***Early Years – An International Research Journal***

**TACTYC Annual General Meeting**

**June 19th, 2021**

**Editors’ Report**

**A difficult year**

We appreciate how difficult the last year has been for everyone involved in work with young children, from families to practitioners, managers, trainers and academics. All around the world people have seen increased workloads as they tackle the additional work involved in combining online and face-to-face working. We have had a greater than usual number of negative responses (or non-responses) to our invitations to review papers and this has resulted in delays in processing submitted papers. Fortunately, authors have generally understood why we have not been able to reach decisions as quickly as usual. A positive development arising from our move to ‘virtual’ meetings is that the editors of ‘Early Years’ are now meeting online every month.

**Continuing growth**

By June 15th we had received 72 submissions compared with 55 in 2020 and 53 in 2019.

The number of downloads (worldwide) of papers also increased in 2020, 8- up by 20% to 188, 312.

The journal is also continuing to grow – from 2022 we will have an additional 20 pages available for each issue (100 pages across the five issues in each annual volume). This is almost equivalent to adding another issue and will allow us to get accepted papers into print more quickly.

We will also be expanding our editorial board, on the advice of our publishers, and this will allow us to continue to build the diversity of our editorial team, with members from a wider range of countries around the world.

**Reducing use of plastics**

After consultation with our publishers we have agreed to do our bit to reduce the impact of ‘Early Years’ on the environment by reducing the use of plastics, both in the lamination of the covers and the bags in which the journal has been delivered. From issue 41, 1 we have moved to non-laminated covers and ‘naked mailing’ – journals are now mailed without any additional packaging. We were concerned that this might mean that journals could arrive in less than perfect condition but we were reassured that Taylor and Francis’s experience with other journals has been that very few replacement issues have been requested.

**Forthcoming special issue**

Our postponed special issue, ‘Building a competent early childhood education and care workforce in the Asia-Pacific Region’, guest edited by Pamela Oberhuemer, Minyi Li, Mugyeong Moon and Yuwei Xu, will now appear as the first issue of 2022.

*The Editors – Carmen Dalli, Jan Georgeson, Arianna Lazzari and Rod Parker-Rees*