

## Editorial

---

This issue is the first from a new Wellington-based editorial committee, led by Ann Weatherall (Victoria University of Wellington, VUW) and supported by Heather Barnett (Mental Health Foundation), Sue Jackson (VUW) and Elizabeth Rawlings (The Correspondence School).

Over a quarter of a century ago Rosemary Seymour, founded this journal with the aim of promoting and disseminating research about women, by women, from a feminist perspective, with a New Zealand/Pacific emphasis. We wholeheartedly support that original vision and believe the journal is a crucial vehicle for supporting and further developing innovative feminist scholarship in New Zealand/Aotearoa and the Pacific. In particular we will strive to encourage and support contributions that address Māori and indigenous women's issues.

While the aim of the journal has remained unchanged since its founding days, the publishing context is now very different. For example, we are operating at a time where the struggle is with the *disestablishment* of Gender and Women's Studies programmes not the establishment of them. As we write this, the future of the Gender and Women's Studies programme at VUW is uncertain. Certainly, there is little institutional will to invest in its future, which is unfortunate given the established and emerging talent within VUW. That talent is evidenced by the articles, research notes and book reviews in this volume, which by coincidence are all authored by VUW affiliated scholars.

Another important change from the founding days of the journal is the shift from print to electronic publication. One of the advantages of electronic publication is that it makes the journal more globally available. The journal's listing on EBSCO, an important search engine for material published electronically, is an exciting development because it means that work published in our journal may be 'found' through keyword searches by feminists all over the world. We would like to further the impact of articles previously published in *WSJ* by digitising and uploading back issues. Innovative and still relevant work, which showcases the high quality of feminist scholarship in New Zealand/Aotearoa, should be made more widely available. If readers of this editorial have time and/or expertise to help make back issues available on-line, please get in contact with me at [Ann.Weatherall@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Ann.Weatherall@vuw.ac.nz).

Central to the journal's ongoing success will be increasing participation by feminist scholars. We encourage manuscript submissions from both established and emerging researchers, theorists, practitioners and activists. Support in the form of willingness to review books and submissions is also important. Heather Barnett is developing a database of potential contributors and reviewers, so if you would like to be added to that please contact her at [heather@mentalhealth.org.nz](mailto:heather@mentalhealth.org.nz). Elizabeth Rawlings, our book review editor, is receiving a good number of feminist publications and a bonus of writing book reviews is that you get to keep the book! Again, we invite readers to let us know of their willingness to review and their areas of expertise.

Past issues of this journal testify to the originality and relevance that are characteristics of feminist scholarship in Aotearoa. The contents of the present issue – four full-length articles, two research notes and three book reviews – provides further evidence of the breadth and vibrancy of research about women and by women. Within this volume you can read a fascinating

analysis of *Untouchable Girls* in relation to the tensions between normative and queer gender identities in this country (Anita Brady, Media Studies, VUW). You will also find a detailed consideration of the ongoing challenges for women in science (Lesley Hall, GWS, VUW), a critique of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (Prue Hyman, formerly GWS, VUW) and an empirically grounded examination of the dilemmas raised by school-based sexuality education (Sue Jackson and ann Weatherall, VUW). The two research notes report PhD work in progress – one thesis topic is about intersexuality (Geraldine Christmas, VUW) and the other is the sexual culture of women born in the 1980s or 90s (Lesley Wright, VUW).

Last but not least we would like to express our sincere appreciation for all the work of the previous Palmerston North-based Editorial collective, which was Robyn Andrews, Jenny Coleman, Leigh Coombes, Mandy Morgan and Sita Venkateswar. Jenny Coleman, in particular, deserves special thanks not least of all because of the time she has spent teaching us the ropes.

**Ann Weatherall, Heather Barnett, Sue Jackson and Elizabeth Rawlings.**