Hello, greetings, and welcome to this, the first edition of the CSPACE journal!

We certainly live in interesting times at the moment, especially as far as education is concerned. There are issues with what is going in the compulsory stages of education, from Early Years and baseline testing, all the way through to FE colleges and sixth forms facing an uncertain future. In between we have all sorts of issues with teaching and learning, pedagogy, curriculum, assessment, and with what seems to be a perennial debate concerning the place and role of knowledge, skills and understanding. Then in higher education we are exercised by the place of subject knowledge, what it is to experience a University education, and how in the twenty-first century we should be educating and training our future workforce. Alongside all of these we have the REF, and maybe a TEF too. So many things to write about!

We live in times, too, where it is impossible to remove the political dimension, and we need to try to understand what it is that words mean when they are used, by politicians and policy makers certainly, but also in our day to day discourse. All these things, and more besides, are the proper remit of this journal. We are all engaged in the process, practice, and praxis of education, whether as academics, students, managers, administrators, cleaners, cooks, or whatever. Birmingham City University does not exist in isolation from its community, nor does it want to. This is no ivory tower of detachment from reality, this is a university that rolls up its sleeves and gets down to work. It has grit under its fingernails, whether the conceptual grit of deliberations on Deleuzian rhizomic systems, the physical grit of being rugby-tackled on the school playing field, or the multiple realities of classroom life in the inner city, whatever, the Centre for the Study of Practice and Culture in Education is there.

A first edition is a momentous achievement, it holds the promise of things to come, and represents a huge amount of work simply to have arrived. It is to be hoped that this journal will provide a home for all sorts of work; education research at BCU is broad and deep, and so this journal will have breadth and depth of coverage. Education research here is also eclectic, and as well we wish to be inclusive and supportive. The early stages on the trajectory of publication for emerging authors involve the tender green shoots of their work being subject to public scrutiny, which can be a harrowing process. We wish to encourage and foster new writing and first publications, as well as providing a vehicle for writing and research by more established authors who are further along this path.

Our students, from undergraduates through to postgrads are vital to this, and hold the keys to the future of the academy, and so we will be wanting to showcase the work of our student community. Education is fundamental to the future, and we want to develop our understandings of this to be the best that they can. We know that the world is a complex, sometimes confusing place, and our hope is that the CSPACE journal, it its own way, can help throw some illumination onto it.
To have reached this publication stage has involved many hours of labour, and it would be invidious to list all those who have helped and contributed to this process, and so I welcome you, dear reader, to judge the fruits of their labours for yourself, and suggest you now turn to the articles that follow.

May I take this opportunity to congratulate all the authors featured herein, and to exhort others to think about contributing. The journey has begun, let’s see where it takes us next!

Martin Fautley