

From the editors

To those who we are in service to,

We dedicate our work and this journal to you. We acknowledge the power of our stories and how we continue to learn the art of hearing stories, through the experiences we share.

We express our profound gratitude to Dulwich Centre Publications; the authors' mentors and reviewers; and the many wonderful people who contributed to make this experience a special edition of the IJNTCW. We acknowledge your time, resources and wisdom as they echo through the journal pages and beyond.

As co-editors we are inspired by the following quote:

Stories are agentive. They act in and on the world. Stories can have powerful consequences upon how the present is experienced and what future actions seem most reasonable, likely or appropriate. Storytelling refigures events into oral and written texts, and these texts – always performed-may circulate widely in social communities, influencing further actions ... Stories take their meaning not only from their content but also from the situation in which they are performed, including who is doing the telling. Like other acts, they are tailored to the context – in particular, the audience. Also, it is reasonable to speak of stories, like other social acts, as multiply authored in the sense that who listens powerfully shapes what is told and how it is interpreted. (Mattingly, 2010, p. 53)

As an *audience* of this special edition of IJNTCW, we have been given access to the lived work of our inimitable authors; all of whom have generously taken the time to share experiences that we may not otherwise have had access to. All of these stories are *agentive*; vibrantly and actively engaged from and within their diverse social locations, seeking to respond to the array of discourses that push them subtly and explicitly to and from the margins. We invited these authors to offer us a peek of what happens closer to the margins, so that we may be offered richer descriptions of their experiences. Evident in these unique papers is the spirit and power of the narrative ethic. The authors highlighted their engagement in narrative therapy and community work, offering diverse practices and for people to make *meaning not only from their content but also from the situation in which they are performed*. The papers were not just reduced to the explorations of culture, as we are all coloured by our cultural ancestors. The authors invited us to see and feel the palpable function of privilege and the way it gives some people or communities more space to exist over the other. And within that space, innovation and activism was expressed through their work.

As co-editors, we also deliberated over the slippery slope of privilege in our position. By inviting some people new to the published page to contribute to this edition, we left out other significant voices. Workers who live their stories, cannot afford the time to write their stories. We recognised we are not immune to our blind spots and the privileged spaces we occupy.

With this acknowledgement, the papers invited us to metaphorically reflect about the parallels of working on the margins being akin to the margins of the books we read. At times, handwritten notes are documented which highlight the musings and sparks of inspiration stirred by the original text. These notes are integral as it can speak to the diversity of our understanding of stories. And at times we may privilege some understandings over others. With this intention in sharing diverse stories from the margins in this special edition of the IJNTCW, our overall collective hope with this publication is that we might take extra notes, so this rich diversity of storytelling *may act in and on our practices and influence further actions*.

In solidarity,

Sekneh Becket, Sydney, AU; Tileah Drahm-Butler, Kuranda, AU; Julie Tilsen, Minneapolis, USA

Reference

Mattingly, C. (2010). *The paradox of hope. Journeys through clinical borderland*. Berkley, CA: University of California Press.