



Editorial

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Welcome to the eighth edition of the University of Huddersfield's peer-reviewed student research journal, Fields. This is our first year as co-managing editors of the journal. We are pleased to be able to present the range of research undertaken across the University that is reflected in these engaging papers, each one of which is highly thought-provoking.

The student researchers have positioned themselves within their respective fields, taking their place as competent researchers. This edition offers a particularly engaging series of papers that will offer provocation and new ways of seeing.

James Elliff's paper, 'Development of a rapid diagnostic test for the detection of antibodies or antigens to Coronavirus (COVID-19)' is a timely insight into COVID-19 test development research. In this article James describes how the research was designed to investigate whether Latex Agglutination Assay (LAA) could be modified and utilised as a rapid detection test which either matched or exceeded the existing sensitivity and specificity values of tests being utilised. It reports that the use of LAA was cheaper, quicker and easier to use and thus, with further optimisation and research, James concludes that this approach to COVID-19 testing may be of benefit to high and low-income countries alike.

In the second paper 'High-resolution analysis of anti-migratory inhibitors in high-grade glioma treatment' Eryn Burns begins by reminding the reader that Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM) are the most aggressive brain tumours. Prognosis for adults diagnosed with high-grade brain tumours (grade 3 and 4) is poor and there is an urgent need to improve patient prognosis. The paper reports upon the evaluation of the therapeutic potential of four anti-migratory drugs: 6-bromo-indirubin-3'-oxime (BIO), CCG-1423, Latrunculin A (LAT A) and Lithium Chloride (LiCl), in vitro, for the treatment of Glioblastoma Multiforme (GBM). It explains how the migration distances of GBM cells and cell circularity, for each treatment, and an untreated control were measured and statistically analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Eryn Burns presents some important findings regarding the efficacy of the anti-migratory drugs used in the study and the reduction in GBM cell migration. Eryn concludes by asserting that there is a need for further research into the drugs used in this study to further assess the efficacy of them.

The third paper in this volume from the social sciences is by Charlotte Walton, who reports on research that examined 'Perceptions of anorexia nervosa: Should people with anorexia nervosa receive health-related welfare benefits?'. Utilising a quantitative approach Charlotte sought to investigate whether people with Anorexia Nervosa (AN) were viewed as undeserving recipients of welfare benefits; specifically, Personal Independence Payment (PIP). The role of stigma and perceptions about AN, as personal choice as opposed to a mental illness, were also explored. In this small-scale study, data was collected via an online survey which 30 undergraduate students, all female, responded to. Once exclusion criteria had been applied the sample comprised of 23

respondents. Charlotte reports that the majority of the sample (80%) agreed that individuals with AN should be eligible to apply for PIP. Frequency responses showed that 95% classed AN as a mental illness, 70% as a physical illness, 25% as a disability, and 15% as choice. In advocating for future research, it is noted that the largely positive views found may indicate that attitudes towards AN have improved, as previously reported by academics and charities.

Georgia Marshall's qualitative study, 'An exploration of attitudes towards spiritual care for recovery from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder' (PTSD) is the fourth paper in this volume. The research aimed to develop a deeper understanding of the relationship between spiritual care and PTSD recovery and attitudes towards integrating spiritual care to assist with PTSD recovery. Online semi-structured interviews were utilised for data collection. Four participants, from Undergraduate Allied Health and Social Science programmes, were interviewed. This small-scale study found that the importance of acknowledging an individual's spiritual wellbeing when creating treatment plans, particularly for ethnic minority groups, with consideration of their cultural or religious beliefs was discussed by participants. Georgia concludes with some practical implications noting that cultural disparities in mental health care are still evident. Notably, some participants perceived, positively, that the incorporation of spirituality to assist PTSD recovery may offer a more patient-centred, holistic approach to patient care.

Moving from a set of papers with a focus on health and well-being, we next have a set of papers that interrogate activism. Eleanor Slater's exploration of Sylvia Plath and the domestic identity of women takes us into Cold War territory and the influence of American President Nixon on the construct of the ideal woman. This paper explores the influential role of magazines in creating an image of domesticity and domestic containment. In contrast, Sylvia Plath's writing sears through this 'apple-pie happy domesticity' to challenge gender equality. This paper is particularly timely as it reminds the reader of early debates and tensions in issues of gender and equality, issues that are fiercely argued in contemporary times.

