

International Steiner Research Database

Steiner Waldorf education has carried an important educational impulse in the world for over 80 years yet has failed to have a significant impact on mainstream education. Steiner's philosophical, psychological and educational writings have been marginalised academically. To add to the lack of information, much of the research that is disseminated by Steiner schools and colleges is not aimed at an academic audience. Two questions arise from this predicament: "What academic research has actually been done globally on Steiner Waldorf education?" and "How aware are Steiner Waldorf teachers of relationships between Steiner's work and contemporary pedagogical theories?"

In 2008 the Rudolf Steiner Schools of Australia: An Association (RSSA) commissioned a pilot project to gather, collate and organise recent Australian academic research that drew on Steiner's philosophical and/or educational writings. The completed project included 25 pages of data, a bibliography and a report locating Steiner pedagogy within "kindred" contemporary educational research worldwide. Much of this research is not to be found in standard university library databases. To read the reports see: <http://www.steineroz.com/research>

In 2009 the *Pädagogische Forschungsstelle* in Stuttgart provided some seed funding to begin extending the pilot project. The emphasis will be on Anglophone Steiner-related academic material and the next stage will focus on Europe (particularly the UK, and Scandinavia). It is hoped that further funding will be forthcoming to also extend the project to North America and elsewhere. The project is being initiated and managed by Dr. Jennifer Gidley who has over twenty-five years relevant experience: eleven years in Steiner education including school founding/pioneering/management, and fourteen years in academic research—building bridges between Steiner and contemporary academic discourse. She currently works as a research fellow in the Global Cities Research Institute, RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia.

If you have completed any Steiner-related academic research, including Masters or Doctoral dissertations, or published refereed journal articles, conference proceedings, scholarly books and/or chapters, please send details to Jennifer. Email: j.gidley@planetaryfutures.com.au