EDITORIAL

WHO PUBLISHES IN NEW VOICES?

As you will see from this issue, New Voices is going from strength to strength in its quest to include a diversity of voices – students and academics from Southern Africa, and occasionally from further afield.

In this issue, two students (Yaseen Ally, who is now starting his PhD, and Megan Main-Baillie, who is an honours student) contributed articles as sole authors. Two other post graduate students, Hawabibi Laher and Riana Rabie, each wrote an article together with two experienced academics (Gillian Finchilescu, who is Chair of Psychology at Wits, and Kate Grieve, formerly a professor at Unisa). Two further contributions are from Chris le Roux, who is an academic at Unisa (and also a post graduate student) and Ron Dultz, a US-based author of a new book on human nature. We are excited at being able to facilitate this kind of dialogue between emerging and established academics.

This is not a journal for just any and all student work, but rather it is a means for promising new authors and new ideas to enter the discipline.

WHAT IS PUBLISHED IN NEW VOICES?

Those who have been reading New Voices for some time will know that we cover a full spectrum of issues, approaches, and methodologies in and around Psychology. Our special emphasis, however, is on issues relevant to the African context and on critiques of Psychology as a discipline and profession – especially as seen from the perspective of those who are still ‘young’ in the field. Previous issues, as well as the current issue, reflect this. Indeed, we are keen on publishing even more contributions of this nature.

The African focus of the journal is also increasingly evident in our conference reports and book reviews sections. This issue contains reports on two fascinating events in Kliptown, Soweto and Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. We feel that this kind of report is invaluable in exposing readers to innovative and important events that happen in our discipline. The focus is not only on South African events, but also on events in the rest of Africa. In recent previous issues we, for example, reported on events in Gaborone and Cairo.

In addition, this issue contains a bumper crop of book reviews – five in all. We are particularly pleased to include reviews of two textbooks aimed at student readers. We strongly believe that textbooks, excellent as some of them are, should not be approached purely as repositories of established knowledge, but should be critically interrogated and understood within a larger disciplinary and historical context. We
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are therefore also particularly happy to include a review of Clifford van Ommen and Desmond Painter’s book on the history of Psychology in South Africa. The other two reviews are of books that deal with forms of subjectivity that often form the subject matter of courses in ‘psychopathology’. However, they provide somewhat different, and challenging, perspectives on these ways of being.

HOW DO ARTICLES GET PUBLISHED IN NEW VOICES?

What readers see in New Voices, as in other journals, is the end product of a long and arduous process. We are very aware, especially in the case of empirical articles, that the research process can take many months and sometimes years to complete. Authors invest a great deal of creative energy in conceptualising, collecting and analysing data, and in final reporting. We are therefore grateful to be able to play a role at the end of their research journeys. Once we receive a manuscript, we do an initial rapid evaluation of its potential suitability for publication in the journal and provide authors with immediate feedback. If a manuscript appears to be potentially suitable we enter it into our review process which, as described in previous issues of New Voices, involves collaboration between established academic reviewers and student reviewers. Our aim is to be constructive and to partner with the author to produce a product of high quality. We have also introduced an additional mechanism to further increase the quality of what we publish. Two of our editorial team members, Caryl Ochse and Yolanda Mitchell, now do a careful final editorial check on each manuscript. They not only identify any remaining language and editorial errors, but also flag, and suggest ways of correcting, conceptual slippages that may have been missed by the reviewers.

In the case of book reviews and conference reports there is no peer review, but we again engage with the author to ensure that their contribution meets the standards of an academic journal.

Some members of our editorial team and review panel. No, we don’t always wear hats!
WHO READS NEW VOICES?

*New Voices* is one of the most widely distributed social science journals in South Africa. First, we send copies to every Psychology Department in the country, as well as to psychology departments at the Universities of Botswana and Namibia. Second, we send copies to a range of academic and general libraries in South Africa and abroad. Third, all second and third year, Honours, Masters and Doctoral Psychology students at Unisa receive a copy. Finally, the journal is sent to a select group of academics and others across the world who have been designated as ‘friends of the journal’. In addition, *New Voices* is also available in electronic form via Sabinet. We regularly receive enquiries, especially from international readers, who first became aware of the journal via Sabinet.

We look forward to your contributions! Instructions to authors can be found on the back page. For those who do not have access to a printed copy of the journal, please feel free to email fourime@unisa.ac.za and we will send you details on how to submit your contributions.

**Eduard and the Team**
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