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Editorial

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Welcome to the ninth 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 eight 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 recent graduates, MSc and PhD students in this new edition; indeed, this is reflected in the increased rate of submissions.

Our ninth edition includes four excellent written pieces of research including both empirical work and a literature review. It also includes a poster presentation with supplementary written material. The first paper presented involves an inclusive study of individual experiences of people from the deaf and hard of hearing community. Jordan Cleminson presents an interesting photo elicitation study working with two people from this community. Findings included that there is more that can be done in society to accommodate deaf and hard of hearing groups, but that not all of their experiences had been negative.

The second paper aimed to explore women's experiences of gaming in a male dominated community. Specifically, Louiseanne Bear utilised an anonymous online qualitative survey and her two key themes were named: 1. being a female video gamer and 2. the masculine

scene. Whilst many women in the study did not identify with the “gamer identity” they still often felt part of the gaming community.

The third paper presents a qualitative study exploring the experiences of mature students at university. Sapphire Skillen’s photo elicitation research represents an important development concerning the support provided to mature students in Higher Education. Three specific themes were chosen stress and conflict of multiple responsibilities, productive attitudes to study, and valuing and prioritising wellbeing which are discussed alongside the participant photos.

The fourth paper present a critical literature review about women’s far-right radicalisation. Catherine Stinton discusses literature on potential radicalising pressures experienced by white British women, with results reported on a micro, meso, and macro scale. Among the conclusions offered, the author suggests that women in the far-right are as susceptible as men to anxieties stemming from the fading of the Empire and the legacy of colonialism.

Our final paper is presented in the form of an academic poster and a personal story. Jonathan Barclay presents an Auto/ethnographic piece of research into Non-Violent Political Radicalisation in Northern Ireland. He reflects on growing up in Northern Ireland and what he describes as political radicalisation through his Protestant culture. It represents a very powerful personal story.

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.