

Panel (18) meeting 29.9.2025

Place: Teams

Present: Auli Toom (chair), Noora Heiskanen (vice-chair), Lauri Hietajärvi, Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret (from 9.15), Satu-Maarit Korte, Kati Mäkitalo, Johanna Naukkarinen, Pauliina Rautio, Jari Lahti (from 9.05), Zsuzsa Millei

Absent: Anne Mäkikangas, Jussi Palomäki, Elina Weiste, Saara Nolvi

Secretariat: Leena Wahlfors, Anna-Kaarina Linna and Janne Pölönen

1. Opening

The Chair opened the Meeting at 9.00.

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Conflicts of interest

It was noted that the panelists must disclose any potential conflicts of interest, especially when the panel is discussing a publication channel with which the panelist has had – or continues to have – close ties in the form of publication, editorial work, financial interest, or other influence. These ties include, at a minimum, the panelist having, within the last five years:

- published in the channel in question more than once,
- served as an editor or member of the editorial board of the channel,
- owned shares in the publishing company or a comparable organization, or
- held another position that could cause financial or interest conflicts.

Disclosure does not automatically prevent participation in decision-making, but the panel must take the ties into account in the evaluation process.

([Handbook 2025 - 2028.](#))

The matter was recorded for information, and it was noted that the panelists' engagements are to be listed in Appendix 1.

4. The Development of JUFO Classification

The development of the Publication Forum classification is part of the Forum's long-term operational and development plan. As part of this work, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided at its meeting on 8 September 2025 that:

Structure of the Classification

- In the Publication Forum (JUFO) classification, the designation “*Level 0*” will be discontinued. Instead, the category “*other identified publication channels*” will be used for scholarly publication channels that are not classified at Levels 1, 2, or 3, and that are not designated as professional or popular publication channels.
- From the beginning of 2026, evaluation panels will no longer assign publication channels to Level 3. Information on Level 3 will be removed from the JUFO portal at the beginning of 2027, when the updated classification is published.

Implementation:

- Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.
- Apply the necessary changes to the panel-specific Excel templates used in the evaluation update at the beginning of 2026.
- Apply the necessary changes to the publication channel database and JUFO portal by the end of 2026.
- Removal of level 3 will not effect the current universities’ funding model for 2025-2028. Funding for the year 2028 will be calculated in June 2027 based on the combined results of the previous three publication years (2024–2026):
 - 2026 (Level 3 included according to the 2026 classification)
 - 2025 (Level 3 included according to the 2025 classification)
 - 2024 (Level 3 included according to the 2024 classification)

Classification Criteria

Changes to level 1 criteria:

- Criterion 2 (Transparency):
Current wording: “The publication channel’s website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. (A book publisher may meet Level 1 criteria even if the editorial board and peer review process are not described on the website.)” -> Revised wording: “The publication channel’s website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. This applies also to book publishers.”
- Criterion 7 (Relevance) will be divided into two separate criteria:
 - 7. Relevance: The publication channel is central from the perspective of its discipline’s international or Finnish research community.
 - 8. Thoroughness: The primary objective of the publication channel is to promote and ensure scholarly quality, and its editorial and peer review practices are careful and reliable. A [checklist](#) of practices identified as problematic may be used as a support tool in the assessment.

Changes to Level 2 criteria:

- A new (fourth) criterion will be added: The publication channel enables immediate open access (either via the service itself or through self-archiving).
- From the specific criteria for Finnish- and Swedish-language publication channels, the criterion “Research questions are strongly contextualised within Finnish society or Finnish- and Swedish-language culture” will be removed.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

C. Quotas and Calculation of Publication Volume

Quotas for publication series and book publishers will no longer take Level 3 into account. Consequently:

- The combined publication volume of series classified at Level 2 may amount to no more than 25% of the total publication volume of all series within the panel (Levels 1–2 combined).
- The list of book publishers is shared across all panels. Selections for Level 2 are made jointly by the panel chairs. Approximately 100 publishers across all fields may be classified at Level 2. Quotas are thus determined by the number of publishers, not by their publication output.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

D. Aspects to be Considered in Evaluation

In the Panel Member’s Handbook, Chapter 3.6 *Aspects to be considered in evaluation* will be updated as follows when there are equally influential and respected publication channels in the same field under consideration for level 2:

3.6.6 Publication channels of scholarly societies (formerly “Closed society publication channels”):

- The title will be changed to “*Publication channels of scholarly societies*”.
- If there are equally influential and respected publication channels under consideration for Level 2, preference will be given to those published by scholarly societies. Publication channels that require society membership in order to publish (closed society journals) cannot be accepted at Level

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

Discussion:

A. The ratio for abandoning the term “level 0” and starting to use the term “other identified publication channels” was discussed.

