

Self & SOCIETY

Editorial



*David Murphy and Stephen Joseph
editor@ahpb.org*

'Building bridges'

We have had the privilege to be the co-editors of *Self & Society* for the past two and half years. It was with some sadness that we sat down to write this – our last editorial. However, we are delighted that the new team of Richard, Jennifer and David will be taking over and to see the new energy that they will be bringing. We wish them every success and offer our full support whilst they get into the role of editing *S&S*. We are sure they will do a great job in developing the journal and its potential to add immensely to the profile and presence of Humanistic Psychology in the UK. We also think their active involvement in the field of Humanistic Psychology outside of the AHP will be an excellent bridge and will hopefully link the Association to a much wider audience. And it is the topic of bridge building that we want to talk about here as we think this must be part of the vision for our future.

The idea of building bridges from Humanistic Psychology into other areas of psychology and psychotherapy is what we now must do to gain recognition of the significant contribution the approach can make. There is already a great deal of research evidence to support the humanistic approach – but mainstream psychologists remain largely unaware of the evidence – as such the task ahead must be to build bridges and connect into the literature and systems which we can mutually support. Humanistic psychology cannot be inward looking – its proponents must take part in the wider world – to publish in mainstream journals, to engage in discussions at the mainstream conferences in clinical and counseling psychology and to get involved with social policy issues.

Likewise one of the current challenges facing AHP at an organizational level is to seek connections beyond the core of humanistic psychology. We suggest that humanistic psychology has much to offer and is indeed being used in other fields. The challenge is for humanistic psychology practitioners to build bridges to other approaches, for humanistic organizations to build bridges to reach other organizations that are also based on and share our values and ethics and yet perhaps have no knowledge or awareness of humanistic psychology.

In this issue we have some great articles that offer us real quality. Richard House and Del Lowenthal address the issue of therapeutic education. In their article, they propose an alternative to adopting a polarized view; that either education in schools must all be about therapy or that education in school must have nothing to do with the therapeutic development of children. House and Lowenthal offer a balanced, reasoned and well thought out argument in support of education for the 'whole' child. Their proposal is that the school environment doesn't succumb to the 'therapy culture' but at the same time doesn't throw the baby out with the bath water and the emotional life of the child is also developed within the school.

We also have two further articles that each look at addiction. Stephen Farthing considers an approach to addiction work grounded in humanistic principles. Jane Barclay also writes about addiction but is focused on gambling. In this short but insightful piece I'm sure there will be something we can all learn from.

We thank all the contributors for their submissions to this issue. We'd like to say one final thanks to all the readers of S&S and members of AHP for your support, letters, comments and the like of the last few years. We wish S&S every success for the future and for many years to come.

David and Stephen

Co-editors Self & Society