

Editorial

The New Zealand *Women's Studies Journal* is pleased to present a double issue for 2013, produced by a new editorial board. We are the Waikato-based editorial collective comprising Carolyn Michelle, Johanna Schmidt, and Rachel Simon-Kumar. Institutionally, we are based in the Societies and Cultures cluster in the School of Social Sciences at the University of Waikato. Collectively, we teach in women's studies, social policy and sociology. Two of us co-edited a Special Issue for the *Women's Studies Journal* in 2011 which addressed themes of difference and intersectionality. We found this to be an immensely satisfying process and felt privileged to showcase stimulating feminist research and scholarship, test provocative ideas, and work with inspiring authors and reviewers. Raising our hands to assume the editorial mantle from the Wellington-based collective seemed a natural progression, and presents a welcomed opportunity. In taking over the reins, we acknowledge the spirit and the principles of the *Women's Studies Journal* and the WSANZ to promote research by and for women, from a feminist perspective. We are also very thankful to the Wellington editorial committee – Ann Weatherall and Sue Jackson – for making this a seamless and smooth transition, and for the generous offer of help when needed.

While we are excited to be at the helm of the *Women's Studies Journal* continuing the principles and aims set out by those who founded the journal, we are also looking forward to setting down our own imprint. We take up the challenges of refashioning a feminist publication in the 21st century amidst a plethora of sentiments about feminism, and increasing institutional pressures within academia. Thus, we start our editorial tenure with a new policy on authorship that was agreed upon at the AGM of the WSA in April this year. We now welcome papers committed to the principles of feminist scholarship written by men, and indeed, by authors of any gender identity. We also intend to continue the previous editors' focus on encouraging emergent postgraduate student scholarship. Alongside this, we will explore the possibilities of new focus areas, including a new section on *Reflections from the Field* in which we will feature contributions from the wider community, where exciting feminist activism and praxis is undertaken on an everyday basis. And, given our academic proclivities, we will explore a range of strategies to improve the journal's international citation and impact factor rankings.

The heart of our work, however, is to facilitate the development and growth of a vibrant network of home-grown feminist activists and intellectuals. Despite the closure of women's and gender studies programmes across the country, there are colleagues who undertake profoundly political research about women, gender and sexuality scattered across a diverse range of disciplines – from anthropology to theatre studies, Asian studies to climate science. We also have strong feminist commentary emerging from non-academic domains – in blogs, social media, film, opinion columns, fiction and non-fiction works. Our aim is to bring together critical feminist scholarship and commentary from across multiple sites and disciplines, and to produce a journal that speaks to the core of renewed concerns around gender politics. Over the next few months, we will prioritize making ourselves and the journal known to a wider audience of academics, students, community-based practitioners, and opinion makers, to see how we can work together to keep a strong feminist critique alive in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Finally, we would like to introduce our double issue for this year. In the first issue, we feature a selection of papers that were initially presented at this year's Women's Studies Association Conference in Wellington. Written by both emergent and established scholars, these papers cover a wide range of topics. Geraldine Christmas examines the relatively under-researched experiences of intersexed individuals and their parents in Aotearoa New Zealand; Sanela Smolović Jones, Kate Boocock, and Yvonne Underhill-Sem explore the support (or lack thereof) for students experiencing sexual harassment in university contexts; Rhian Salmon presents a personal reflection on her career as a scientist, with a particular focus on her positioning as a woman within the field of climate change science; Joanne Drayton examines how the writings of Anne Perry were shaped by her earlier life, Perry being better known locally for her role in Christchurch's infamous Parker-Hulme murder, an incident that has long intrigued the general public, the media, psychologists, filmmakers and feminist scholars alike; and finally Hilary Stace explores the ways in which the care of the disabled is feminised and how the women who undertake this work are represented, drawing on both her own experience and a rigorous historical analysis.

In our second issue, the theme of gender and disability is further explored by Carol Hamilton and Hiroko Yasuda through an analysis of the biographies of disabled Japanese women, with a particular focus on sexuality. Vivienne Elizabeth and Maureen Baker – who retires from her position at The University of Auckland as these issues go to press – present findings from their project on the ways in which heterosexual couples shift from 'living together' to marrying. Linda Hill's extremely timely piece on pay equity revisits a theme she explored in this journal 20 years prior, and includes an insightful preliminary analysis of the landmark findings in the *Bartlett vs Terranova* case from August this year. Finally, Vivienne Elizabeth, Julia Tolmie and Nicola Gavey's paper draws from their rich project on the experiences of women engaged in custody disputes to challenge the commonly accepted assumption that separated husbands necessarily 'facilitate' their ex-partners' employment.

Putting together this double issue has been a very rewarding process for us, and we would like to sincerely thank all of the authors as well as our wonderful reviewers for their understanding, generosity, and collegiality as we have got to grips with the varied challenges of editorship. We hope you will appreciate the breadth of feminist scholarship evidenced in this double issue, and very much look forward to continuing the traditions established by the *New Zealand Women's Studies Journal*, even as we explore possible new paths for further development, refinement, and renewal.

Carolyn Michelle, Johanna Schmidt and Rachel Simon-Kumar