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**Editorial**

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Welcome to the fourth 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 three 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 in this edition; indeed this is reflected in the increased rate of submissions.

The first paper presented involves a empirical piece of work exploring perceptions of intimate partner violence. Ruth Haynes presents an interesting and critical piece that tests whether perceptions of victimisation are affected by the gender and sexuality of the victim in depicted scenarios.

The second paper reports the results of a piece exploring the experiences of hospice volunteers working in the UK. Laura Harland reports on her interpretative work that examined a severely understudied area; the experiences and coping strategies of those volunteering and working with bereavement, with the aim of providing recommendations for future practice in the area,

The third paper presents the results of an empirical study exploring the use of online interventions to increase physical activity. Rose Walker explores, whether utilising self-affirmation theory can increase behaviour change, and as a consequence, improve health and life outcomes.

Our fourth paper involves a quantitative, empirical investigation of the predictors of global self-esteem in students. Jade Morrison explored the importance of university satisfaction, appearance appraisal and relationship satisfaction in explaining differences in reported levels of self-esteem.

Our fifth and final paper, reviews the current literature on the safety of e-cigarettes in pregnancy. Jaydene Weighall and Dr Susan Wilbraham reviewed existing literature that considers whether e-cigarettes can be recommended as a suitable alternative for women who smoke during pregnancy.

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.