

Editorial

By John Winslade



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This is the third edition of this journal. Does this indicate a momentum? Does it suggest a growing interest on the part of authors and readers? We are confident that it does.

Certainly, we have a growing list of contributions. Some of them in this edition have been in the editorial and reviewing process for some months. And we have material for the next edition lining up nicely this point. So it easy to be positive about this journal. But the real test lies in what our readers make of the articles we are publishing. Are you finding what you read useful, stimulating or thought-provoking? We would be keen to hear from you, particularly from those who pick up ideas for practice and run with them in some way. We have a section of letters to the journal that we are hoping to grow. It contains in this edition a letter from Chile. We are also keen to hear from those who may be interested in contributing articles in future. Even if your idea is still half-formed.

In this edition, we feature some articles that push narrative practice into some new areas. In particular, there are two articles that are about narrative practice in organisational development. This is a different field from community development work, where narrative practice has gained a stronger footing. Both articles document conflict resolution work within an organisation. Dorte Nissen illustrates and explains working with a complex network of relationships in an organisation to ‘keep good atmosphere alive’, using a range of interviewing and outsider witness practices. And Nikolaj Kure explores the differences between mediation with two individuals and working with multiple relationship dimensions in an organisation. It is not surprising that these two articles both originate from Denmark, where the DISPUK organisation has been training psychologists as organisational consultants for some years. Both

the articles grow out of this work, even though both authors are no longer employed by DISPUK. A third article based on the work done in organisational consultancy by DISPUK workers will follow in our next edition.

Then, we feature some articles that illustrate particular creativity in narrative practice. John Cologon, from Australia, tells the story of how he and his colleagues responded to a critical incident with a group of children on a school camp. This article builds further on the literature on critical incident work instigated in our previous edition by Wally McKenzie. Kevin Geraghty, from the USA, shows how, with a little wit and creativity, it is possible to write a different kind of annual report for an Employee Assistance Programme that captures attention by utilising externalising language. Barbara Baumgartner, from Canada, explores the extension of re-membering conversations to include people's pets as significant members of people's lives, deserving of being re-membered as resources for living. And Adam Hahs and Milan Colic, from Australia, engage in a deconstruction of some accepted "truths" that have influenced their own practice in their article on 'truth-making'. They seek to expand their thinking and their practice beyond the boundaries of these 'truths'.

Then there are several reviews in our active review section. Vivian Savaratnam, from Singapore, writes a review of Richard Cook and Irene Alexander's book, *Interweavings: Conversations between narrative therapy and Christian faith*. Vivian does more than review the book though. She reflects personally on her own meaning-making in relation to issues raised in the book. Bobbie Rood's review of Peggy Sax's book, *Re-authoring teaching: Creating a collaboratory* is also more than dispassionate review. She was a participant in the class on which the book was based. Her involvement leads to a review that is fresh with the same kind of enthusiasm that inspired the author. Then Tom Strong, from Canada, offers a review of Jaber Gubrium and James Holstein's book, *Analyzing narrative reality*, in which he draws our attention to the connections between narrative practice and narrative research.

There have been many people who have contributed to the development of these articles to the point where we can offer them to you. They are deserving of acknowledgement and thanks. This issue results from the work of our team of editors and reviewers. The editorial team has consisted of Sekneh Beckett, David Pare, Kathie Crocket, Daria Kutuzova, David Denborough and John Winslade. Dulwich Centre Foundation is the publisher, and Cheryl White has provided publishing oversight. Contributions have developed to publishable standard as a result of thoughtful reviews by the following people: Yishai Shalif, David Clark, Elmarie Kotze, Mark Gordon, Lorraine Hedtke, Mark Hayward, Stephen Gaddis, Dorte Nissen, Lisa Berndt. Our sincere thanks for the thoughtful review work that you have done. Many thanks too to Kim Bartholomew for her assistance with proofreading and to Mark Trudinger for his editorial assistance.

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