

Editorial

IN OUR editorial celebrating twenty volumes of publication of *Women's Studies Journal* (21:1, 2007) we looked forward to the possibility of the *WSJ* pursuing a serious coming of age by "going electronic". It is with a sense of anticipation that we herald this first issue being published in electronic form. With a primary, but not exclusive focus on Aotearoa/New Zealand and the Pacific, *WSJ* publishes articles which address women's experiences, explore gender as a category of analysis, and further feminist theory and debate in areas that have broader international concerns. The heightened presence this electronic medium will provide for feminist scholarship is welcomed. In an age where it is now expected that academic journals will be available through searchable electronic databases, lack of internet access risks relegating feminist material to obscurity. We wholeheartedly embrace our electronic coming of age and look forward to enhancing the visibility and accessibility of feminist scholarship from this corner of the globe.

A central aim of the New Zealand Women's Studies Association, under whose umbrella *Women's Studies Journal* is published, is to undertake, promote and disseminate research about women by women from a feminist perspective. In the discussions leading up to the decision to shift the publication of the *WSJ* from print to electronic media, an important consideration was ensuring that the journal would be freely accessible for community-based feminists who do not have access to academic institutions who subscribe to electronic journals. Accordingly, from this issue *WSJ* will also be available free of charge through the Women's Studies Association website <http://www.wsanz.org.nz/>.

The articles included in this inaugural electronic issue of *WSJ* reflect well both the regional focus of the journal and the interdisciplinary nature of feminist scholarship and concerns. Katelyn Barney's article explores the nexus of race and gender through indigenous women's songs (Australia). She argues that this particular site of expression and meaning making enables indigenous women's experiences, their histories of people and land as well as colonisation, racism and sexism to be shared. Within this 'form' of storytelling the effects of such histories of cultural oppression suggests music is a way to express multiple identities as a form of resistance to dominant representations of being indigenous women.

Rachel Simon-Kumar takes as her focus an event in which special consideration, under the provisions of the Equal Employment Opportunities (EEO) policy, was sought by a woman in her public sector workplace in order to accommodate access arrangements for her child. Simon-Kumar provides context for the particular case in the form of a very useful discussion of feminist theoretical perspectives on justice, fairness, and equity, as well as an overview and appraisal of EEO policy in New Zealand. What is demonstrated is that organisations' policy for implementing EEO is neither straightforward nor fixed – rather it's a 'target' which may require case-by-case consideration. She documents the particular 'event' in a systematic and even handed way which leaves room for the reader to see that both parties were acting rationally and reasonably – for all that their priorities may not have been aligned. The use of discourse analysis of the exchange between the employer and her manager drew attention to the different perspectives taken by the parties involved; highlighting in particular, issues of personal and

workplace identity.

Workplace issues are also the focus of the article by Paula McDonald and Kerriann Dear. Using a quantitative methodology, their study examined over 9,000 cases of discrimination and harassment reported to the Queensland Working Women's Service between 2001 and 2004. Their detailed analysis of the incidence and patterns of workplace bullying, sexual harassment and discrimination on the basis of age, pregnancy, sex, race, and family responsibilities reveals some serious gaps in the rhetoric around supporting a healthy integration between work and family life and the reality in many Australian workplaces.

We trust you will find this collection of articles stimulating. We also welcome two new editorial collective members, social anthropologists Robyn Andrews and Sita Venkateswar. Robyn's anthropological research interests include Indian society and culture, Anglo-Indians in India and the diaspora, aging Anglo-Indians, class in New Zealand, issues of social inequality, life story and narrative methodologies. Sita's research interests include cultural analysis and the relationship between gender and power. She has initiated research on a visual exploration of child labour in Nepal and has recently extended her interests to address globalisation, poverty, and grassroots democracy in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta). The Editorial Collective would also like to convey our thanks and good luck to retiring editorial collective member Michelle Lunn as she explores a new career path outside the walls of academia.

Robyn Andrews, Jenny Coleman, Leigh Coombes, Mandy Morgan, Sita Venkateswar.
WSJ Editorial Collective.