AERA Open Special Topic Call for Papers

Neuroscience, Learning, and Educational Practice

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There has been a growing interest in the contributions of neuroscience to educational practice, as evidenced by an increasing number of conferences dedicated to this topic, but also societies, journals, and graduate programs. Most recently, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy in collaboration with NIH, NSF and IES held a workshop focusing on neuroscience and learning. Despite the growing interest, many scientists have been arguing that the implementation of neuroscientific research into educational practice is still “a bridge too far,” but on the other hand, many educators rely on “brain-based’ methods,” which are often based on a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of neuroscientific findings (“neuromyths”).

This special topics issue focuses on the latest empirical work at the intersection of neuroscience, cognitive and developmental science, and educational practice. We also welcome conceptual and theoretical contributions that could aim at identifying research gaps and innovations in research methodology and data analysis.

Possible topics include, but are not limited the relationship of neuroscience to:

- Literacy/Reading/Language development (including second language acquisition).
- Mathematics/numeracy development/dyscalculia
- Science education
- Reasoning/problem solving
- Executive function/attention
- Memory/learning
- Motivation/affect
- Preschool development/Adolescence/lifespan development
- Stress & SES effects on brain development and implications for interventions
- Psychopathology (anxiety, ADHD, substance abuse)

Each paper should address a) how neuroscientific approaches can add to and complement behavioral work, and b) how neuroscientific findings can inform educational practice (and/or policy).

Interested authors should submit an abstract (no more than 500 words) describing their proposed articles. Authors chosen at this stage will be invited to submit a full manuscript. Invitation to submit a full manuscript is not a guarantee of acceptance.
Publication Timeline:
July 1, 2015: Submission deadline for abstracts (submit to AERAOpenEditors@aera.net).
August 1, 2015: Invitation to authors to submit manuscripts
January 1, 2016: Manuscripts due
Late 2016: Articles published

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Please consult the AERA Open website for general guidelines on manuscript submission.