

Editorial

By John Winslade



John Winslade is a Professor at California State University San Bernardino and also teaches part-time at the University of Waikato in New Zealand. He has co-authored six books on narrative practice and is the founding Managing Editor of this e-journal.

He can be contacted at jwinslad@csusb.edu

This is the fourth issue of the *Explorations* e-journal.

Like any living, thing this journal continues to grow. We continue to consolidate what was established in earlier editions. And we are venturing into some new territory.

Most importantly, we are featuring a new magazine section. The aim of this *Narrative e-zine: Multiple stories, multi-media* is to publish shorter, more newsy pieces of written and multi-media works. These pieces will not be subject to the usual formal academic review process and we hope this increases the scope of what can be published in *Explorations*. We invite people to consider submissions in various formats. Cheryl White, Sekneh Beckett, Alfonso Diaz, and Brain Wong Yan-Chak are taking over editing this e-zine and have many ideas for growing its impact. If any readers have ideas for contributions, we welcome enquiries and suggestions for this new section.

The first edition of *Narrative e-zine: Multiple stories, multi-media* features a video clip by Nigerian author Chimimanda Adichie on the dangers of the single story, a video recording of Michael White on narrative responses to trauma, two short papers by Geir Lundby (Norway) and Maksuda Begum (Bangladesh), a collective narrative practice piece in Spanish from Juan Antonio Bustamante Donoso (Chile), a video clip reaching out to GLBT young people by Charly Lang (USA); an invitation to participate in the new Dulwich Centre Foundation project 'Life-saving tips from young Muslim Australians', an audio interview of Makungu Akinyela by Cheryl White about the importance of democratising the field of therapy, and an invitation from Anik Serneels (Belgium) to those interested in combining the learnings and principles of family therapy with narrative practices. It is a diverse and exciting first issue!

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We also need to make clear that each issue of *Explorations* will still contain a substantial block of formally peer-reviewed journal articles as we have published in previous editions. We are not abandoning the concept of an academically reputable journal, whose quality relies on peer review and high standards of writing. Far from it, in fact; we are particularly gratified to have received a request from EBSCOHOST to include *Explorations* in their online database in future. This is an important statement of recognition for the literature on narrative practice and it potentially opens up a much wider readership. Online journals will play a big part in the future of academic publishing and this opening means that we can have a place in this future.

Readers should know, however, that many articles that appear in the journal do not start off in their final format. Our aim is to be friendly to authors and to work with them so that their work can reach publishable standards. Articles often start off in a much more modest form than they eventually appear. We therefore welcome enquiries from those who may not be sure whether to submit to the magazine or the peer-reviewed sections of the journal. We can talk with you about the options in this regard.

Two other developments bear mention with regard to this edition. One is that we are publishing a first contribution to our 'interview' section. In this instance, it is an interview with Angela Tsun On-Kee. Angela is a major contributor to the growth of narrative practice in Hong Kong. We hope to feature more such interviews, particularly in relation to developments of narrative practice in different parts of the world. We welcome suggestions for other such interviews from anyone who has brainwaves they are willing to share.

This edition also contains a book review of a book written in Spanish by Marta Campillo. It is contributed by a bilingual author, Felipe Barba. English continues to be the primary language of the journal, but we have always had the aim of making the journal as multilingual as possible. This review is, therefore, being published in both English and Spanish. We are also developing the possibility for more articles already published in English to be translated into Spanish. If there are readers who are speakers of other languages who would be interested in contributing to similar translations, we would welcome further conversations on this subject.

Among the peer-reviewed feature articles in this edition, we are pleased to publish articles from the following countries: New Zealand, United States, and Denmark. David Epston has contributed an article which is a delightful story of family therapy practice. David is especially keen to stimulate the publication of many such stories of practice and offers this story as an example. We agree, and invite many others to consider telling a story of practice in writing in a similar vein.

Elizabeth Meyers's article takes us to the practice of school counseling at the elementary school level in the United States. She demonstrates the creative use of a 'cut and paste' methodology for conflict resolution among young children. It is both an elegant and a very pragmatic approach, which deserves the attention of anyone who works with children.

From Denmark comes an article on 'listening for complexity', which also teases out the 'complexities of listening'. Thilde Westmark, Lasse Offenber, and Dorte Nissen focus on listening in the context of organisational consultancy, but their ideas are pertinent to those who work with multiple stories in therapeutic contexts as well.

The research section of this journal has not yet been flooded with submissions, but we offer here a delightfully written 'letter to research' by Averill Waters from New Zealand. It documents her experience of researching her own practice in a school community and articulates particularly what she has learned from the process.

In our regular review section, we have two articles. One is written by Felipe Barba as mentioned above. The other is a review of the musical, *Next to normal*, penned by Lorraine Hedtke.

Many people have contributed to the development of these articles to the point where we can offer them into your hands. I wish to acknowledge and thank them all. As well as our authors, this issue has been made possible by the work of our team of editors and reviewers. The editorial team has consisted of Sekneh Beckett, David Paré, Kathie Crocket, Daria Kutuzova, David Denborough, and John Winslade. Cheryl White has developed and edited the magazine section. Dulwich Centre Foundation is the publisher and Cheryl White has provided publishing oversight. Valuable contributions have been made to the development of material to publishable standard by our reviewers. In this edition, the following people have reviewed article drafts: Andy Lock, Katy Batha, Michelle Myers, Gerald Monk, Timote Vaiotele, John McLeod. Our sincere thanks for the thoughtful review work that you have done.

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