It was noted that the new designation is more neutral way to communicate in different contexts about identified publication channels that have not been approved to level 1. Level 0 channels are generally associated with the perception that they are of poor quality in one way or another, or have characteristics of predatory journals. In fact, the group is heterogeneous. It includes channels that are properly peer-reviewed but local, new, or located at the interface between professional and popular publishing. Originally, JUFO classification did not have level 0 but this name was introduced by the Ministry in the Universities Act in 2014.

There has been a long debate for and against maintaining level 3. The following reasons were given for abandoning the Level 3:

- Originally, JUFO classification had only levels 1 and 2. Level 3 was introduced in 2011 because level quotas were based on number journal titles, wherefore in some fields it was felt that level 2 was too broad and further differentiation was needed in form of level 3. Since 2014, level quotas have been calculated based on publication volume, which made levels 2 and 3 more exclusive and difficult to balance with journal quality and size across various subfields. This means that in many panels level 3 involves unhappy compromises.
- From the perspective of panelists and stakeholders, the distinction between levels 2 and 3 is the least important and credible according to surveys of panelists and stakeholders.
- Level 3 treats main field more unequally than combined level 2 and 3.
- Level 3 plays an important role when JUFO classification is misused for assessing individuals, which is not appropriate. In that sense it has been well-founded to reduce the hierarchy of the structure to reduce anxiety related to producing level 3 publications.
- Abandoning level 3 will reduce the work of the panels in the four-yearly update assessment, so more effort can be put on assessment on levels 1 and 2.

B. The changes to the classification of the criteria were welcomed with satisfaction.

C. It was clarified that In level 2, panel may not include so many series that their combined number of publications (publication volume) would exceed one quarter of the total number of publications of all level 1 and 2 series in the panel's list. This level quota restriction ensures that level 2 represents only the top of the field, and that not too large a share of publications can be placed on level 2 compared to other panels.

D. The change was considered well justified.

5. Preparation for the Spring 2026 evaluation round

In the Spring evaluation round, the panels can classify leading publication channels in different fields into level 2. This level is reassessed every four years.

The scientific community is invited to submit proposals for classification to support the evaluation work of the panels. Members of the scientific community can influence the evaluation of publication channels by submitting proposals for changes to the current levels of publication channels. Proposals should be submitted via the JUFO portal.

The JUFO panelists evaluate the channels within their area of expertise and submit their key proposals for changes (downgrades and upgrades) to level 2 in the JUFO portal by the end of February.

Proposals made by the end of February 2026 will be taken into account in the first phase of the evaluation. In April–May, the panels will prepare a new preliminary level classification proposal, which will be finalized during the fall.

The required data materials for the panels are produced before the panel evaluations, including panel-specific Excel sheets that contain the channels to be evaluated, publication volume data, and statistics by scientific discipline classification.

More information at latest after Panel Chair Meeting of 27.11.2025

The matter was recorded for information.

6. Evaluation of grey area publication channels in the Publication Forum

Within the Publication Forum, there has long been discussion about so-called grey area journals, which are not outright predatory journals, but which seek to maximise publication output with the least possible investment in editorial work and quality assurance. This business model is designed to maximise financial returns from article processing charges (APCs).

The Secretariat has continued work on clarifying assessment of grey area channels by developing the [Checklist](#) to support the documentation and coherent consideration of problematic practices.

In line with a decision of the Steering Group, **panels are asked to give their views on whether there is a need to establish an Ethics Expert Group of the Publication Forum to promote coherent identification and treatment of grey zone and predatory journals across panels.** The group would be

composed primarily of panel members, but external domestic and international experts could also be invited if needed.

