

EDEN Best Research Paper Award

Since 2008, EDEN continuously granted the **Best Research Paper Award** at EDEN's Annual Conferences as well as at EDEN's bi-annual Research Workshops. A high quality standard selection process guarantees the branding of a distinguished and reputable award for scholarly conference papers in the field of open, distance and e-learning.

The selection process takes place in collaboration with the **Ulrich Bernath Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning** and is supported by a Jury, approved by the EDEN Executive Committee.

The evaluation criteria:

- (i) The paper contributes convincingly to the theme(s) of the conference.
- (ii) The paper deals with a research question of relevance for conference participants.
- (iii) Rigorous examination/research methods are applied.
- (iv) Findings, results and outcomes are convincingly presented and critically examined.
- (v) Conclusions are thoroughly discussed (including aspects like applicability, transferability, and/or further research).
- (vi) Literature is reviewed against the state of art.

In addition, authors need to confirm that at least 30% of their paper has been originated for and at least one author has registered for participation at the respective EDEN Conference.

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 7th EDEN Research Workshop in Leuven on Oct 22nd, 2012:

Members of the Jury:

Martine Vidal, Chair of the Jury, Chief Editor of Distances et médiations des savoirs/Distance and Mediation of Knowledge, France;

Gráinne Conole, Professor of Learning Innovation and Director of the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester, UK;

Jan Elen, Vice-Dean Education, Faculty of Pedagogical Sciences, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"The Jury members very clearly and unanimously voted for

Students' Attitude towards ICT Learning Uses: A Comparison between Digital Learners in Blended and Virtual Universities by Iolanda Garcia Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Anna Escofet Roig, Begonea Gros, University of Barcelona - DOE, Spain

as the winner of the EDEN Best Research Paper Award. In the Jury's judgement this paper is an excellent contribution to the theme of the workshop on 'Learners in the Driving Seat'.

According to the evaluation criteria the paper ranked on top. Its topic, analysis and conclusions offer thought-provoking openings and confirmation too, for understanding what the students in the driving seat feel like as regards ICT and learning, and the influence of the teachers when they too are driving various technologies in the context of different teaching and learning scenarios. The jury also welcomed the exploration of the present merging of 'learning' and 'living' technologies."

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 2012 Annual EDEN Conference in Porto on June 8th, 2012:

Members of the Jury:

Ingeborg Bø, Chair of the Jury, Norwegian Association for Distance and Flexible Education, Norway;

Ada Pellert, President, Berlin University for Professional Studies, Germany;

Deborah Arnold, Director of Learning Technology, Université de Bourgogne, France;

Alfredo Soeiro, Professor, University of Porto, Portugal;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"The Jury members unanimously voted for

Reconsidering "Gen Y" & Co: From Minding the Gap to Overcoming it by Emanuele Rapetti and Lorenzo Cantoni, Universita della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland

as the winner of the EDEN Best Research Paper Award to be granted at the 2012 Annual Conference in Porto. In the Jury's judgement this paper is an excellent contribution to the theme of the conference on „Open Learning Generations - Closing the Gap from Generation 'Y' to the Mature Lifelong Learners“ and it is best in presenting applicable and transferable results based on a solid methodological approach. The findings are critically discussed with references to the relevant literature and with creative ideas for further research.”

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 2011 Annual EDEN Conference in Dublin on June 21st, 2011:

Members of the Jury:

Alan Tait, Chair of the Jury, Professor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Curriculum & Qualifications, The Open University, Editor EURODL, United Kingdom;

Mark Bullen, Dean, Learning & Teaching Centre, BC Institute of Technology, Editor JDE, Canada;

Gila Kurtz, Professor, The College for Academic Studies, Israel;

Alan Bruce, Director of Universal Learning Systems, Vice-President EDEN, Ireland;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"In the Jury's judgement it is noteworthy to see the very strong response from participants to the themes of "Learning and Sustainability. The New Ecosystem of Innovation and Knowledge" as a focus for this year's conference but also one of enduring interest for the future. Of the many excellent research papers contributing to the conference theme two were outstanding and shall be joint winners of this year's EDEN Best Research Paper Award:

Student perceptions and preferences for tertiary online courses: Does prior high school distance learning make a difference? by Dale Kirby, Dennis B. Sharpe, Canada & Michael K. Barbour, United States AND Local support for online learners with possible learning disabilities by Torstein Rekkedal, Norway

Both papers represent thematically and methodologically very different approaches.

