

Editorial

Lauren J Breen

Curtin University, Australia

I am very pleased to present the second issue of *The Australian Community Psychologist* for 2012. Where else can you find articles on topics as interesting and diverse as acculturation of migrant women, the role of morality in climate change, Aboriginal concepts of place and country, prejudice against asylum seekers, careers in psychology for Indigenous people, experiences of adolescent boys whose fathers work on a fly-in/fly-out basis, spiritual activism, a call for community critical psychology, psychological practices relevant to child maltreatment survivors, and discrimination experiences of Muslim Australians!

This is the second issue to feature our new-look cover page. The cover is not the only change – I would like to formally welcome Dr Charlotte Brownlow and Dr Shiloh Groot to the journal's editorial team and both are making significant contributions. The journal remains listed in the official list of journals prepared for the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA), an Australian Government initiative to assess research quality. A recent change is the abolition of rankings (i.e., A*, A, B, and C), which are no longer being used to assess journal quality.

This general issue follows our first issue for the year, a special issue called "Ignored no longer: Indigenous researchers on Indigenous psychologies" guest-edited by Mohi Rua, Shiloh Groot, Bridgette Masters-Awatere, Pat Dudgeon, and Darren Garvey. This issue is a counterpoint to dominant psychologies and provided a space for indigenous¹ psychologists to reflect upon and promote indigenous knowledges, perspectives, and worldviews from Australia, New Zealand/Aotearoa, Canada, Samoa, and Africa. It was a pleasure to assist the development of the issue from an idea into reality.

This issue comprises seven research reports, one article, two practice issues, and five book reviews. First, Sharon L. Dawson and Graham A. Tyson investigated whether morality or political ideology determine the response to climate change and showed that morality has a direct relationship with attitudes towards climate change as well as an indirect relationship mediated by political orientation. These findings are important, given that climate change is a critically complex issue that can neither be discussed nor progressed without a solid understanding of responses to it. Next, Brian J. Bishop, David A. Vicary, Joelle R. Mitchell, and Glen Pearson describe the importance of country for Aboriginal people in Western Australia. The study has implications in the importance of non-Aboriginal practitioners acknowledging different worldviews concerning country and its importance in Aboriginal social and emotional wellbeing.

The subsequent three articles describe research about migrants and refugees. Amiirah Salleh-Hoddin and Anne Pedersen investigated the experiences of discrimination by Muslim Australians. Their analysis revealed the complexities of integration in that, while being visibly 'Middle Eastern' and 'Muslim' was associated with more reports of discrimination, positive contact with non-Muslim Australians was a protective factor for integration. Jennifer Loh and Jessica Klug explored acculturation of women migrants and demonstrated that resilience plays an important part in acculturation experiences. Aries Suhnan, Anne Pedersen, and Lisa Hartley investigated the perception of threat and acceptance of false beliefs on prejudice towards asylum seekers and people smugglers. This is important, given the increasing hostility with which asylum seekers are afforded.

Mary M. MacBeth, Elizabeth Kaczmarek, and Anne M. Sibbel provide an important addition to our understandings of fly-in/fly-out employment. By focussing on the

relationships between fly-in/fly-out fathers and their adolescent sons, they trouble the assumption that fly-in/fly-out employment always has negative consequences for families. Katherine E. Coder describes three case studies in her constructionist cross-case analysis of mature spiritual activism. She describes a connection between individual spiritual development and social change practices and argues that social engagement and change may be underpinned by spirituality, an under-explored phenomenon in community psychology.

These research reports are followed by an article by Joaquim Coimbra, Paul Duckett, David Fryer, Ibrahim Makkawi, Isabel Menezes, Mohamed Seedat, and Carl Walker. These authors describe the misuses of the word 'community' in and outside of community psychology and argue that a commitment to community critical psychology, rather than mainstream community psychology, will overcome social injustices and effect change.

In the practice issues section, Jacinta Wainwright, Heather Gridley, and Emma Sampson highlight, through the experiences of three Aboriginal women, the many inter-related barriers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face in becoming psychologists. The disproportionate number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander psychologists in this country requires urgent attention and Wainwright and colleagues provide insight into promoting cultural safety in psychology. Adeline Lee, Stuart Lee, Jan Coles, and Jayashri Kulkarni describe psychologists' current practice, beliefs and attitudes towards supporting women survivors of childhood maltreatment and demonstrate a need for professional development in this complex, yet often overlooked, area.

Five books are reviewed in this issue. First, Catherine D'Arcy reviews *Working Together: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing*

Principles and Practice edited by Nola Purdie, Pat Dudgeon and Roz Walker. Julie Ann Pooley reviews Tom Wolff's *The Power of Collaborative Solutions: Six Principles and Effective Tools for Building Healthy Communities*. Both books provide strategies for working with communities to achieve positive outcomes. These are followed by my own reviews of Melinda Tankard Reist and Abigail Bray's *Big Porn Inc.* and David Healy's *Pharmageddon*. Both of these are critiques of powerful international industries – pharmaceutical and pornographic – and show how these industries have created markets and colonised our understandings of what is healthy. Finally, Lyn O'Grady reviews Andee Jones's *Barking Mad: Too Much Therapy is Never Enough*, which illustrates the experiences and tensions of being both a mental health 'consumer' and 'provider'.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all the practitioners and academics who review manuscripts submitted to ACP. The journal would not exist without these volunteers who graciously provide their time and expertise to assist with the journal's production.

Note

¹ I use the term here broadly rather than specifically in reference to Australian Indigenous people and peoples, hence the use of small 'i' indigenous.

Address correspondence to

Lauren J. Breen, PhD, MAPS
School of Psychology and Speech Pathology
Curtin University
lauren.breen@curtin.edu.au