The task of the Expert Group, in collaboration with the JUFO Secretariat and the panels, would be to:

- Develop the checklist of problematic publishing practices and the documentation of such practices,
- Clarify how problematic practices should be considered in the assessment of channels and in the justifications for decisions, and
- Compile and provide information on problematic practices in publication channels for the panels, the Steering Group, and the research community.

The Expert Group would not evaluate individual publication channels assigned to the panels, but the panels could, if necessary, consult the group on individual cases. The responsibility for classification decisions would remain with the panels.

The JUFO Secretariat would coordinate and facilitate the group's work by providing background information and by relaying observations and experiences received from the research community, for example through the address saalistajat@julkaisuforum.fi.

Discussion: The panel welcomed the development of the grey area checklist. The panel also supported the establishment of an ethics expert group but emphasized that, in planning the group's activities, it is important to ensure smooth communication between the panels and the group, as well as the appropriate exchange of information between the group and the broader scientific community. This should be taken into account when designing the group's working methods, communication channels, and composition. If the majority of the panels support the establishment of the group, the secretariat will begin to define these aspects and submit the matter to the Jufo steering group for consideration.

7. The use of AI in scientific publishing (Note: this item is optional for panelists)

In its meeting on May 5, 2025, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided that the secretariat will prepare a study on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the scientific publication process. Based on this decision, a [survey](#) has been sent to panelists to assess the utilization of AI in scientific publishing, including related practices, experiences, and perspectives.

Panel members have the opportunity to pose questions and share comments on the topic. The study, which will be based on survey responses, panel discussions, and a literature review, is scheduled for completion in early 2026.

All data used in the study, including the content of panel discussions, will be anonymized.

The discussion was held in accordance with Appendix 2. The secretariat thanks the panelists for their valuable observations and will make use of them in preparing the research report on the subject.

8. Other

It was noted that the final supplementary assessment for 2025 will be carried out in November: For the panel members 1. - 20.11.2025, and the panel chair should confirm the evaluations by 30.11.2025.

9. Closing

The Chair closed the Meeting at 10.30.

Appendix 1

Panel's MinEdu fields

515 Psychology

- Human-machine interaction
- Special psychology
- Developmental and educational psychology
- Psychotherapy
- Health psychology
- Work and organizational psychology

516 Educational sciences

- General education, training, pedagogy, didactics
- Special education
- Adult education
- Vocational education research
- Early childhood and preschool education
- Family studies

List of panel members' expertise

Auli Toom: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES; PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL; education, learning, teacher education, university pedagogy

Noora Heiskanen: Special pedagogy; EDUCATION, SPECIAL; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Early special education, special pedagogy, early education science, childhood research, implementation research

List of engagements

The panel members are asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years, or hold shares in the publisher or its managing company.

Panellist	Publication channel

Panel meeting 10.2.2025

Place: House of Science and Letters, room 208 and Teams

Present: Auli Toom (chair), Noora Heiskanen, Lauri Hietajärvi, Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret, Satu-Maarit Korte, Anne Mäkikangas, Kati Mäkitalo, Johanna Naukkarinen, Jussi Palomäki, Pauliina Rautio, Elina Weiste, Saara Nolvi (until 14.07)

Absent: Jari Lahti, Zsuzsa Millei,

Secretariat: Elina Pylvänäinen and Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.00.

2. Introductions

3. Panel

a. Panel composition

The fields covered in this panel and the fields of expertise of the panel members are listed in appendix 1. Let's go through the list and see if there is a need to supplement the panel composition.

Discussion:

- Human-computer interaction, special education and special psychology were discussed. The panel did not recognise a need to complement the panel composition at this point but the panel can be complemented later.

b. Selecting the vice-chair of the panel

A vice-chair is selected for the panel. The vice-chair stands in for the panel chair when she/he is absent. The vice-chair also has a right to confirm evaluations in the JUFO portal on behalf of the panel chair.

Decision:

- Noora Heiskanen was selected as a vice-chair of the panel.

4. Orientation to the panel work

The secretariat will introduce the Publication Forum, its aims and purpose as well as the evaluation criteria.

5. Level 1 and 0 evaluations in the JUFO portal

The deadline for the first set of level 1 and 0 evaluations is 26.3.2025 for the panel members and the panel chair needs to confirm evaluations at latest on 1.4.2025. More information will be sent by email.

