

Editorial: Celebrating the 40th year of PATT conferences

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This issue of *Design and Technology Education: An International journal* is a rather special one, special because it is being published in the 40th year since the PATT conference and international PATT community was founded, and special because we have a Guest-edited Special Issue of articles developed from the 40th PATT Conference. (The PATT Acronym was created from the first ever PATT conference and stands for *Pupils Attitudes Towards Technology*). The use of the word 'pupil' gives the game away that conference papers presented focus mainly on schools education – research relating to design and technology education for those aged from 3 to 18 years. We are particularly excited by this special issue as it is a 'bumper' one, 21 research articles provided by authors from 9 countries across 4 continents, providing insight into learning and teaching from early years upwards. The Guest Editors, Sarah Davies, Matt McLain and Bhavna Prajapat both hosted the conference and produced this Special Issue and we thank them for their contribution! Check out their Guest Editorial to see the richness and variety of what is presented.

Looking back over the 40 years since that first conference in the 1980s, it is clear how much has changed both in the world and in education. Design and Technology education at all levels has massively evolved from traditional workshops and narrow silos of disciplinary focuses to a world that is fast moving, from the introduction of the internet to the likes of 3d printing and now the generative AI, becoming more interdisciplinary along the way.

With consideration for this shift, we are also pleased to have a review of *Design and Technology in your School: Principles for Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment*. The book is authored by HildaRuth Beaumont and Torben Steeg and is future facing but builds on their combined, more than four decades of experience to provide a vision to support and inspire current and future educators. The review is presented by Mark Norris, a UK Design and Technology school D&T Department Head and Lecturer in Education from the University of Sussex. Based on the breadth of his experience within both school and higher education settings he provides clear insight into the details in each chapter and highly useful insight into the value for both teachers and leaders of Design and Technology in schools, alongside the value of the book for student teachers just starting their careers.