

Notes for contributors

The Journal of Practice Teaching in Health and Social Work covers all aspects of practice teaching (field education) and training and education in workplace settings. Articles may also consider the policy context of training and education and the impact of the changing expectations of service users and the public.

We welcome papers from any country in the world. Case studies, research reports, policy appraisals, and narrative articles on the philosophical principals underlying this field of activity (practice teaching/field education) are equally acceptable. Material should be practically relevant to what trainers, managers and workers actually do. Articles should run between 2000 and 6000 words, with a preference for the shorter article.

Articles are sought from (among others): practice teachers and field educators; training staff and agency managers; teachers and researchers in higher and further education, and policymakers with an involvement in this field. We are especially keen to encourage feedback from practising health and social work professionals and their managers on the effectiveness of existing training and education arrangements as preparation for work. We are therefore prepared to offer guidance to practice teachers and managers with staff development responsibility who do not publish regularly; as their contributions are likely to be of particular relevance.

The language of the journal is British English. Authors (including those from the UK!) should remember that even professional usage varies between regional forms of English and ensure terminology is comprehensible to those from other disciplines, countries and cultural backgrounds. In a multidisciplinary and international journal it may be necessary for authors to clarify local institutional and professional structures. We can give some assistance in respect on English idiom and expression to second language authors.

The journal will also carry: shorter pieces of up to 2000 words on some relevant topical issue; communications, rejoinders and letters; reviews of books, journals and training material and review articles; abstracts or listings of recent publications, conferences and relevant events.

Assessment for publication

When articles are received the editors make a decision on suitability for journal. Articles are sometimes rejected or returned to authors for major review at this stage. Otherwise, they are sent (anonymously) to two of the journal's advisors for assessment of their suitability for publication. The editors make the final decisions on publication, taking into account the views of the assessors, you will also receive personal feedback on the decision taken.

Presentation

Our preference is that articles should be submitted electronically as an email attachment in Word. If this is not possible, you should supply 4 copies of your paper with a summary of less than 150 words. On a separate cover sheet you should provide your name, address and professional details, together with telephone, fax and e-mail details. Where there are two or more authors, a single contact for correspondence and proofs should be indicated.

On acceptance for publication all references should be in the journal house style, the publishers can provide more detailed notes on the journal's format and style requirements.

You should indicate clearly how tables should be set out. For diagrams, charts etc, we will ask you to provide a final version meeting the journal's graphics guidelines. We do not provide an artwork service.

References

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Rain Forest Asylum: The enduring legacy of colonial psychiatric care in Malaysia

Sara Ashencaen Crabtree

Malaysian psychiatric services and policy show some developments similar to those of the West—yet much of the rhetoric that has informed these changes internationally, such as the discourse of service-user empowerment, has yet to be fully embraced within Malaysia itself.

The author argues that an important factor here is that psychiatric services in Malaysia retain many of the premises of colonial psychiatry, particularly in relation to attitudes towards mental illness and psychiatric patients.

On the other hand, the geographical and cultural location of Malaysian health services introduces features unique to this region (such as the wide diversity of ethnic groups and the continuing popularity of traditional healing practices). Within this diversity exist belief systems and normative values that are not congruent with the colonial premises that continue to cast an influence over service delivery and associated professional attitudes in Malaysia.

The author draws extensively on her own research on psychiatric care in Malaysia, in which the narratives of Malaysian service users and psychiatric staff are interwoven with historical accounts of asylum care in Britain and Europe. The similarities across regions and between the past and the present are thus made apparent.

The importance of the book goes beyond its interpretation of the Malaysian context. It will interest to anyone seeking to understand other post-colonial societies (for example, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand, and India). Although there are differences in history and current developments in relation to attitudes, and the policy and practice of mental health among these countries, we should be aware of the common legacy of the past and its implications for the present and future of their mental health systems. The book will also provide important insights for professionals working in any healthcare system with a culturally diverse client base.

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