

Call for papers: *Educational Studies in Japan* Vol. 21, 2027

**Lesson Study in Japan and Abroad:
Its Past, Present, and Future, with Global and Local Perspectives**

Submission deadline: August, 31, 2026

Jugyo-kenkyu, globally known as lesson study, has been one of the defining features of the Japanese teaching profession. Reflecting the historical and political contexts as well as distinct local pragmatic needs, *jugyo-kenkyu* has been practiced by Japanese teachers in many forms and for many purposes. Its collaborative orientation with particular focus on lesson observation and reflection is regarded as a powerful mechanism for fostering collegiality and cultivating a shared professional language among teachers.

Over the past three decades, lesson study has drawn substantial attention from educators around the world, stimulating large-scale cross-cultural exchange. The establishment of the World Association of Lesson Studies (WALS), which draws members from over 35 countries, exemplifies the global expansion of lesson study. Consequently, it has been examined from diverse theoretical and practical perspectives and has taken root in a variety of localized forms, contributing in turn to the revitalization of *jugyo-kenkyu* within Japan.

This special issue seeks to highlight the rich traditions and practices of *jugyo-kenkyu* in Japan and to explore the processes and impacts of the global expansion of lesson study. By illuminating the knowledge and experiences accumulated domestically and internationally, the issue also aims to offer insights into the future possibilities of lesson study—particularly how it may continue to contribute to teaching and learning, teacher learning, and the development of the teaching profession worldwide.

Key Themes:

Origins, traditions, and nature of *jugyo-kenkyu*

- History of *jugyo-kenkyu* in Japan: how and why it started
- Diverse traditions of *jugyo-kenkyu*, their purposes, forms, and participants
- *Jugyo-kenkyu* and Japanese teachers: what counts as *jugyo-kenkyu* and what not, as well as similarities with and differences from practices elsewhere
- Politics and economics of *jugyo-kenkyu* in education policy and administration

Contemporary *jugyo-kenkyu* practices in Japan

- Challenges surrounding *jugyo-kenkyu*, such as teacher shortages and busyness, effectiveness, and policy changes
- Innovative *jugyo-kenkyu* practices, including *jugyo-kenkyu* outside formal education settings

- *Jugyo-kenkyu* as part of “Japanese-style education”

Lesson study around the world

- Status of lesson study expansion across the globe
- By whom, how, when, and why lesson Study has been circulated/exported/borrowed
- Localization of lesson study in diverse contexts, including the Global South

***Jugyo-kenkyu* and lesson study**

- Similarities and differences between *jugyo-kenkyu* and lesson study
- Cross-cultural exchanges facilitated by lesson study
- Implications for *jugyo-kenkyu* and Japanese education derived from diverse practical examples of lesson study