RESEARCH IN SCIENCE EDUCATION –
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Research in Science Education – Past, Present, and Future

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Preface

This volume includes articles based on papers presented at the Second International Conference of the European Science Education Research Association (E.S.E.R.A.) held in Kiel, August 31 to September 4, 1999. About 300 colleagues, virtually from around the world - with a particular European focus - participated. Some 200 papers were presented. Three pages synopses of these papers were published in Proceedings of the conference (edited by Michael Komorek, Helga Behrendt, Helmut Dahncke, Reinders Duit, Wolfgang Gräber and Angela Kross). They are available from the IPN homepage: <http://www.ipn.uni-kiel.de>.

The participants were asked to submit contributions to the present volume. It contains the invited plenary lectures and a selection of the submitted contributions based on reviews by an international board and the editors. The volume mirrors main lines of research in science education in Europe and around the world. The invited lectures provide overviews of the growth of science education research from the past to the present, including views of future developments. Major emphasis of empirical research still seems to be students' conceptions and conceptual change. About half of the contributions fall into that category. In addition, most of the remaining contributions deal with various cognitive issues of teaching and learning science. It was surprising for us that the number of studies on affective issues and gender differences was much smaller than expected.

The Second International Conference of the European Science Education Research Association was gratefully supported by the German Science Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft). These funds allowed us to invite eminent plenary lecturers. We would also like to acknowledge support by Kluwer Academic Publishers and the International Journal of Science Education. Finally, the Institute for Science Education at the University of Kiel and the Faculty of Education of the University of Kiel supported the conference in various ways.

We are also most grateful to a number of colleagues who helped to organize the conference and the production of the present volume. The following list includes colleagues who served as members of the board of reviewers for the papers submitted to the conference and/or as members of the board of reviewers for the contributions of the present volume:

Philip Adey (London, UK)
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The Editors