

When I was approached in 2012 to be a guest editor of a sexuality issue of *New Voices in Psychology*, never in my wildest dreams did I envision that one day I would be a full editor of this journal. My sincere gratitude to the previous editor, Prof Eduard Fourie for grooming me and for having faith in my ability to keep the ship afloat. *New Voices in Psychology* has always been close to my heart. The philosophy of giving young and upcoming scholars an opportunity to showcase and share their ideas and research with a larger academic audience resonates with me. In this day and age when knowledge is 'sold' at exorbitant prices, with authors having to fork out thousands of page fees to access their work, *New Voices in Psychology* provides a perfect platform for young scholars to hone their skills through a reputable peer-review process. I am delighted to script my first editorial and am looking forward to many years of fruitful engagement with the *New Voices* audience, in corridors, cyberspace, social spaces and at conferences.

Assessment in South Africa is a hotly debated terrain particularly taking into cognizance the historical account on how some assessments were used to justify and exclude certain members of a population. In this issue of *New Voices*, Kimera Pillay and Sumaya Laher provide an empirical investigation on the reliability and validity of the South African acculturation scale. To their credit, it was evident that some items on the scale were problematic and needed to be removed. The study brings to attention the importance of constantly doing research on tools that psychologists use.

The next article, by Aqeela Mahomed and Sumaya Laher, tackles interesting variables which are religion and perceived risk of HIV infection. As is commonly and statistically known that the HIV prevalence and incidence rate in South Africa is relatively high in comparison with other countries, it was interesting to read how a specific group of a religious sector, Muslims, perceive themselves to be (or not) at risk of HIV infection. According to the authors they were not surprised by the results that the participants do not see themselves to be at risk of HIV infection. This is fostered by strong (and often) strict religious values prescribed by the Qur'an. In the third article, Boikhutso Maubane and Malose Langa from the University of the

Witwatersrand explore young people's perception of marriage. It is interesting to note that they found that emotional fulfilment is paramount to marital satisfaction.

In the next article, Sanche Nel and Rizwana Roomaney from Midrand Graduate Institute and Stellenbosch University respectively, investigate whether psychology students translate what they learn in class (psychological theories) to cope with challenging circumstances. The authors found that, in comparison with non-psychology students, there is no significant difference between their coping styles. Noluthando Mqakelana, a young social worker, embarks on an often renounced side of domestic violence- men as victims of domestic violence. Society often refrains from talking about this particular group and discourses on domestic violence are dominated by the discursive pattern of females as victims of domestic violence and males as perpetrators. The next article, by Nakita Geemooi, is an attempt to explain the correlation (if any) between adult attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and sensation seeking personality trait. As is the case with psychological (dis)orders, no research is as straightforward and definite. The final article, by Candice Rascher and Nicky Israel, investigates the relationship between information processing style preference, statistical reasoning ability and performance on a psychology-based statistics course at the University of the Witwatersrand. This study is useful as it could help academics to fine-tune their courses and it encourages academics to keep reflecting on the usefulness and practicality of what they teach their students.

Our books review section contains reviews of rather disparate books – a detailed critique of Ben Goldacre's *Bad Science* book (reviewed by Dr Ryan Botha) and a journey to the past, specifically looking at the history of liberalism in South Africa (reviewed by Ndumiso Dladla). We also include a review of a psychological thriller movie, *Gone Girl*, which, for a change, portrays a female psychopath. Mbongiseni Mdakane reports on the first Unisa School of the Social Sciences Conference which was held in Mucklenuk Campus, Pretoria.

We conclude this issue with one of the powerful poems written by Martin Shlapelo while he was incarcerated in Robbin Island.

The success of *New Voices in Psychology* is clearly evident in this issue. The journal began as the Unisa Department of Psychology in-house voice and over the years has grown in leaps and bounds. The success could not have been more evidently visible than in this issue. Almost all the authors who contributed to this issue are affiliated with institutions other than the Department of Psychology at Unisa. The only exception is the conference report by Bongsi Mdakane.

We would like to invite submissions for a 2016 special issue of *New Voices* on communities in around corrections. This special issue is intended to highlight and appreciate research and community engagement initiatives in and around corrections. These may include research and initiatives relating to offenders, their families and communities. We invite contributions in the form of theoretical manuscripts, empirical studies, book reviews, DVD and film reviews, photo essays, interviews,

reflections and poems. For any enquiries about the special issue and for submission of contributions, please contact Khonzi Mbatha at mbathk@unisa.ac.za

Hope you enjoy this issue!

Khonzi Mbatha and the NV Team
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