

Lesson Study Resources – Key Articles and Books

Challenges to Importing Japanese Lesson Study: Concerns, Misconceptions, and Nuances

Phi Delta Kappan, 85(7), 520-525.

Sonal Chokshi & Clea Fernandez (March 2004).

This article explains some of the guiding principles behind lesson study. The authors describe the challenges U.S. practitioners may face in understanding the guiding principles behind lesson study, deepening and sustaining their work (focusing on purposeful learning versus incidental learning), at various stages of their lesson study practice (cultural and logistical roadblocks).

Available online: <http://www.pdkintl.org/kappan/k0403cho.htm>

A Deeper Look at Lesson Study.

Educational Leadership, 61(5), 6-11.

Catherine Lewis, Rebecca Perry, & Jacqueline Hurd (2004).

This article promotes lesson study as a method for improving current mathematics and science instruction. Through results from a teacher-led lesson study initiative, the authors describe key pathways to instructional improvement as well as the importance of knowledge of subject matter and instruction. The authors conclude that lesson study is not just walking through a set of activities but a pathway that allows for the continual professional growth of teachers in improving their classroom instruction.

Available online: <http://www.lessonresearch.net/DeeperLookatLS.pdf>

Ideas for Establishing Lesson Study Communities

Teaching Children Mathematics 10(9), 436-443.

Akihiko Takahashi and Makoto Yoshida (2004).

This article provides an overview of the lesson study approach and describes how teachers and schools can begin to implement the lesson study process. The article concludes by suggesting that professional development through lesson study provides many traits that have been shown to improve classroom instruction and learning.

Lesson Study: A Japanese Approach to Improving Mathematics Teaching and Learning

Clea Fernandez & Makoto Yoshida (2004).

This book describes the process of lesson study in Japan. The authors outline the process of how teachers conducted lesson study, how they collaborated in order to develop a lesson, what they talked about during the process, and what they looked at in order to understand deeply how students were learning.

Available online from Lawrence Erlbaum Associates: <http://www.erlbaum.com/books.htm>

Lesson Study Conference 2003: Toward a Common Understanding – Implementing Lesson Study Effectively

Research for Better Schools

This online document contains the program, papers, and presentations from the 2003 lesson study conference sponsored by Research for Better Schools, Global Education Resources, the Greenwich Japanese School, and the Regional Eisenhower Consortium @ TERC. This conference was for teams of educators who had been engaging in lesson study for at least a year. The papers and presentations from this conference are divided into 3 categories: 1) defining lesson study; 2) sustaining and strengthening lesson study; and 3) teacher development during lesson study. Additionally, there is a web page containing lesson plans that were taught and observed through simultaneous translation at the Greenwich Japanese School in Greenwich, CT.

Available online: http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study/conference/2003/index.shtml



NWREL Lesson Study Leaders Symposium

Northwest Teacher, Mathematics and Science Education Center

Northwest Teacher is a publication, of the Northwest Eisenhower Regional Consortium, about mathematics and science teaching and learning. The journal has two issues devoted to lesson study. The title of the Spring 2001 issue (Volume 2, Number 2) is "Lesson Study: Teachers Learning Together." The title of the Spring 2003 issue (Volume 4, Number 3) is "Lesson Study: Crafting Learning Together."

Available online: <http://www.nwrel.org/msec/nwteacher/index.html>

Lesson Study: A Handbook of Teacher-Led Instructional Change

Catherine Lewis (2002)

This handbook describes both the key ideas underlying lesson study and the practical support needed to make it succeed in any subject area. Topics addressed include the basic steps of lesson study, supports, misconceptions, and system impact. The handbook provides practical resources including schedules, data collection examples, protocols for lesson discussion and observation, and instructional plans.

Available online: <http://www.rbs.org/catalog/pubs/pd55.shtml>

Teacher to Teacher: Reshaping Instruction Through Lesson Study

Jan Gahala, Ruth O'Brien & Linda Schuch, Eds. (2002)

NCREL's multimedia kit is designed for teacher facilitators and professional developers to support the implementation of lesson study. The facilitator's guide includes activities, handouts, transparencies, facilitator notes, tools, and articles. The video includes an introduction to lesson study and two segments highlighting schools and teachers involved in lesson study.

Available online: <http://www.nwrel.org/resource/singleresource.asp?id=14864&DB=res>

A Practical Guide to Translating Lesson Study for a U.S. Setting

Phi Delta Kappan, 84(2), 128-134

Clea Fernandez & Sonal Chokshi, (2002)

The authors focus on how to establish lesson study in U.S. schools. They provide suggestions for setting up lesson study teams and facilitating their work.

Lesson Study Conference 2002: Collaborative Teacher-Led Professional Development Focused on Student Thinking

Research for Better Schools

This online document contains the program, papers, and presentations from the 2002 lesson study conference sponsored by Research for Better Schools, TERC and Global Education Resources. The papers and presentations from this conference are divided into 4 sections: 1) an introduction to lesson study; 2) ideas for making lesson study work; 3) learning from experience; and 4) lesson plans used for observation at the conference.

