

State-of-the-art reviews of educational research in Mexico

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Overview

The Mexican Educational Research Council (Consejo Mexicano de Investigación Educativa, hereafter COMIE) member of WERA, was founded in 1993. Since then it has promoted, coordinated and disseminated educational research under rigorous scientific quality standards (COMIE, 2024). The ways to do so, include the administration of a journal, The Mexican Journal of Education Research (1405-6666); the Mexican Educational Research Focal Meetings (CNIE) –17 biannual conferences– and the state-of-the-art reviews (SotA reviews) that covers the analysis of published research papers, books and book chapters from 1982 to 2021.

The state-of-the-art reviews of educational research

The SotA Reviews of Educational Research conducted by COMIE is nowadays a prestigious collaborative task that takes place every ten years, since the establishment of the association. This activity gathers hundreds of researchers from all over Mexico. The making in itself is an opportunity to discuss and construct knowledge around thematic areas, such as Curriculum, Teacher Training, Environmental Education or Information and Communication Technologies in Education among others. COMIE has 18 Thematic Areas of study.

The first of four issues of this collection is titled “Educational Research in the Eighties: Perspectives for the Nineties (1982-1992)”. It marks the beginning of a tradition within the association to study, discuss, compile, and publish the “advances, challenges of the field and proposals to promote high quality standards of

educational research in the country and in its educational institutions” (COMIE, 2001). The second issue of COMIE’s States of Knowledge “Educational Research in Mexico (1992-2002)” doubled in size compared to its predecessor. The Thematic Areas of the association were further expanded, redefined and consolidated (Ramirez Martinell 2023).

In 2003 “The States of Knowledge 2002-2011” continued its process of strengthening. Some Thematic Areas of COMIE were restructured, giving rise to new areas of study, teams, and leadership roles. The most recent State-of-the-art reviews of educational research organized by COMIE is the one regarding the educational research in Mexico conducted between 2012 and 2021.

This collection is the largest of them all to date. Five hundred scholars participated in the preparation of 260 chapters compiled in seventeen titles of approximately ten thousand pages in total, and in the review of good sixteen thousand academic products, including articles, books, book chapters, and postgraduate theses (Miller Flores, Juárez Bolaños, D., & Navarro Cendejas, 2024).

Discussion

These four collections encompass four decades of educational research in our country. They document the evolution of topics, research methods, research groups, postgraduate studies, and policies in the field of education. The SotA Reviews of Educational Research collection is, in itself, the story of educational research in a country, making it a valuable resource for both the current community and future generations.

With this in mind, we are preparing the next collection, which will cover findings published from 2022 to 2031. In doing so, we must confront a new reality: Generative Artificial Intelligence, which raises important questions about how these volumes might be produced with the support of GenAI. How will large-scale literature reviews be conducted during the 2022–2031 study period? Is it still worthwhile to continue undertaking projects of this kind?

Some responses to these questions, along with a roadmap for policymakers based on COMIE's most recent state of knowledge studies, are presented in a book that seeks to foster discussion in a time marked by the dismissal of evidence.

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