

Call for Papers: Non-state actors in public schools (Special Issue)

Luzern/Bienne, January 2024

Over the past two decades, the landscape of education policy has undergone significant shifts, attributed to pivotal pedagogical reforms, increasing globalization, technological advancements, and reallocations of political priorities and resources within the education sector. At the same time, one can also notice a paradigm shift in the governance of the (public) education system, with non-state actors such as associations, unions and private enterprises playing an increasingly prominent role. In specific settings, the state seems to focus on putting the framework, while non-state actors are engaged in delivering the specific services. The integration of non-state actors, particularly through Public-Private Partnerships, holds the promise of innovation in teaching methodologies and the mobilization of additional financial resources. The collaboration aims to enhance the efficiency and quality of education and facilitate the transition to the job market. However, potential challenges need to be considered, especially if commercial interests might influence state-defined educational priorities, aggravate disparities in educational access etc. Furthermore, Partnerships may lead to an increased emphasis on measurable outcomes, potentially at the expense of social skills and critical thinking. Transparency and accountability are therefore crucial.

This Call for Papers invites exploration of the multifaceted implications of non-state actors' involvement in public education. Contributions may delve into the impact on educational quality, the potential challenges and risks associated with Partnerships, the role of governance structures in ensuring accountability, and the need for transparent mechanisms. Topics of interest include:

1. **The Role of Private-Public Partnerships in Education:** Analysing the dynamics, benefits, and potential drawbacks of involving private entities in the delivery of educational services.
2. **Impact on Educational Quality:** Evaluating the influence of non-state actors, especially through PPPs, on the quality of education provided in public schools.
3. **Challenges and Risks of Public-Private Partnerships:** Investigating potential drawbacks, such as concerns over commercialization and inequality in educational access.
4. **Governance and Accountability Mechanisms:** Exploring effective structures to ensure transparency, accountability, and adherence to democratic educational goals.

We seek a good balance of articles from various fields of interest or scientific disciplines. As a first step, please indicate your interest by sending us a **proposal** (up to 600 words) **by 1 March 2024**. We will advise authors by **30 April 2024** whether or not to submit a full manuscript. The drafts of full manuscripts are due by **30 September 2024**. Papers will then be peer reviewed (double-blind-reviews) with feedback provided by **28 February 2025**. Revised manuscripts should be submitted by **31 May 2025** to meet the publishing goal of this Special Issue by **autumn 2025**.

The SJER is a multilingual Journal that publishes papers in English, German, French and Italian. The proposal should be written in the language planned for the contribution. If the proposal is accepted, the authors are expected to follow the journals [manuscript guidelines](#). The final contributions should not exceed 45,000 characters.

Guest Editors (feel free to contact anyone listed to discuss a contribution)

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Submission of Abstracts and Full Manuscripts

Please submit to redaktion@szbw.ch / redaction@rsse.ch

Deadline for submission of abstracts: 1 March 2024

Deadline for first draft of full articles: 30 September 2024