International journal of education https://jfp.csc.fi/jufoportaaali?Jufo_ID=91427 published by Flyccs Publishing has been evaluated in the previous panel as level 1, but the journal seems to meet the characteristics of predatory journal and, for example, journal ISSN identifiers are not registered in the ISSN register. Does the panel consider there are reasonable grounds to downgrade the level of the journal at the beginning of the next year?

Discussion:

- The journal's editorial board does not include experts in the field of education.

Decision:

- International journal of education: level 0

6. Conflicts of interest

The panel members are asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years. [Please find the table at the end of this document.](#)

7. Other

Doodle will be sent to set the date of the autumn meeting.

8. Closing

The panel chair closed the meeting at 15.40.

Appendix 1

Panel's MinEdu fields

515 Psychology

- Human-machine interaction
- Special psychology
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- Health psychology
- Work and organizational psychology

516 Educational sciences

- General education, training, pedagogy, didactics
- Special education
- Adult education
- Vocational education research
- Early childhood and preschool education
- Family studies

List of panel members' expertise

Auli Toom: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES; PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL; education, learning, teacher education, university pedagogy

Noora Heiskanen: Special pedagogy; EDUCATION, SPECIAL; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Early special education, special pedagogy, early education science, childhood research, implementation research

Lauri Hietajärvi: Educational psychology; PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; COMMUNICATION; Educational Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Media Research

Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; SOCIAL ISSUES; SOCIOLOGY; higher education, adult education, employability, educational equality, sociology of education, lifelong learning

Satu-Maarit Korte: Media education; EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES; HUMANITIES, MULTIDISCIPLINARY; CULTURAL STUDIES; My key research interests are technology-mediated communication and learning (also AI), human-computer interaction, media and psychosocial well-being, embodied cognition, Arctic and Indigenous pedagogical approaches together with social learning, and neural foundations of learning and memory.

Jari Lahti: Psychology; PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL; PSYCHIATRY; GENETICS & HEREDITY; Behavioral Genetics and Epigenetics and Psychosocial Interventions

Zsuzsa Millei: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; SOCIOLOGY; Childhood studies, early childhood education, social sciences and theory

Anne Mäkikangas: Psychology; PSYCHOLOGY; PSYCHOLOGY, APPLIED; Well-being, Work and Organizational Psychology, Work Life Research

Kati Mäkitalo: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES; PSYCHOLOGY, EDUCATIONAL; teacher education, learning, pedagogy, technology-enhanced learning and teaching environments, 21st century competences, inquiry-based learning approaches; gamification; knowledge-building; computer-supported collaborative learning

Johanna Naukkarinen: Information management; EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES; ENGINEERING, MULTIDISCIPLINARY; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; pedagogy of technology, gender studies, science education, technology education, sustainability education

Saara Nolvi: Child psychiatry/psychology; PSYCHOLOGY, DEVELOPMENTAL; PSYCHOLOGY, BIOLOGICAL; PSYCHIATRY; Developmental psychology, biological psychology, experimental psychology, neuropsychology, developmental neuroscience, psychiatry, child psychiatry + psychology, clinical and family studies

Jussi Palomäki: Cognitive science; PSYCHOLOGY; PSYCHOLOGY, EXPERIMENTAL; BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES; Cognitive Science, Psychology (emotions, decision-making, risk-taking, expertise, moral psychology of robotics), Gambling Research, Behavioral Economics

Pauliina Rautio: Education; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES; HUMANITIES, MULTIDISCIPLINARY; Human Animal Studies, Environmental Humanities, Environmental Education, Multispecies Justice, Childhood Research

Elina Weiste: Social sciences; PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES; Professional competence and interaction, inclusion, mental health rehabilitation

