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Journal of Applied Psychology and Social Science

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Editorial

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Welcome to the third issue of the Journal of Applied Psychology and Social Science (APASS). The aim of APASS is to provide a forum for post-graduate students to publish their work; this may be primary or secondary research, opinions piece or commentaries. This new online journal is designed to offer postgraduates and staff the opportunity to disseminate their work and share good practice. It gives a forum to advancing research and research based activities across the sector whilst also helping to promote the employability of the students on our courses.

We received very positive feedback from our first and second edition and hope this third edition further demonstrates some of the excellent work our staff and students are undertaking. We are proud to be able to showcase the excellent work of both our MSc and PhD students in this edition.

The first paper presented involves a discussion of mental illness and whether it is a socially constructed concept. Joseph McCann presents an interesting and critical review of how the topic has been traditionally framed within a very positivist, medical model and posits that consideration of factors, such as culture, should impact diagnosis.

The second paper reports the results of a review exploring identification of vulnerable and intimidated witnesses in the criminal justice system. Rob Ewin reports on his pilot study of 70 professionals working in the area and concludes there is sufficient legal gateway for vulnerable and intimated witnesses but there remains an area for development in the early identification which can result in some special measures being denied or applied incorrectly.

The third paper presented involved the reporting of results from a study looking at fandom activities and parasocial relationships. Rachel O'Donovan explores, through a mixed method design, the experiences of those involved in online fandom activities and how increased use of these can increase the intensity of parasocial relationships.

Our fourth paper involves a systematic review of an under studied area of intimate partner violence. Philippa Laskey reports the results of a review exploring characteristics and treatment of female perpetrators of partner violence towards men. One significant conclusion here is the need for more research to critically consider this population and that applying programs developed for men to a female sample may not be appropriate.

Our final paper is also a systematic review on the topic of intimate partner violence. Lauren Bolam explores the prevalence of IPV within LGBTQ+ relationships. The main aim of this systematic literature review is to investigate the prevalence of IPV within same-sex relationships and its behavioral manifestations.

I hope you enjoy this third edition of APASS and that you will consider submitting to the journal for a future edition. All papers submitted to the journal are peer reviewed anonymously so I would like to end on a note of thanks to our team of reviewers who have kindly given their time to support the creation of this edition