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Editorial Review

Review

'This work will be of immense value to those who are undertaking a significant post-graduate research study in Education at the M. Phil or PhD level. As well it will be helpful to commissioners of research who may have expertise in one method or another, but not the across-the-board insight when evaluating proposals that employ varied and innovative methods. Its array of impressive contributors writes in an accessible and clear manner and brings the attention of the reader to both technical and conceptual terms.

Not only does the handbook provide the reader with a range of research methods with their associated costs and benefits, but also draws attention to the need for careful and systematic planning at all stages of the inquiry. It cautions against employing any method without first evaluating its appropriateness to the questions being investigated, that is, the commensurability of the research to the purpose of the inquiry.

As a seasoned researcher I found myself refreshed and curious regarding the ongoing debates that continue to circulate around matters of validity and generalisability in increasingly complex contexts. It certainly will be an addition to my own reference library'

-Susan Groundwater-Smith

Faculty of Education and Social Work, University of Sydney

About the Author

Professor James Arthur, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor of Education and Civic Engagement, University of Birmingham. He is Director, Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues, an inter-disciplinary research centre focussing on character, virtues and values in the interest of human flourishing. He has written widely on the relationship between theory and practice in education, particularly the links between communitarianism, social virtues, citizenship, religion and education. He is Secretary to the *Society for Educational Studies*.

Dr Michael Waring, Director MSc Education (QTS) Physical Education, School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, Loughborough University. He sits on the executive of the Society for Educational Studies, and is on the editorial board of the British Journal of Educational Studies and Higher Education Pedagogies. His research interests focus on the development of a personal learning styles pedagogy and the use learning technologies as part of distance and blended learning in higher education and initial teacher education contexts. Generally and as part of the exploration of this personalised learning agenda, he is interested in the use and innovative development of qualitative research methodology.

Professor Robert J. Coe, Durham University, Professor of Education and Director of the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring. His research interests include evaluation methodology, evidence-based

education and the involvement of practitioners in research, school effectiveness and improvement including the methodology of school effectiveness research, the use and effects of feedback especially in performance monitoring information systems, and the statistical comparability of examinations in different subjects and over time.

Professor Larry V. Hedges, Northwestern University, Professor of Statistics and Social Policy. A national leader in the fields of educational statistics and evaluation, his research is in the fields of sociology, psychology and educational policy. He is best known for his work to develop statistical methods for meta-analysis in the social, medical and biological sciences.

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