



Unlock Research Research for Physical Educators

Research Journal of the Month
OCTOBER 2003

European Physical Education Review.

The European Physical Education Review (EPER) has its roots across the Atlantic in the United Kingdom, but its commercial home here in the USA. Initially, this was a journal sponsored by the North West Counties Physical Education Association in England (Volume 1 dates to Spring, 1995). Publication continued at the rate of two issues per year until February 1999 when Volume 5 marked a merger to joint copyright with Sage Publications (Thousand Oaks, CA) and a change to three issues each year (February, June, and October).

Before going further, let me address a common complaint about research journals from foreign sources: "My library doesn't have it!" First, circulation figures suggest that the journal resides in far more university and college libraries than you might expect – both in hard copy and the online version. Second, you will find it available on a number of commercial electronic journal intermediaries (some of which are provided for student and faculty use at many institutional libraries). Third, and finally, individual introductory subscriptions are available at modest cost (US\$47 as of the most recent issue), and easily obtained at www.sagepublications.com (A small note: do not confuse this journal with the European Journal of Physical Education, with which it has no association.)

A perfectly legitimate question about reading foreign journals concerns whether research studies performed in other countries can have relevance for physical education in the USA. The answer, of course, is both "yes" and "no." Transfer of information and ideas across cultural boundaries always must be done with some caution, most so when the focus of inquiry is heavily context-dependant. This is less true, however, for investigations of particular curriculums (studies of Games for Understanding, Sport Education, and Fair Play programs have appeared in recent issues of EPER) for which there may be larger cultural differences across participant populations within the USA, than there are across the pond. Problems of transferability also are less bothersome for investigations of hardware such as pedometers and accelerometers, both of which have attracted the attention of researchers outside the USA.

The ultimate point in this discussion, however, is that EPER is an international journal for research and scholarship, with contributions from venues far beyond its parochial-sounding North West Counties home. Those have included Australia, Canada, Brazil, France, Norway, and, not infrequently, the USA, among many others. In sum, this is a publication for physical educators who are members of an international community that is without borders. If you are involved with physical activity and sport instruction as it occurs in schools and other community settings, you will feel right at home in the pages of EPER. The fact that abstracts in French and German are appended to each research report will serve only to lend a cosmopolitan air to the reading experience (and test what may remain of your high school language classes).

Edited with professional care and produced in the slick and stylish format we have come to expect from all members on the Sage journal list, each issue carries about 100 pages, inclusive of book reviews. Of the latter, ranging in number from two to five in each issue, fully two-thirds are from publishers in the USA (notably, Human Kinetics). That fact makes EPER one of the better sources for reviews of textbooks and other resource publications in the subject field of physical education.

The journal is abstracted in SPORTDiscus, and indexed in the Physical Education Index here in the USA, as well as in the British Education Index. Recent reports that may be of interest to unlockresearch users include the following (national origin is indicated):

- Effects of manipulating the motivational climate in physical education lessons (USA & UK)
- Influence of motivational climate in physical education on sixth grade pupils' goal orientations (USA)
- Assessment of children's and adolescents' physical activity levels (Portugal & USA)
- Conceptualizing "Fair Play": A review of the literature (UK)
- Pedometer-assessed physical activity in Cypriot children (UK & Cyprus)

Tables of contents since 1999 are available at www.sagepub.co.uk. Several full-text samples from the October 1999 special issue are available online at the same source. Special issues appear irregularly and have included: "Gender in Physical Education," and "Physical Education and Sporting Excellence."

The physical education community in the USA presently is represented on the Editorial Board by Catherine Ennis (University of Maryland). Other familiar names, however, have appeared as authors in recent issues: James Sallis (San Diego State University), Matthew Curtner-Smith (University of Alabama), and John Todorovich (University of Florida). It is my judgment that this outlet for research in physical education deserves attention from readers here in the USA, and consideration by researchers who wish to bring their work to a truly international audience.

(Reviews of other research journals are available in the [unlockresearch](http://www.unlockresearch.com) archive. Simply click on the "Archives" button at the left of the main page.)

This article was printed from Unlock Research - <http://www.unlockresearch.com>.
© 2003- 2004 , Lawrence F. Locke. All rights reserved.