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Editorial

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Welcome to the first 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.

Whilst it is hoped that the journal will attract submissions from across the UK and the wider academic context, the first edition is made up of postgraduate students currently studying Masters at the University. Submissions involve a variety of topics but come together to celebrate the work and achievements of our postgraduate students.

The first paper presented involves a primary piece of research that has explored the effect of music on test performance amongst those of extrovert and introvert personalities. Henna Mistry presents this quantitative piece of work and discusses the implications for students and their study.

The second paper involves a review and commentary on ethical standards in clinical psychology. Chelsey Routledge analyses the role of clinical psychologists within the field and includes a suggested new clinical supervision tool.

The third paper presented involved a systematic literature review examining the role of physical activity as an intervention in the treatment of diagnosed depression. Laura Webster reviews thirteen papers and concludes the positive impact of physical activity in reducing depressive symptoms. Laura makes recommendations for future research that advises the standardisation of methods to validate more of the research in the area.

Our fourth paper involves a critical analysis of the diagnostic criteria of schizophrenia. Lauren Bolam explores the historical and cultural issues surrounding the diagnosis of the disorder and the implications it has for treatment and social engagement.

Our final paper involves a discussion of ethical malpractice within randomised controlled trials using a case study in India. Naomi Pierce discusses the widely known case study and the implications for both researcher and practitioner ethics. Naomi makes recommendations for an improved plan based around a standardised framework.

I hope you enjoy the first 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 first edition.