The Rekkedal paper addresses a critical area and often-neglected target group of students with disability. Applying qualitative methodologies it validates a new and transferable delivery model for vocational rehabilitation training.

The Kirby, Sharpe & Barbour paper impresses with its methodological rigor and presents robust, detailed and relevant results based on their quantitative empirical study on technology-enhanced learning environments in the educational sector, focusing on the transition from school to the tertiary level."

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 6th EDEN Research Workshop in Budapest on Oct 26th, 2010:

Members of the Jury:

Gilly Salmon, Chair of the Jury, Professor of E-learning & Learning Technologies, University of Leicester, United Kingdom;

Karen Swan, Stukel Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership, University of Illinois Springfield, United States;

Ross Paul, Adjunct Professor, The University of British Columbia, Canada;

Andrea Kárpáti, Professor of Education, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"In the Jury's judgment the winner of this year's EDEN Best Research Paper Award is ***Establishing a Foundational Framework for Development of Reflective Thinking: Learning Journals in the MDE by Lisa Maria Blaschke & Jane Brindley/Canada, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg, Germany***

The award-winning conference paper takes credit for reviving a well-known pedagogical instrument, the learning journal, in an online learning environment enriched by the design capabilities afforded by social media. In the true spirit of reflective practitioners they explored new ways of integrating the learning journal in a distance education programme.

A deciding factor was the freshness of the paper in terms of recent positioning in the literature and the student-facing research – so important in our rapidly changing technological climate. The authors closely addressed our 2010 conference theme. They recognised that their research was early in the field and clarified the need and direction of further investigation – a futures orientation that was felt important to the Jury.

As two members of the Jury had connections with the authors and/or the content of the papers, they withdrew following the selection of the long list, and the final decisions were taken by Professors Salmon, Swan, and Kárpáti.

The final short list consisted of the ultimate winner and the conference paper on ***Towards Feedback Personalisation in Adaptive Assessment by Saul, Runardotter & Wuttke, Germany/Sweden*** which is highly commended by the Jury.”

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 2010 Annual EDEN Conference in Valencia on June 11th, 2010:

<http://www.eden-online.org/eden.php?menuId=7&contentId=927>

Members of the Jury:

Michael Kerres, Chair of the Jury, Professor, Educational Media and Knowledge Management, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany;

Cindy Ives, Director, Centre for Learning Design and Development, Athabasca University, Canada;

Mercè Gisbert Cervera, Professor, Pedagogy, University of Rovira I Virgili, Tarragona, Spain;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

“The Jury members unanimously propose to grant the EDEN Best Research Paper Award at the 2010 Annual EDEN Conference in Valencia to:

Oana Radu and Tim Seifert from Memorial University, Canada, authors of the paper Mathematical Intimacy within Blended and Face-to-Face Learning Environments

Within a larger group of equally qualified papers for the award their paper stands out with an elaborated concept of learning that covers cognitive as well as motivational aspects, an emphasis on innovative use of media, and a critical reflection on the effects of media on learning mathematics in different learning environments. Thus meeting the conference theme on "Media Inspirations for Learning - What makes the impact?".

The paper presents a good example of research balancing practical relevance and methodological rigour. It is thoroughly discussing both positive as well as negative effects of media in learning. And: It invites for application, transfer and further research.

The jury congratulates this years' winner of the EDEN Best Research Paper Award.”

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 2009 Annual EDEN Conference in Gdansk on June 12th, 2009:

<http://www.eden-online.org/eden.php?menuId=7&contentId=835>

Members of the Jury:

Otto Peters, Chair of the Jury, Professor Emeritus and Founding Rector, FernUniversität Hagen, Germany;

Sabine Seufert, Professor and Executive Director of the Swiss Centre for Innovations in Learning (SCIL), University of St. Gallen, Switzerland;

Nicholas Allen, Provost Emeritus & Collegiate Professor, University of Maryland University College (UMUC), United States;

Martine Vidal, Centre National d'Enseignement à Distance (Cned), EDEN Vice President, France;

Anna Grabowska, Head of Autodesk Authorised Training Centre at Gdańsk University of Technology and Project Manager at PRO-MED Co Ltd, Poland;

