

# BUILDING A BETTER NORMAL

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# BUILDING A BETTER NORMAL

## Visions of Schools of Education in a Post-Pandemic World

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

*This book is dedicated to all of the educators across the globe  
who work tirelessly for the success of their students.*

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# PREFACE

Sinikka Neuhaus and Lars Andersson

The COVID-19 pandemic brought about unprecedented challenges and changes in schools of education globally. Administrators, instructors and students were forced to create and quickly adapt to new modes of teaching and learning while navigating the complex and often-changing public health and safety guidelines and regulations. While we faced different circumstances across our institutional contexts, we collectively grappled with the challenge of flexibility, adaptability, technology-enhanced remote learning, and supporting our students. As we enter post-pandemic research, learning and teaching, we must reflect to reimagine. That is, we must consider the past and present to facilitate our reimagination of what schools of education can and should be in a better normal. Our reflections on our organisations, policies and practices can generate critical insights as we collectively tackle persisting issues of student well-being, educational equity, educational quality, technology use and more.

In the spring of 2020, the Universitas 21 (U21) Deans of Education group and the Forum for International Networking in Education (FINE) Leadership Team conceived of this book project to collectively reflect and reimagine learning, teaching and research in schools of education. This inspiration came

from virtual meetings, from 2020 onwards, in which members of the Deans of Education group shared their ongoing experiences and challenges with navigating and managing learning, teaching and research during the pandemic. This book emphasises the possibilities and challenges we face in education in a post-pandemic era, driven by knowledge, skills, creative and critical thinking with technology as an accelerator for learning. Guided by late Professor David Clarke's legacy and his remarkable willingness to collaborate and engage in dialogue and our collective commitment to educational excellence and equity, we aim for this book to inspire reflection and reimagination among education scholars globally. In that spirit of reflection, collaboration and reimagination, we'd like to share a poem written by David Clarke that speaks to living joyfully in community.

*Good morning all, here comes the sun.  
Another day has now begun.  
We are the gifts that we exchange.  
Across the landscapes of our lives we range.  
No need for fear, we are all here.  
And gloriously evermore shall be.  
In conversation you with me and we.  
A joy to live, a joy to be,  
Please celebrate without restraint,  
We have no pretext for complaint.*

—David Clarke, 22 November 2017