3	15
2006	4	4	3	1	5	1		4	1	23
2005	4	6	2	2	1	0		2	1	18
2004	2	5	1	2	1	0		1	2	14

AF=Africa; AS=Asia; EU=Europe; LA=Latin America; NA=North America; ME=Middle East; OC=Oceania; Multi=Multi-regional; Th=Theoretical or methodological

Table 3 presents the gender of the authors (first authors in cases of multiple authorship) who submitted and published articles between 2004 and 2009. We also report on the invited essay reviews and book reviews. Note that, quite unusually, women were the first authors of only 3 out of 16 research articles. The only explanation we find for the sudden emergence of this gap is that articles published in 2009 had been in process for 2 or more years. As seen in Table 3, men have always outnumbered women among those submitting articles, and this was particularly true in years prior to 2008. If we were to continue Table 3 to include articles in production for 2010, we would find that, in the current year, 9 out of the 17 articles for 2010 have women as their first authors. Since the start of our editorship, the gender disparity in publication closely matches the gender disparity in submission. From 2004 until the end of 2009, CER received 880 submissions. Of these manuscripts, 369 (42%) had women as first authors. From 2004 until the end of 2010, we will have published a cumulative total 126 research articles (not including presidential addresses, reviews, or discussions). Of these articles, 57 (45%) had women as their first authors. Of course, this only raises the further question of why men submit more manuscripts than women, especially since women outnumber men in the CIES. It would be worthwhile for the editors to discuss this question with the standing committee on gender, and for the CIES to address this gender gap. However, because two-thirds of our submissions come from outside the US (and probably from outside the CIES) the submission disparity explanation may also be found beyond the CIES.

Table 3:
Gender of First Authors of Published and Submitted Manuscripts, 2004-2009

Manuscript Status	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Major articles submitted						
<i>Women</i>	32	55	39	55	86	102
<i>Men</i>	75	71	65	91	95	114
<i>Uncertain</i>	3	5	12	20	1	0
Major articles published						
<i>Women</i>	8	11	8	8	10	3
<i>Men</i>	7	8	15	7	11	13
Essay Reviews Published						
<i>Women</i>	1	3	2	1	1	0
<i>Men</i>	0	1	2	2	2	1
Book Reviews Published						
<i>Women</i>	13	12	13	8	13	20
<i>Men</i>	16	12	18	12	12	11

In a longer view, over the terms of three previous editorships, it is possible to compare the numbers of published articles since 1989. In most of these years the CER published a special thematic issue, usually working with guest editors. Table 4 summarizes the numbers of articles (not including presidential addresses), essay reviews, and book reviews.

Table 4: Numbers of articles, essay reviews, and book reviews, by year

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Reg. issues	13	12	15	12	12	11	12	8	15	8	17	14	12	8	8	10	13	15	15	14	16
Spec. issues	5	7	6	6	4	5	5	8	0	4	0	0	4	4	5	4	6	8	0	7	0
Total articles	18	19	21	18	16	16	17	16	15	12	17	14	16	12	13	14	19	23	15	21	16
Essay reviews	2	5	2	3	2	1	2	0	4	2	2	7	4	5	4	1	3	4	3	1	1
Book reviews	32	42	41	42	38	39	38	35	34	37	25	30	32	30	24	27	24	31	20	25	31

In 2009 we hosted two moderated discussions. In February we focused on a new film that is being seen shown in U.S. schools of education, *2 Million Minutes*. With this discussion we sought to attract students and professors from teacher education programs, the area where the CIES got its start. In May 2009 we focused on a sequel by Joseph Tobin to his now-classic *Preschools in Three Cultures*. What both of these discussions have in common is, first, the entrée they offer a wide range of readers into core research questions about the ways schools and school expectations affect economic development (in *2 Million Minutes*) and child development (in *Preschools II*). The second commonality is that, through both discussions, we took CER beyond the limits of print publication. Both discussions shared video clips in the electronic CER to illustrate the lives touched by schooling in different institutional and cultural contexts. We are open to suggestions about topics for future moderated discussions.

APPENDIX A: ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Comparative Education Review* depends on scholars throughout the world to assess manuscripts submitted for publication. In addition to offering their advice to the editors, reviewers also provide constructive criticism and advise authors about the development of their manuscripts. The CER editors wish to thank the following individuals who served as reviewers of manuscripts that were submitted during 2009.

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University of British Columbia

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Robin Clausen
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Stephen Clements
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Rebecca Clothey
Drexel University

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Florida State University

James Collins
University at Albany-SUNY

John Collins
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Appendix B1: Budget Projections and Proposed CIES allocations for 2010-2011

We are requesting an allocation of **\$40,601** this year, to be administered by Penn State University.

Budget Item	Proposed Contributions by CIES and Partners						TOTAL
	CIES*	P.S.U.	AED	Vassar	Indiana	Wisconsin	
Salaries and Benefits for Coeditor release time*		18,012	39,505				57,517
Penn State assistantship**	15,137	15,137					
Assistantship fringe	2,457	2,457					
2010-11 tuition estimate	14,081	14,081					
20 hours / week summer	4,887	4,887					
Summer fringe	401	401					
TOTAL for Managing Editors and assistants at partner institutions	36,963	36,963		4,180	32,700	37,447	147,223
Postage		100		200			250
Telephone/Fax		150					300
Supplies		150					100
Photocopying		100					50
Travel***	3,638	2,500					5,372
TOTAL	40,601	57,975	39,505	4,380	32,700	37,447	\$211,842

**"Benefits" include insurance and mandatory contributions. David Post will receive a one-course reduction from teaching from Penn State to allow him to work on the CER. AED will cover 8 hours/week of the time for Mark Ginsburg to work on the CER.

**Penn State managing editors are budgeted for 20 hours / week as Grad. Assistants (Grade 11) during academic year, plus 20 hours / week as wage payroll over the summer (six weeks in 2010, six weeks in 2011). CIES contributions will be matched in real dollars by Penn State for graduate assistance and summer wage payroll. Our budget proposal to CIES assumes that PSU managing editors will require full tuition benefits. If the CIES-appointed manager is ABD and requires only 1 credit of registration credit, the cost difference will either be returned to the CIES or rolled over for the following year.

***Travel. Penn State will pay partial travel by David Post and the managing editors to annual meetings. CIES funding is requested for travel to a retreat in Philadelphia with all coeditors and managing editors. See Appendix B2. for details

Appendix B2: Budget detail for travel requested from CIES for biennial meeting in Philadelphia

Four years ago, the CER coeditors received CIES funding to meet in Chicago for an organizing and planning retreat about editorial policies. Similarly, for the summer of 2008, the CIES allocated funding for a strategy workshop for the editorial board, held at Penn State. In the coming year, with two new coeditors since our last sit-down meeting, we find it necessary to volunteer our time for another face-to-face meeting. Philadelphia is proposed as the location because travelling there is easiest and least expensive for the greatest number of us. No travel funding is requested for Emily Hannum (University of Pennsylvania).

	-From-			2 nights hotel	2 days meal & incident.	TOTAL
Aaron Benavot	Albany	Train	200	300	128	628
Chris Bjork	Poughkeepsie	Fares	150	300	128	578
Mark Ginsburg	Washington		100	300	128	528
Managing editor 1	Lewistown (Penn State)		80	150	128	358
Managing editor 2	Lewistown (Penn State)		80	150	128	358
David Post	Lewistown (Penn State)		80	300	128	508
Amy Stambach	Madison	Airfare	252	300	128	680
				GRAND	TOTAL	3638