List of engagements

The panel members are asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

Panellist	Publication channel
Jussi Palomäki	- Scientific Reports (Psychology) - Frontiers in Psychology - International Gambling Studies
Johanna Naukkarinen	LUMAT International Journal of Math, Science and Technology Education, section editor (2022-)
Pauliina Rautio	Päätoimittaja: Trace - Journal for Human Animal Studies (2021-) Toimituskunnan jäsen: Children's Geographies (2023-), Australian Journal of Environmental Education (2020-2024), Canadian Environmental Education Research (2020-2025), Journal of Childhood Studies (2017-2022)
Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bour et	Aikuiskasvatus (päätoimittaja vuodesta 2009)
Satu-Maarit Korte	Currently, I am the lead editor of a Bloomsbury book with colleagues from Leeds Beckett University, University of Strathclyde, University of Iceland, and University of Oulu. The topic is Innovative Rural Education: International Perspectives on Supporting Multicultural Learning
Noora Heiskanen	1) Journal of Early Childhood Education Research (JECER) 2) BARN: Forskning om Barn og Barndom i Norden 3) Itä-Suomen yliopiston julkaisusarjat "Dissertations in Education, Humanities, and Theology" sekä "Reports and Studies in Education, Humanities, and Theology"
Anne Mäkikangas	- Associate Editor: Work & Stress (since 2018) - Associate Editor: Psykologia (2019-2023) - Consulting Editor: Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology (since 2019) - Editorial board member: Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology (since 2020)

Zsuzsa Millei	Journal Board: Children's Geographies Reconceptualizing Educational Research Methodology Journal of Childhood, Education and Society International Journal of Early Years Education European Education Book Series Advisory Board: Critical Childhood & Youth Studies: Theoretical Explorations and Interventions in Clinical, Educational, Social and Cultural Settings. Lexington Books, a division of Rowman & Littlefield Policy Press – Sociology of Childhood and Family series Bloomsbury Publishing - Post-Foundational Studies in Comparative and International Education Palgrave Studies in Education and Transculturalism
Auli Toom	Learning and Instruction Teachers and Teaching: Theory and Practice European Journal of Teacher Education Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research Teaching Education Frontiers in Education, section Teacher Education Kasvatus Yliopistopedagogiikka
Kati Mäkitalo	Frontiers in Education, section Digital Education International Journal of Academic Studies in Technology and Education (IJASTE)

Meeting minutes 10.2.2025

Place: House of Science and Letters, room 208 and Teams

Present: Auli Toom (chair), Noora Heiskanen, Lauri Hietajärvi, Ulpukka Isopahkala-Bouret, Satu-Maarit Korte, Anne Mäkikangas, Kati Mäkitalo, Johanna Naukkarinen, Jussi Palomäki, Pauliina Rautio, Elina Weiste, Saara Nolvi (until 14.07)

Absent: Jari Lahti, Zsuzsa Millei

Secretariat: Elina Pylvänäinen and Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.00.

2. Introductions

3. Panel

a. Panel composition

The fields covered in this panel are listed in appendix 1. The panel went through the list and discussed if there is a need to supplement the panel composition.

Discussion:

- Human-computer interaction, special education and special psychology were discussed. The panel did not recognise a need to complement the panel composition at this point but the panel can be complemented later.

b. Selecting the vice-chair of the panel

A vice-chair was selected for the panel. The vice-chair stands in for the panel chair when they are absent. The vice-chair also has a right to confirm evaluations in the JUFO portal on behalf of the panel chair.

Decision:

- Noora Heiskanen was selected as a vice-chair of the panel.

4. Orientation to the panel work

The secretariat introduced the Publication Forum, its aims and purpose as well as the evaluation criteria.

5. Level 1 and 0 evaluations in the JUFO portal

The deadline for the first set of level 1 and 0 evaluations is 26.3.2025 for the panel members and the panel chair needs to confirm evaluations at latest on 1.4.2025. More information will be sent by email.

International journal of education https://jfp.csc.fi/jufoportaaali?Jufo_ID=91427 published by Flyccs Publishing has been evaluated in the previous panel as level 1, but the journal does not seem to meet the level 1 criteria anymore and, for example, journal ISSN identifiers are not registered in the ISSN register. Does the panel consider there are reasonable grounds to downgrade the level of the journal at the beginning of the next year?

Discussion:

- The journal's editorial board does not include experts in the field of education.

Decision:

- International journal of education will be downgraded to level 0.

6. Conflicts of interest

The panel members were asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

7. Other

Doodle will be sent to set the date of the autumn meeting.

8. Closing

The panel chair closed the meeting at 15.40.

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