Ulrich Bernath & Thomas Hülsmann, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"In the jury's judgment, in accordance with the evaluation criteria published in the EDEN conference program, the five finalists equally had the potential for winning the award each in its way with their respective strength; when all was said and done the Jury unanimously decided that the winner of this year's EDEN Best Research Paper Award is:

Evaluating Continuous Assessment Quality in Competence-Based Education Online: The Case of the e-Folio by Alda Pereira, Isolina Oliveira, Luís Tinoca, Lúcia Amante, Maria de Jesus Relvas, Maria do Carmo Teixeira Pinto, Darlinda Moreira, Universidade Aberta, Portugal

The Jury considered the paper to be a convincing contribution to the theme of the conference; it is innovative and creative as it makes a case of continuous quality assessment by e-folios, a new and necessary tool for an alternative assessment strategy that is part of a university-wide development of online learning. The paper is a product of a team of researchers which is an innovation in itself. The method applied is 'design-based research', which is new and highly recommended for education and other human sciences. The paper gives a good example on how this research method can be applied in an innovative process that aims at transforming traditional distance education practice into online teaching and learning."

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 5th EDEN Research Workshop in Paris on October 21st, 2008:

Members of the Jury:

Torstein Rekkedal, Chair of the Jury, Professor and Director of Research and Development, Norwegian School of Information Technology and NKI Distance Education, Norway;

Dianne Conrad, Director, Center for Learning Accreditation & Director, Bachelor of General Studies, Athabasca University, Canada;

Martine Vidal, Chargée de mission recherche Direction générale, CNED, Rédactrice en chef Distances et savoirs, EDEN Vice President, France;

Jaques Wallet, Professor in Educational Sciences, Université de Rouen, France;

Ulrich Bernath & Wolfgang Fichten, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

"The five Jury members unanimously agreed to grant the EDEN Best Research Paper Award at the 5th EDEN Research Workshop in Paris to the authors of two papers:

Kay MacKeogh & Seamus Fox (Ireland), Opening Access to Higher Education to all? What Motivates Academic Staff in Traditional Universities to Adopt e-Learning? AND Fanny Salane (France), L'Enseignement a Distance en Milieu Carceral: Droit a L'Éducation ou Privilège?

The jury came to the decision that both papers were the best of all competing papers and equal in quality. Both papers are perfectly related to the overall conference theme.

Kay MacKeogh & Seamus Fox examine in their case study an on-campus e-learning strategy and reflect on how such a strategy qualifies their academic staff for adopting innovative approaches to reaching students at a distance.

Fanny Salane reflects on the unique role of distance education to providing access to education for prisoners and discusses thoroughly and critically her case.

Both papers apply suitable research methodologies and underpin their arguments convincingly.

As case studies, both papers are somewhat limited; however Fanny Salane brings back to our attention the enduring strength of the traditional distance education model, whereas Kay MacKeogh & Seamus Fox are seeking its compelling power in an e-learning strategy for higher education."

EDEN Best Research Paper Award granted at the 2008 Annual EDEN Conference in Lisbon on June 13th, 2008:

Members of the Jury:

Michael Graham Moore, Chair of the Jury, Professor of Education, Pennsylvania State University, United States;

António MoreiraTeixeira, Prorector Innovation, Universidade Aberta, Portugal;

Andrea Kárpáti, Head of MULTIPED Centre for Multimedia and Educational Technology at Eotvos Lorand University, Hungary;

Ulrich Bernath & Wolfgang Fichten, Trustees and Directors of the U.B. Foundation for Research in Open and Distance Learning, Germany.

Laudatio:

“In the jury’s judgment, in accordance with the six criteria published in the EDEN conference program, the paper selected for the Best Research Paper Award is:

Examining the effectiveness of distance education: Results from multi-level modelling by T. Seifert, B. Sheppard, A.M. Vaughn, Memorial University, Canada

Whereas for many years researchers have focused on effectiveness of distance education in comparison with conventional education, the focus has been on the average effectiveness of learning in the one method compared with the other. The result has invariably been, as we all know, that there are no significant differences. The question addressed in this research is what are the difference among the learners ‘within’ each group. This is a question that has been addressed to some extent in conventional education, and by introducing it to the distance education community the authors of this paper have made a valuable contribution.

The jury considered the question to be creative and important, the methodology to be sound. With this as with all other papers, the jury felt that research papers submitted to the EDEN conferences should give more attention to explaining the rationale for their research question in the references to the literature in the field of distance education.”