Editorial:
Special Edition on Work, Community and Citizenship

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This special issue is devoted to discussions of work, community and citizenship, and considers the importance of work for both community engagement and the crafting of individual identities. The collection engages in a variety of ways with an examination of the concepts of work, community and citizenship. From a 'traditional' perspective, the concept of 'citizenship' is a matter of national belonging, social inclusion and the civil rights of national subjects (Wagner, 2004). From a more critical stance, authors have articulated the unstated norms which operate within the constitution of individual citizens. Thus, the most dominant understanding of what an 'active citizen' might look like is one which draws on the adult, independent, able-bodied 'citizen worker' (Lie, Baines, & Wheelock, 1999; Lister, 2003; Lunt, Spoonley, & Mataira, 2002). The global influence of economic discourse in the constitution of the 'citizen worker' represents the individual in quite specific ways. The 'fully employed economic independent citizen' is therefore often held as an ideal, with exceptions created for individuals who occupy particular positions or participate in particular activities, such as children, retired people, disabled people or people on parental leave. Closely connected to notions of citizenship are notions of 'social exclusion' (see, for example, Evans & Harris, 2004; France & Wiles, 1997; Pitts & Hope, 1997; Room, 1999). Within an economic discourse of social exclusion, unemployment, low-income or poverty are produced as risk of economic marginalisation, itself a risk of social exclusion (France & Wiles, 1997; Pitts & Hope, 1997; Room, 1999). Seyfang (2004) further argues that entry into the workforce is represented as the solution to such exclusion, therefore highlighting the importance of work within a dominating notion of full citizenship.

Several researchers have criticised the central role of (fully paid) work in defining the status of the citizen from the perspective of the not (fully) employed citizen (see for example Craig, 2004; McKie, Bowlby, & Gregory, 2001). Such a position has been criticised for devaluing unpaid work such as caring or volunteering, and therefore for being exclusionary, with researchers arguing for the need of alternative, more inclusive definitions of 'citizenship' (Craig, 2004; McKie et al., 2001), or to reconsider what we understand by the notion of 'valuable work' (Seyfang, 2004). From the perspective of research of voluntary work in the community, Seyfang (2004) argues for the need to reassess our dominant understandings of what it means to be 'in work' or 'on welfare' and to work to increase inclusionary practices.

Such inclusions and exclusions have important implications for understandings of 'community' and the fit of the individual within certain communities. The focus of this special issue will be on discussions of work, community and citizenship, considering the importance of work for both community engagement and the crafting of individual identities. In our call, we specifically welcomed an examination of the concepts of work, community and citizenship within a global perspective, and we have been pleased to receive papers from international contributors, articulating with varying approaches to our understandings of work, community and citizenship. Three key approaches therefore are reflective in this special issue: the understanding of work, community and citizenship from a critical perspective, understandings from a professional community psychology position, and reflections from more individual narratives.

The first paper in the collection is by Fryer and Stambe titled "Work and 'the

crafting of individual identities' from a critical standpoint". Drawing on the theoretical position of Michel Foucault and Nik Rose, the paper interrogates what we understand by taken for granted concepts such as 'unemployment' and 'the unemployed person', and the engagement of the psy-complex with these.

The second paper continues with this critical stance and seeks to consider notions of 'real jobs' and 'full citizenship' in the case of people with autism. Bertilsdotter Rosqvist, O'Dell and Brownlow discuss the experiences of people with autism in engaging with the workplace, and hence enabling the achievement of an active citizen within dominant neuro-typical (NT or non-autistic) constructions of adulthood. Discussions in this paper call for the need to develop more inclusive and diverse workspaces that can support the engagement of people with autism in NT workplaces. The importance of critical engagement with notions of work is also a factor in the third paper, but this time with a focus on the involvement of children within the paid workforce. O'Dell, Crafter, Abreu and Cline explored the interactions between the concepts of children, money and work in the transitioning of an individual into adulthood. The paper aims to understand what are considered to be 'appropriate' work activities for children and how these are represented within the contexts within which both the children and their families live.

The focus of the collection then shifts to explore community psychology as a profession and the engagement of such a profession with individuals. Fisher, Lawthom and Kagan's paper titled "Revolting talks of migrant workers and community organisers – a UK community psychology perspective" takes up this theme. The paper explores the importance of work in enabling access to community engagement through drawing on two case examples – migrant workers and trainee community organisers, and calls on the discipline of community psychology to critique the dominant positionings of migrant workers and deprived communities.

The engagement of research with disadvantaged sectors of society is further explored in the paper by Nemiroff, Aubry and Klodawsky who explore the "Economic integration of women who have experienced homelessness". This paper provides a contrast in terms of theoretical approaches of the examination of the questions posed for the special issue, and reports on a longitudinal study exploring the economic integration of homeless women.

The final theme within the collection is that of individual experiences, and the final two papers bring the focus down to more individual experiences of the meanings of work and the role that such meanings play in terms of identity, work and a sense of community. The paper by Crespo and du Preez is titled "Promoting community engagement in an intergenerational program: An exploratory study", and explores the experiences of exchanges with secondary school students of seven elderly people attending a respite centre. The complexities concerning effective intergenerational exchanges are explored and reflected upon.

The final paper in the collection by Bates is titled "Relocation to an area of high amenity: Tree-change euphoria vs homesickness, alienation and loneliness", and explores the experiences of a sample of women moving to a 'tree-change' lifestyle (i.e., a lifestyle that is characterised by a move to an area of high amenity) within Australia. Issues of personal fit within the community and the management of social difficulties in facilitating such fit are explored.

The collection as a whole therefore explores the theme of work, community and citizenship from a range of angles and seeks to interrogate key concepts from a political, critical, professional and individual viewpoint. We hope that on reading the collection questions will be raised concerning what we understand as taken-for-granted knowledges about certain concepts such as 'unemployment', 'ability', 'citizenship' and 'work' and how both societal discourses and individual meaning-making are key in navigating through the complex relationships between work, community and citizenship.

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