Issues of gender and identity are also explored in Cerys Elizabeth Eckersley's paper on 'Portrayals of gender and identity in the soundtrack of *The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt*', a role-playing video game that is situated in a world of magic, fantasy and medieval references. The construction of identity through soundtrack is revealed in this paper, where, against a neo-medieval backdrop, and drawing on folklore, the fusion of sound, music and voice are employed to represent ideas of masculinity and femininity. In this, Cerys argues that the soundtrack is central to the construction of identity in *The Witcher 3* and, despite female voices on the soundtrack, the agency of the female characters is particularly diminished.

Gender is again the focus of Joshua Barker's paper, but this time with a focus on male experiences of working from home while raising children during the Covid-19 pandemic. In his paper, Joshua employs interpretive phenomenological analysis to engage with an under-researched group in relation to homeworking and raising children. The paper draws out the lived experiences of fathers during unprecedented times demonstrating how these challenging conditions resulted in a 'blurring of boundaries' where the participants experienced physical and mental strain, as well as pressure on their relationships.

In her paper 'Danger, dirt and degenerates: The rebellious act of creativity', Alice Morris argues that as a consequence of the all-pervading consumerist context in which we live, designers are often compromised, making 'safe' decisions in relation to their work in order to secure an income. This, she suggests, conceals authentic creativity which encompasses discomfort and a necessary state of apprehension. In this way, Alice Morris makes the case for creativity as an act of rebellion within a consumer society.

From activism we move to a brace of papers that explore cultural phenomena. Xiaolu Xu's paper on 'Food

culture and nostalgia in the Sannong video' immerses the reader in rural Chinese society through the medium of the Sannong videos. The plight of the rural Chinese in the face of urbanisation has led to a stigmatisation of the countryside and those who live within it. The consequence of such urbanisation for those who have had to leave is a sense of loss and nostalgia. It is this sense of loss and idea of belonging that is captured in the highly popular Sannong videos.

The regeneration of regional wools is the focus of Louisa Knapp's paper where she draws out the challenges faced by British manufacturing in the search for green solutions. Louisa makes a strong argument for the benefits of native and rare breed sheep wool in terms of a regional economy and wider ecology. By engaging with textile manufacturing, sheep husbandry and edaphology, Louisa's research demonstrates flaws in British Wool's sorting homogenised practices and a disconnect between farm, factory and breed information.

Issues of social justice run through the next three papers. Jacob Griffin's paper 'Equity: Balancing certainty and flexibility to secure justice' explores the concept of, and issues surrounding, equity within common law. Legal principles emerging from common law are often characterised as rigid, yet equity has traditionally acted as a counter to such rigidity. This, Jacob argues, is to obscure the often inflexible nature of equity. At the heart of his argument is the proposition that common law and equity are able to align without fusing – to form a co-dependence where both are necessary for the pursuit of justice.

Gabriella Holt explores the ways in which terrorist groups are represented in the media. Gabriella looks at media representations of terrorism from the 1970s in the form of the IRA, and more recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by ISIS. In this, discourse analysis is employed to explore representations from two different eras and from two newspapers, namely The Guardian and the Daily Mail. The findings suggest that media representations from the 1970s focused on political reasoning and ideology whereas contemporary representations of terrorism in newspapers was found to be sensationalist, employing violent terminology and providing descriptions of victims' injuries.

Celia Clarke's research into 'Race, fitness to practice and the experience of trainee educators' explores the reasons behind over-representation of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups in 'fitness-to-practice'(FtP) cases in an education context. Racial disadvantage within education and the workplace are interrogated in this study where structural inequality social capital and racial discomfort are in play. Celia employs Critical Race Theory in her analysis of first-person accounts of fitness-to-practice referrals. Her findings demonstrate the intersectional nature of issues that underpin many FtP cases.