

Letter from the Editors

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We have pleasure to present this Special Issue on Business Education – Pedagogical Practices. The question presented was: are the universities being able to develop the competences and equip the students with skills sets throughout the undergrad course that help them succeeding outside the school?

In this issue, we have four academic articles that deal with both theoretical studies and empirical works or experiments applied in the classrooms regarding contemporary practices and methodologies applied in the Business education.

Two articles are related to concept map. The first deals with the challenge of how to assess concept maps of students in classroom. It is a theoretical study and discusses seven models taken from the literature. The second describes an experience with the use of concept map in a pedagogical project by competence in a Business course.

The third article deals with competence based education. This article goes in the heart of the question presented above. This higher education school conceived a curriculum based on

competences with the use of methodological strategies to help building these competences.

The next article evaluates the positive and negative aspects of a possible adoption of new technologies and methodologies applicable to the education of administration systems, such as Project Based Learning PBL, distance learning, and new evaluation systems.

The fifth article, one invited, written by a Brazilian consultancy company about their experience with design thinking methodology applied in corporations. This is not an academic paper but originated from practice. It highlights the necessity of continuum formation. The author reckons that the mechanistic business logic has gradually lost its space for new ways of thinking. And design thinking applied to business has allowed designers new business models.

Finally, we emphasize that all the articles should be seen as a whole (aggregate), underlying not just good practices, but also possible negative aspects that have to be avoided.