

Call for Abstracts: *Practice-Based Research in Education*, An International Edited Volume

We invite researchers, teacher educators, educational professionals, and policymakers to contribute to an international edited volume on **Practice-Based Research (PBR) in Education**, developed within and inspired by the **EAPRIL community**.

This edited volume invites contributions on PBR in educational contexts, focusing on research quality as the dynamic interplay between three core pillars: methodological rigor, practical relevance, and ethics. These pillars are inherently interconnected and often create tensions, requiring researchers and practitioners to continuously balance and negotiate trade-offs rather than optimize a single dimension.

We particularly welcome contributions that examine how such dilemmas are experienced and addressed in practice, and how dialogue and collaboration between stakeholders can support more context-sensitive approaches to research quality.

The editorial board will actively curate the volume to ensure conceptual coherence and thematic alignment across contributions, avoiding a collection of loosely connected perspectives.

Book Objectives

The edited volume aims to:

- Provide a comprehensive overview of **current themes and developments** in PBR in education
- Share **methodological insights and innovations** emerging from PBR
- Illustrate the **dynamic interaction between research and educational practice**
- Clarify and critically discuss **quality criteria and standards** for practice-based research, as well as ways to navigate the dilemmas researchers may encounter in applying them
- Strengthen international collaboration between researchers and practitioners
- Develop a coherent and shared understanding of key conceptual anchors and quality principles underpinning PBR across contexts

Target Audience

This book addresses an international readership, including:

- Educational researchers interested in PBR
- Teacher educators and higher education lecturers
- Educational policymakers
- Educational professionals and teachers across educational sectors

We invite research-oriented practitioners and practice-based researchers who represent the EAPRIL audience.

Proposed Book Structure and Themes

Contributions should align with one or more of the following sections:

1. Foundations

- Conceptual frameworks of PBR

- Philosophical grounding
- Theoretical perspectives and positioning of PBR

2. Professional identity or role of the PB researcher

- Competencies
- Creating rigor (validity, quality), relevance (impact) and ethics

3. Methodology

- Methodological innovations in PBR
- Evaluation approaches and impact measurement
- Contextual and situational influences on PBR

4. Creating data in a participatory way

- Dialogue & collaboration
- Researcher–practitioner partnerships
- Participatory and design-based research

5. Applications

- Educational levels
- Target groups
- Different contexts

Across these sections, we explicitly encourage contributions representing diverse educational levels (e.g., primary, secondary, vocational, higher education, and workplace learning). The editorial board reserves the right to actively seek additional contributions to ensure balanced representation across these contexts.

Contribution Requirements

Abstract Submission

- Abstracts should clearly position the proposed chapter within PBR
- Abstracts will be reviewed by the editorial board and the reviewing team

Chapter Requirements

- Maximum **3,000 words**, including title, author(s), affiliations, and APA-style reference list
- Clear and coherent chapter structure
- Explicit and well-argued connection to practice-based research
- Compliance with **EAPRIL-criteria for full papers**:
<https://eapril.org/assets/files/PRESENTDISCUSS-Template-2025-PR.pdf>
- Balance between methodological rigor, strong relevance, and ethics
- Explicit engagement with shared conceptual anchors or quality principles as defined by the editorial board
- Specify how AI is used, where applicable → we encourage researchers to state all tools that were used during the writing process of the chapter.

Peer Review and Author Engagement

This volume is based on a **collaborative authorship model**.

- All chapters will undergo a **rigorous peer review process**, involving:
 - one member of the editorial board, and
 - another contributing author acting as a peer reviewer
- By submitting a chapter, authors explicitly agree to serve as a **“second pair of eyes” reviewer** for at least one other chapter in the volume. This reciprocal peer engagement is an essential part of the project and is intended to foster dialogue, quality enhancement, and collective knowledge construction
- Final acceptance decisions will be made collectively by the editorial board, based on peer review outcomes and the overall coherence of the volume.

Editorial Board

An international editorial board will collectively shape, curate, and decide on the inclusion and positioning of chapters to ensure a coherent and high-quality volume.

The board will author the introductory chapter (Section 0) and the concluding chapter (Future Directions and Reflection), providing overarching framing and synthesis across contributions.

Publication Timeline

Phase 1 – Proposal Phase

- **Call for abstracts published:** 22 May 2026
- **Abstract submission deadline:** 4 September 2026
- **Editorial board screening:** September 2026
- **Feedback and invitations for full chapters:** Oktober 2026

Phase 2 – Development Phase

- **Writing session during EAPRIL 2026:** end of November 2026
- **First full chapter submission:** February 2027
- **Peer review (editor + author peer reviewer):** April 2027
- **Feedback to authors:** June 2027
- **Revised chapter submission:** December 2027

Phase 3 – Finalisation Phase

- **Final review and copy-editing:** March 2028
- **Feedback and final revisions:** May 2028
- **Final chapter submission:** Juli 2028
- **Layout and design:** Oktober 2028
- **Book publication:** November 2028, during the EAPRIL conference

This timeline allows for careful development, meaningful peer interaction, and a high-quality final publication.

How to Submit your abstract

As a first step, interested contributors are invited to submit an **abstract of approximately 500 words**.

The abstract should clearly outline the proposed chapter and demonstrate its relevance to both **practice-based research** and the book's overall focus.

Abstract Quality Criteria

Submitted abstracts will be assessed by the editorial board based on the following criteria:

- **Clear positioning within PBR** - Abstracts should explicitly articulate how the contribution is grounded in, or advances, PBR in education.
- **Relevance to the book's objectives and themes** - The proposed chapter should align with one or more of the book's thematic sections and contribute to its overall coherence.
- **Connection to the EAPRIL perspective** - Abstracts should reflect the core values of the EAPRIL community, particularly the integration of educational research and practice, collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and the production of knowledge that is both academically rigorous and practically meaningful.
- **Conceptual and methodological clarity** - Abstracts should clearly describe the conceptual framework, methodological approach, or practice-based context underpinning the chapter. It should balance academic rigor, strong relevance, and ethics.
- **Originality and contribution to the field** – The proposed chapter should demonstrate added value by offering new insights, reflections, or applications relevant to international discussions on practice-based research.
- **Clarity, coherence, and academic quality** - Abstracts should be well-structured, clearly written, and appropriate for an international academic audience.
- **Alignment and coherence potential** - The proposed chapter should demonstrate its potential to contribute to a coherent overall volume, balancing diversity of perspectives with alignment to shared themes and principles.

Selection Process

Abstracts will be reviewed by the editorial board. Based on this review, authors will receive feedback and, where appropriate, an invitation to submit a full chapter for the volume.

The editorial board may also decide to (a) not accept proposals, or (b) actively invite additional contributions to address thematic gaps or underrepresented educational contexts.

Further instructions on formatting, timelines, and the peer-review process will be provided to authors whose abstracts are accepted.

Ethical and Responsible Use of AI

Authors are expected to use generative AI tools (if any) in a transparent and responsible manner. Any use of AI in the development of abstracts or chapters must be explicitly acknowledged. Authors remain fully responsible for the accuracy, originality, and academic integrity of their contributions.

We warmly invite international contributors to participate in this collaborative publication and to contribute to a high-quality, forward-looking volume on PBR in education. Please send your abstract by **4 September** at the latest to Elke Emmers (elke.emmers@uhasselt.be) and Emmy Vrieling-Teunter (emmy.vrieling@ou.nl).