EDITORIAL

A journal for and by students

If you are reading New Voices in Psychology for the first time you may be surprised at how youthful many of our authors and editorial team members are. New Voices is indeed a journal for and by students – with a little help from more established academics. We also cater for not-so-youthful authors who have fresh new ideas to share with the South African psychology community.

Although based at Unisa, we welcome contributions from all Southern African universities. New Voices is an entry-level academic journal, but we have a very thorough peer-review process in place and are working towards accreditation from the Department of Education. The review process aims to be both rigorous and supportive – so even if you are not entirely sure if your manuscript is good enough, you could use the process to improve it. Please consider this as a formal invitation to submit your manuscript. While we mainly publish academic articles (both empirical and theoretical) we also welcome other types of contributions such as short communications, book reviews, photo essays and conference reports.

Towards a New Voices network

New Voices is closely allied with the Unisa Masters Course in Research Consultation. Initially providing training in conventional research skills only, over the past 21 years the course has developed to include a much wider array of knowledge management skills. It has also become increasingly evident that a key strength of the course is the network of former students who now occupy professional positions throughout industry and the NGO sector.

Our students regularly meet with this network of former students and do practical projects at research companies under the supervision of these former students. In
addition to providing invaluable input to the course, former students also are starting to make use of their interaction with Unisa as an opportunity for keeping up to date with academic developments.

*New Voices* is being positioned as a venue for some of the work emerging from the network to be published and thus to foster lifelong learning among all those with an interest in the discipline. What we see developing is a community of practice and learning in which students from Unisa and elsewhere can contribute meaningfully to scholarly debate and continue to do so when they are no longer students.

**See you in Botswana**

A final reminder of the Southern African Students’ Psychology Conference to be held in Gaborone, Botswana. The conference coordinator, Sean Hagen, has put together a conference information pack which he would be happy to send to you. Write to him at hagensn@unisa.ac.za.

Look out for the special conference proceedings issue of *New Voices* towards the end of 2009!

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Eduard Fourie (editor)

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