The eighth volume of the series Advances in Mathematics Education on “Mathematics Curriculum in School Education” edited by Yeping Li and Glenda Lappan commences from one of the most important perspectives on mathematics education in school, namely questions on the curriculum. Curricular structures are decisive for the organization and structure of mathematics education, as they directly influence teaching and learning processes. However, despite this strong influence of the curriculum on education in general and learning-and-teaching processes, extensive empirical research has not been carried out so far. The international comparative studies on mathematics and science education implemented by the IEA already introduced the differentiation of the intended, the implemented and the achieved curriculum in the Second International Study on Mathematics and Science Education (SIMS). However, these distinctions have not led to extensive studies comparing these different kinds of curricula. Studies accompanying the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) brought forward the cultural dependency of the curriculum and pointed out the difficulty in finding a common curricular core for the school subject of mathematics all over the world.

This is one of the foundation points of the present book, in which contributions from Eastern and Western mathematics educators are collected. In this respect, the book represents an extension of an issue of ZDM—The International Journal on Mathematics Education on ‘Curriculum Research to Improve Mathematics Teaching and Learning: Practices and Approaches in China and the United States’ edited by Yeping Li and Gerald Kulm in 2009, which was restricted to China and the USA. The present book contains a collection of studies on mathematics curriculum from more than ten education systems across the world with additional reflective chapters across various countries.

With this impressive overview on curricular practices all over the world this book will provide an insightful overview on the role and the influence of the mathematics curriculum internationally, which the reader will hopefully find interesting.