

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 seven books on narrative practice and is the founding Managing Editor of this E-Journal.

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Welcome to the fifth issue of the *Explorations* E-Journal. This issue features papers relating to narrative practice within family therapy, school counseling, mediation and drug and alcohol counseling. There is also a book review about narrative practice in social work. We hope you enjoy it.

Over the last few years, *Explorations* has broken new ground in publishing peer reviewed narrative practice articles in an academically reputable e-journal. The growth of a professional field depends in part on the continued vibrancy of its published work and we believe *Explorations* has already contributed to the continued vibrancy of the field of narrative practice. What's more, online journals are destined to play an increasingly significant role in professional and academic publishing. It has already become noticeable that some new readers who might not gain access to narrative material in print journals are finding articles from this online journal.

This current edition of *Explorations* contains a number of engaging and thoughtful papers. David Epston has been a constant supporter of this journal and he had repeatedly championed the writing of stories of practice and has contributed several of these himself, one of which features in this edition. It is an article about an 'emergency' situation in relation to an urgent school problem. We want to encourage practitioners to consider the benefits of taking their own work seriously enough to formulate it, like this, into a story format.

We are also continuing to publish interviews with narrative practitioners. In this edition we feature an interview with a school counsellor, Michelle Myers, about her work supporting an elementary school student going through a gender transition.

Among the peer reviewed feature articles in this edition we are pleased to publish articles from the following countries: Chile, New Zealand and the United States. Domains of practice featured include: family therapy, school counseling, mediation and drug and alcohol counseling. There is also a book review about narrative practice in social work. Edith Freeman's book is reviewed by Daniel Stewart.

Ítalo Latorre Gentoso's article on 'enriching the history of trauma' for an accident victim documents a detailed approach to therapy after a traumatic incident, which builds carefully on previously published work in the field of trauma counselling, but also adds commentary on this work in the Chilean institutional and political context.

Alison Cotter is a leader in the application of narrative mediation in the employment context and she has contributed an example of her work with a particular case. Jason Austin reports on some innovative use of film metaphors in therapeutic work with substance misusers.

Victoria Marsden has contributed a paper about the use of concrete metaphors to anchor a counter story with women who are struggling with eating problems.

We also have included a letter written to the journal by Gayle Chell who works as a counselor in a university in China. Gayle was responding to the interview in our last issue with Angela Tsun On-Kee. We continue to welcome letters in response to articles.

There have been many people who 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 Pare, Kathie Crocket, Daria Kutuzova, David Denborough and John Winslade. Cheryl White and the Dulwich Centre are the publishers and Cheryl 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: Harjeet Badwall, Dorte Nissen, Rachel Herzing, Angel Yuen, Gerald Monk, Kaethe Weingarten, Wally McKenzie, Yvonne Sliep, Angela Tsun, Noah Spector, Jodi Aman, Ian Percy, Lorraine Smith and Lisa Berndt. Our sincere thanks for the thoughtful review work that you have done.

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