

Editorial

Celebrating the work of Peter Huxley

Peter Huxley is Professor of Mental Health Research at the Centre for Mental Health and Society, Bangor University. He was the Founding Editor of this journal. This special issue is devoted to papers that were originally prepared for his *Festschrift*. It has been our pleasure and privilege to act as guest editors.

Peter has had a long and varied career, and it is far from over. It is no exaggeration to describe him as the world's most eminent social work researcher in the field of mental health. The range of his impact and influence is reflected in the varied papers presented here in his honour: some empirical, some historical and some theoretical, addressing a range of topics from mental health policy to the measurement of social need to the evaluation of interventions. His *Festschrift* attracted over 60 contributions, and it was clear that many of them deserved a wider readership. Samples of these are presented in two Special Issues of the journal, of which this is the first.

Peter has held Chairs at four universities: the University of Manchester (where he was head of the Department of Psychiatry); the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London; Swansea University; and now at Bangor University. We felt honoured that in 2014 he chose to join the research centre that we then jointly led. He remains a good friend and close collaborator who looks to the future rather than resting on his distinguished laurels.

Three of Peter's most noticeable characteristics are referred to repeatedly in the contributions to these Special Issues. The first is his unwavering commitment to scientific rigour, which is reflected on his insistence on the importance of sound empirical evidence. The second is his ready and unselfish willingness to help other people to develop their research careers, a rare trait in the notoriously cut-throat world of academia. Finally, he is genuinely popular; everyone is quick to say that he is a likeable and modest man who is excellent company. The extent of his academic achievement is self-evident, but it is particularly remarkable that it has been reached without Peter ever betraying that integrity and those values that led him to a career in social work in the first place.

Rob Poole
Catherine Robinson

Rob Poole is Professor of Social Psychiatry, and with Peter Huxley, Co-Director of the Centre for Mental Health and Society. r.poole@bangor.ac.uk. ORCID 0000-0002-7914-3981
Catherine Robinson is Professor of Social Care Research at the University of Manchester, where she directs Social Care and Society. catherine.robinson@manchester.ac.uk
ORCID 0000-0001-7240-7107