Available online: http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study/conference/2002/index.shtml

Lesson Study as a Model for Improving Teaching: Insights, Challenges, and a Vision for the Future

In A. Poliakoff & T.D. Schwarzbeck (Eds.). *Eye of the Storm: Promising Practices for Improving Instruction*
Clea Fernandez & Makoto Yoshida (2000)

The authors provide an overview of the lesson study process and examples of how it reflects the qualities of effective professional development. They also look at the skills that teachers will need to develop in order to participate in lesson study.

Available online: <http://www.c-b-e.org/PDF/EyeoftheStormFernandez.pdf>



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Lesson Study: The Core of Japanese Professional Development

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA
Catherine Lewis (2000)

In this paper, Lewis identifies the five special characteristics of research lessons, describes the different types of research lessons, and outlines the stages of the lesson study process. The impact of lesson study is also described.

Available online: <http://www.lessonresearch.net/aera2000.pdf>

Lesson Study in Elementary School Mathematics in Japan: A Case Study

Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Montreal, Canada
Makoto Yoshida (1999)

This case study of a mathematics lesson study group provides a unique perspective on the process of lesson study over multiple years. The author provides detailed descriptions of how the teachers go about planning the lesson and the issues they consider and discuss.

To obtain a copy, e-mail myoshida@globalresources.com

The Teaching Gap: Best Ideas from the World's Teachers for Improving Education in the Classroom

James Stigler & James Hiebert, New York, NY: Summit Books (1999)

Based on the TIMSS video study that compared the teaching of eighth-grade mathematics in Germany, Japan, and the U.S., this highly readable book shows the extent to which teaching is a cultural activity. The descriptions of Japanese lesson study provide insight into this system for developing professional knowledge and giving teachers the opportunity to learn about teaching.

A Lesson is Like a Swiftly Flowing River: How Research Lessons Improve Japanese Education

American Educator, 22(4), 12-17, 50-52

Catherine Lewis & Ineko Tsuchida (1998)

This article provides an excellent introduction to the lesson study process. The authors describe a group of Japanese teachers as they observe and discuss a science research lesson. They also outline the impact of lesson study on Japanese education and the conditions that make it possible.

Available online: <http://www.lessonresearch.net>

Planned Educational Change in Japan: The Case of Elementary Science Instruction

Journal of Educational Policy, 12(5), 313-331

Catherine Lewis & Ineko Tsuchida (1997)

This article is one of the first descriptions of lesson study published in the United States. Lesson study is identified as one of several features of the Japanese system that has contributed to profound changes in science education. The article helps place lesson study in a broader context of professional development in Japan.

Available online: <http://www.lessonresearch.net>



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Lesson Study Resources – *Web Sites*

The Lesson Research Web Site

<http://www.lessonresearch.net>

This site is hosted by Mills College Education Department in Oakland, California, which has a Japan-United States Elementary Education Research Project funded by the NSF. The Web site has publications on lesson study (including a bibliography), video clips of lesson study from Japanese classrooms, descriptions of lesson study videotapes that can be ordered, as well as news of events and funding opportunities related to lesson study. Links to additional resources and further professional development around the issue of lesson study are also available.

The Lesson Study Research Group at Teachers College/Columbia University in New York

<http://www.tc.edu/centers/lessonstudy>

This site examines how lesson study is practiced in Japan, the effect of American and Japanese teachers' practice of lesson study on teaching and learning, and the tools needed to support this activity. From the home page, lesson study field application sites can be accessed, allowing viewers to read about the progress of lesson study activities at schools around the country.

LessonLab Inc.

<http://www.lessonlab.com>

James Stigler, coauthor of *The Teaching Gap*, is developing Web-based software that will support teacher lesson study groups by providing a means for creating databases; placing entire classroom lessons online; and structuring electronic communities for facilitating collaborations, sharing information, and disseminating lesson study results and curriculum. Stigler directed the videotape study component of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS).

Mid-Atlantic Eisenhower Consortium for Mathematics and Science Education at Research for Better Schools

http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study/index.shtml

This site provides a number of resources, including the Journey Beyond TIMSS brochure http://www.rbs.org/lesson_study/call_to_teachers.shtml, which provides information linking TIMSS results and the importance of professional development grounded in the practice of lesson study. Lesson study articles from the Currents newsletter are also available at <http://www.rbs.org/currents/0502/index.shtml>

Global Education Resources

<http://www.globaledresources.com>

Global Education Resources (GER) offers professional development and consulting in implementing lesson study. GER also offers an introduction to lesson study on CD-ROM or video.

Lesson Study Communities Project in Secondary Mathematics

<http://www2.edc.org/lessonstudy/>

This Educational Development Center project supports teams of secondary mathematics teachers in the Eastern Massachusetts region in implementing lesson study. Along with general information about lesson study, this site provides tools such as sample lessons, workshop materials, and team meeting materials.

MathStar NM: Lesson Study

http://mathstar.nmsu.edu/lesson_study/index.html

This site is hosted by New Mexico State University. This professional development project for math teachers offers online lesson study videos, lesson study guidelines, and research lessons as well as links to other organizations and web sites involved in the area of lesson study.

