EDITORIAL

Academic journals and the academic publishing process in general are often understood as mainly a mechanism for quality control. However, journals, editors, reviewers, and publishers also play an important role in actively shaping the academic debate. At *New Voices*, as is also the practice at many other journals, we periodically have special issues on particular topics expressly to encourage academic work relating to what we perceive as important fields of enquiry. Examples include our special issue on sexuality and our issue focusing on the theme of the Second Southern African Students’ Psychology Conference (“Re-Imagining Psychology: The journey continues”).

Even regular issues of *New Voices* can be understood as having a thematic agenda in the sense that the journal exists for the purpose of foregrounding fresh ideas and perspectives emanating mainly from beginning academics and researchers. The current issue (which is a combination of issues 1 and 2 for 2013) focusses on a large variety of topics, but our sense is that in each case there are elements of innovation in how the authors tackle their material. We are also again pleased that the majority of authors are post-graduate students and young academics, in some cases working collaboratively with their more senior academic mentors.

The issue starts off with a review article on projective assessment by Stephanie Terre Blanche, a final year MA clinical psychology student at Unisa. This is followed by an article on the experiences of women in academia by Azwifaneli Managa of the Africa Institute of South Africa. The next article on mothers’ experiences of unplanned Caesarean birth is a collaboration between a doctoral student (Samantha van Reenen) and her promoter (Esmé van Rensburg) of North-West University. The final two articles were written under the mentorship of Mzikazi Nduna, a senior academic at the University of the Witwatersrand. The other authors (Robert Hamblin and Prudence Mdletshe) are respectively a transgender activist and an MA research psychology student at the University of the Witwatersrand. This issue also contains an interesting reflection on latchkey children in Zimbabwe by doctoral students Emily Ganga and Kudzai Chinyoka, both of whom are lecturers at Great Zimbabwe University.

As always, we include a large number of book and DVD reviews – often the most interesting part of any journal! The review section is flourishing under the editorship of our new reviews editor, Nikki Themistocleous. Nikki is a clinical psychologist with a particular interest in forensic psychology, but is also passionate about academic publishing in general. Nikki introduced a fun feature as part of the review of the movie *Side effects*, which involves a competition for readers to predict
the ending of the move. We have eight copies of *Side effects* available as prizes. For more information see the review in this issue.

We also, once again, have a bumper crop of conference reports, including four separate reports on the third Southern African Students’ Psychology Conference. The issue concludes with reports on two important initiatives spearheaded by young academics and post-graduate students. The *People behind the Papers* project has collected narratives from a large number of South African academics over several years and is going from strength to strength. The *Inside-out outside-in* prisons interest group was initiated more recently, but is also building up considerable momentum.

Thank you to everybody who contributed so much of their time and creative energies to *New Voices* in 2013. Here is to 2014 and beyond!

**Eduard Fourie and the Editorial Team**
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