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Editorial

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Welcome to the eight 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 seven 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.

Our eighth edition represents a slightly shorter volume than usual, but contains three excellent papers. The first paper presented involves an exploration of the experience of social abjection by focussing on the transition out of homelessness and back into secured residential living. Scott Usher presents an interesting qualitative study that explored this issue utilising interpretative phenomenological analysis. Findings included that a perceived lack of autonomy and poor self-confidence remained following the transition, suggesting that the psychological impact of social abjection remains a key part of their identity following their change in circumstances.

The second paper aimed to explore Scottish children's reporters' attitudes toward young offenders and whether or not they hold classical views toward the causes, prevention and treatment of crime. Specifically, Javier Sánchez-Díaz utilised an anonymous online survey and his findings include differences in attitudes based on qualifications and years' experience, as well as there being differences in attitude towards prevention and treatment of crime.

The third paper presents a qualitative study exploring the experiences of four adults with a diagnosis of autism and their engagement with regional Criminal Justice Services (CJS) as victims, witnesses or perpetrators of a crime. Iain Dickie and colleagues' research represents an important development concerning the question of autism and criminality; they sought to extend the academic discourse and give voice to the perspectives of experts by experience with a diagnosis of autism.

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.