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Exemplary mathematics lessons: a view from the West.

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Summary: Cross-cultural comparative research provides a powerful means of achieving better understanding of one's own practice. This article contrasts exemplary mathematics teaching, as highlighted in this special issue on its practice and development in East Asia, with the increasing emphasis on effective teaching in the West. It provides an overview of the papers in this issue and examines the similarities and differences between what is seen as exemplary practice and the ways in which its development is supported in the educational systems represented. It attempts to identify some of the cultural factors that influence our understanding of what constitutes exemplary practice and the possibilities for its development in the East and the West.

Classification: D10 D40 D30 A40

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