

# International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning

Volume 21, Number 3

September - 2020

## Elements of Open Education: An Invitation to Future Research

The COER Group, Center for Open Education Research (COER), University of Oldenburg, Germany

Olaf Zawacki-Richter<sup>1</sup>, Dianne Conrad<sup>2</sup>, Aras Bozkurt<sup>3</sup>, Cengiz Hakan Aydin<sup>3</sup>, Svenja Bedenlier<sup>4</sup>, Insung Jung<sup>5</sup>, Joachim Stöter<sup>1</sup>, George Veletsianos<sup>6</sup>, Lisa Marie Blaschke<sup>1</sup>, Melissa Bond<sup>7</sup>, Andrea Broens<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Bruhn<sup>1</sup>, Carina Dolch<sup>1</sup>, Marco Kalz<sup>8</sup>, Michael Kerres<sup>9</sup>, Yasar Kondakci<sup>10</sup>, Victoria Marin<sup>1</sup>, Kerstin Mayrberger<sup>11</sup>, Wolfgang Müskens<sup>1</sup>, Som Naidu<sup>12</sup>, Adnan Qayyum<sup>13</sup>, Jennifer Roberts<sup>14</sup>, Albert Sangrà<sup>15</sup>, Frank Senyo Loglo<sup>1</sup>, Patricia J. Slagter van Tryon<sup>16</sup>, Junhong Xiao<sup>17</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Oldenburg, Germany, <sup>2</sup>Athabasca University, Canada, <sup>3</sup>Anadolu University, Turkey, <sup>4</sup>Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nürnberg, Germany, <sup>5</sup>International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, <sup>6</sup>Royal Roads University, Canada, <sup>7</sup>University College London, UK, <sup>8</sup>Heidelberg University of Education, Germany, <sup>9</sup>University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany, <sup>10</sup>Middle East Technical University, Turkey, <sup>11</sup>University of Hamburg, Germany, <sup>12</sup>The University of the South Pacific, The Republic of Fiji, <sup>13</sup>Penn State University, State College, USA, <sup>14</sup>University of South Africa, South Africa, <sup>15</sup>Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain, <sup>16</sup>East Carolina University, USA, <sup>17</sup>Shantou Radio & Television University, China

## Abstract

This paper explores elements of open education within the context of higher education. After an introduction to the origins of open education and its theoretical foundations, the topics of open and distance learning, international education issues in open education, open educational practices and scholarship, open educational resources, MOOCs, prior learning accreditation and recognition, and learner characteristics are considered, following the framework of macro, meso, and micro levels of research in open and distance learning. Implications for future research at the macro, meso, and micro levels are then provided.

*Keywords:* open education, open learning, distance education, flexible learning, online learning, open educational resources, internationalization

