

# Editorial

This thematic issue of NOMAD is a result of the research conference *Possible – desirable – plausible: different contexts and different perspectives in research on preschool mathematics*. The conference<sup>1</sup> was carried out in Gothenburg, in April 2015. Guest editors for this thematic issue are Hanna Palmér and Camilla Björklund. There are a number of approaches in present research on early mathematics, both within and between countries. Common is thus that early mathematics is considered to be an important area of research, not least because of a multitude of studies showing that children's knowledge of mathematics at an early age is essential for future success in school. The aim of the conference was to bring together and create dialogues between researchers from different countries and different approaches based on the joint interest in preschool mathematics. At the conference, three plenaries were used as introduction to discussions in smaller groups. The plenaries and the discussions concerned the topic of the conference in different ways. This thematic issue of NOMAD can be seen as a continuation of the dialogues initiated at the conference.

After the conference, plenary speakers and participants were invited to write articles for this thematic issue of NOMAD. The included articles provide an overview of present research on preschool mathematics but also on the diversity in the research field. During the conference and again during the review process questions about what constitutes preschool mathematics (and mathematics), desirable learning content, desirable teaching strategies, as well as desirable research were discussed several times. The intention with the conference and with this thematic issue has however not been to unify or to choose "the best approach" but rather to highlight similarities and differences and to create fruitful dialogues as one step for the field to evolve further. It would be interesting to make a similar thematic issue of preschool mathematics in ten years and see in which directions this plurality has taken the research as well as the mathematics education in preschool.

Normally, the content of each article is briefly presented in the editorial of NOMAD. However, the guest editors have chosen not to do so. Instead, in the final article they provide a comparison between the articles regarding how appropriate designs and content are, explicitly or implicitly, expressed. In that article the guest editors illustrate the above described diversity by highlighting similarities and differences that can be found in the articles concerning what preschool mathematics

is, how it is to be designed and what constitutes an appropriate mathematical content. The first three articles are based on the plenaries at the conference and therefore they have been allocated more space.

### Workshop for doctoral students

The editors of NOMAD are planning for a sixth workshop for doctoral students to be held at NCM in Gothenburg, April 27, 2017. The invitation can be found on the NOMAD website, <http://ncm.gu.se/node/6962>

### NORMA 17

The 8th Nordic Conference on Mathematics Education, NORMA 17 will take place in Stockholm, May 30–June 2, 2017. The theme for the conference is *Nordic research in mathematics education*, and it offers a forum for the discussions and constructive meetings of researchers, teachers, teacher educators, graduate students and others interested in research on mathematics education in the Nordic context. Nordic and Baltic researchers in mathematics education will be given opportunities to introduce their research by regular papers, short communications, working groups and symposia. More information can be found at <http://www.mnd.su.se/om-oss/evenemang/norma-17>

### MACAS-2017

The conference *Mathematics and its Connections to the Arts and Sciences* will take place at the Danish School of Education in Copenhagen from June 27 to June 29, 2017. MACAS-2017 is targeting in particular scientists from mathematics, science, arts, humanities, philosophy, educational sciences and other disciplines that are scientifically connected to mathematics. The main idea of the MACAS symposia is to bring together scientists, who are interested in the connection between arts and science in an educational curriculum while emphasising on, as well as researching, the role of mathematics. This can happen from different viewpoints, as previous MACAS activities have shown. Thus, at MACAS-2017 these different approaches and viewpoints between mathematics, arts and science, are to be pooled so that possible synergies can emerge.

Plenary speakers are: Paul Ernest, Exeter University, UK; Jens Højgaard Jensen, Roskilde University, Denmark; and Annie Savard, McGill University, Canada.

Submission deadline for abstracts is January 10, 2017. Please, see the website: <http://conferences.au.dk/macass-2017/>

## Thanks to authors and reviewers

We wish to thank all authors for submitting papers to NOMAD. We also wish to thank our reviewers, without whom neither this thematic issue nor the three regular issues of 2016 would have been possible at all. We are sincerely grateful to all for their continued engagement. Below we present a list of all reviewers of manuscripts for which the editorial process was finished during 2016.

### The Editors

### *Note*

- 1 The Conference was funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond and conducted in collaboration between University of Gothenburg and Linnaeus University, Sweden.

*List of reviewers 2016*

Alexander Meyer	Kerstin Pettersson
Andreas Ebbelind	Kirsti Hemmi
Andreas Ryve	Kristín Bjarnadóttir
Anke Walzebug	Kristina Juter
Anna Wernberg	Lena Lindenskov
Annette Bagger	Lisser Ryer Ejersbo
Antti Viholainen	Lovisa Sumpter
Arne Mogensen	Madis Lepik
Barbro Grevholm	Margareta Engvall
Bjørn Smestad	Maria Johansson
Camilla Björklund	Maria Reis
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Hanna Palmér	Peter Hästö
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Jorryt van Bommel	Tuula Koljonen
Judy Sayers	Troels Lange
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Ken Ruthven	Yvonne Liljekvist