

# Editorial

This issue comprises four papers written by presenters at last year's conference.

Wild and Meads take us on a journey to look at practice teaching in a global economy. This interesting paper enables us to compare and contrast the different models that are growing in developing areas and shows how multi-agency and multi-disciplinary models are developing in response to local need. There is much in this that those of us who work in the developed countries can learn from in our quest to develop models of cooperation within and between health and social care services.

Besthorn, who will be remembered for his well received keynote at the Practice Teaching Conference in 2003, and was sadly missed last year due to ill health, gives us a rousing polemic which looks at the effects on social justice and practice teaching of working within a globalised consumer culture. He argues that the western paradigm of materialism has had a detrimental effect on communities and societies, and this is being reflected in developing countries. The thrust for material and economic growth at individual and societal level is undermining the ethical development of both individuals and societies caught up in this scramble of consumerism. The need for ethical discourse is being subsumed in this way of life.

Weber looks at culturally sensitive ethical practice in Australia. She considers her own practice experience and how this fits with the received wisdom of the codes of practice for social workers in first world countries. The focus on the paper is about respect for diversity and the need for us all to understand the implications for social work assessment and intervention of working with other cultures. She shares with us her own dilemmas and her drive towards more insightful practice based on knowledge and understanding of difference within and between communities.

McCafferty looks at group supervision for students on placement within Northern Ireland and provides a contrast with a scheme at the University of Haifa in Israel. He looks at four main reasons based on Healy( 1990) for social work to understand the impact of globalisation.

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He argues that we have much to learn from the developing worlds approach to tackling social issues. This reflects the view of the article by Meads and Wild.

The interesting effect of globalisation of intellectual property means that in one issue we can expand our understanding of the dilemmas facing social workers across national and international boundaries and we can learn from those countries who are developing responses at the level of the region, or indeed the village to problems in the context of global society.

I hope that you enjoy reading this as much as I have enjoyed editing the issue. We shall be looking to appoint a new editor at the autumn Editorial Board meeting who will replace Graham Ixer who will be remaining on the Board. Likewise Lesley Best has indicated that she will stand down as Deputy Editor but will also remain on the Board.

We have had some expressions of interest for the Editor and Deputy positions. We are also looking to appoint Editorial Board members. If you are interested, and would like to know more about what it would entail, please do get in touch with me. We are looking to appoint members to be involved in the next period of the journal and to perhaps learn more of the craft perhaps with a view to applying for the Editorship in three years time.

At the time of writing this I am surrounded by work on the Conference, it is always at this time of the year that I think never again. However once I read the feedback sheets with your comments I am usually rapidly persuaded to start again. As you all know we are always open to ideas for themes for conferences and indeed for speakers. I was a little disappointed that we offered a free place at the conference this year for the best suggestion for a conference theme. We did not get any takers. Maybe we will have a different response for 2006.

Lynda Deacon  
Founding and Managing Editor