

## *Journal of Applied Psychology and Social Science*

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### **Editorial**

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Welcome to the sixth 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 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 six editions which 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 as well as our staff in this edition; indeed, this is reflected in the increased rate of submissions. We are particularly pleased that we have had submissions from authors external to the University, which demonstrates the increasing readership of the journal.

The first paper presented involves a study exploring awareness of autism in the criminal justice system. Iain Dickie and colleagues presents an interesting qualitative study that explores what perspectives exist for professionals working in these settings. Findings included issues around identification of autism that could impact on service users.

The second paper presents an analysis and discussion of research that is needed within the Criminal Justice System. Specifically, Rob Ewin critically considers measures currently put in place to enable vulnerable and intimidate witnesses give evidence. Conclusions include the need for more interdisciplinary research.

The third paper presents a qualitative study exploring the experiences of older students in university. Jonathan Barclay found seven themes within his interpretative phenomenological analysis which were encapsulated in several master themes including learning and development, and self-categorisation and stereotypical discourse relating to maturity.

Our fourth paper involves a critical exploration of engagement and assessment within low intensity cognitive behavioural therapy. Jade Morrison and Alex Browning from Northumbria University consider the practice and principles around the use of this therapy with children and young people who present with anxiety.

Our fifth, and final paper in this issue reports on an empirical study exploring gender differences in attitudes towards sexual assault scenarios. Naomi James utilised vignettes to explore the different perceptions of sexual assault across gender and sexuality with key findings including women's higher victim blame of men within the female to male assault scenario.

I hope you enjoy the latest 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.