Challenges and change: Oxygen for change towards social inclusiveness?

Editorial

2020 has been a defining year. The globe is still grappling with second and third waves of COVID-19, the pink recession and Black Lives Matter show that gender, race and class are still key fault lines where inequality occurs, and we have had a US election like no other. Thank you for still being here! 2020 has had the world's fortitude tested. The coronavirus pandemic and its epic impact has left us reappraising what might be a better new normal.

Many people's lives have changed in ways inconceivable before COVID-19. Many changes are temporary, but some, like working remotely, generous redistribution of public funds, and renewed interest in public health, may be here to stay and indicate an acceleration of broader processes (Pimentel, 2020; Dartnell, 2020). Turning to the US election, that witnessed a low point in US politics with an unconceded loss from the outgoing President, but with the highest ever number of voters resulting in the first woman and woman of colour Vice President, change seems imminent.

Previous epidemics have led to major changes in social and public life. Foucault (1979) writes of how the plague in medieval Europe birthed the very idea of public health and incubated the link between urban planning and the wellbeing of populations. The cholera epidemic in Europe in the 19th Century led to public sanitation and clean public water, ending the disposing of sewerage in open drains and regulating the collection of contaminated water[1] (Davenport, 2019). The Spanish flu in 1918 has been accredited with popularising the concept of "socialised medicine – healthcare for all" as many governments realised that the health of the whole is vital for the health of individuals (Spinney, 2020). Through calamity can come great progress. What will be the positive outcomes from our current challenges?

The papers in this edition of JOSI have change at their core, as each one aims to make changes for the better which further social inclusion. Changes in practices in access to health care for people with disability, changes to people's lives through inclusive theatre, and changes to both through understanding civic participation. Many thanks to Pooja for leading the editorial process for this edition.

Nicole Renee Brownfield, Monica Thielking, Glen Bates, and Fiona Morrison contribute to JOSI through the conduct a rigorous systematic literature review to explore the impact poverty might have on academic outcomes and the well-being of students in Australian universities. Their findings show that more research is required, but from what can be seen so far serious attention to the issue is warranted. In light of the year that has been, with the pervasive effects of Covid-19 on the delivery of digitised education within the sector, measures to mitigate stress on students in higher education is a timely call.

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[1] Although Cholera remains a heath issue in the Global South (World Health Organisation, 2020).

Jeannette Nijkamp and Mieke Cardol contribute a stimulating read on how people with an intellectual disability are included in theatre designed to promote social inclusion. Scoping the relevant literature, and describing and synthesising what was found, helped identify some key phenomena, which could be used as a platform for further research among those looking to merge arts-based methodologies with social justice issues. They found that actors without disabilities participating in inclusive theatre need to be open to the different modes of expression of their colleagues with disabilities, value it, and provide room for it. They also found that participants with and without disabilities need to genuinely co-create if new skills and views are being sought. Inclusive theatre is an aesthetically powerful medium for helping people think differently about ability, but mindfulness that they are not tokenised social projects is also required.

Victoria Stewart, Kristin Visser, and Maddy Slattery offer an important contribution on how people living with severe and persistent mental health issues use and experience the internet when searching for information regarding Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Using an exploratory qualitative methodology, they found that individuals prefer to access information about the NDIS from people over the internet, and that information on the internet appears inadequate and complex. These are critical initial findings for shaping factors in the future related to who delivers information, how, and how much. Clear information that is easy to understand is conducive to supporting recovery among mental health consumers.

We have included in this edition the Foreword for our In-Focus Special Collection on Place-Based Approaches by Linda O'Brien, Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of Logan Campus, Griffith University. This collection was inspired by the first *Changefest* festival, which was a gathering of diverse peoples from across Australia who are intent on making a change within their communities. It was hosted by Logan Together, Collaboration for Impact, Opportunity Child and Griffith University in the City of Logan. The event was fittingly held at Griffith's Logan Campus, which, as O'Brien explains, is "a key anchor institution within Logan" which has been "committed to working with the community to create a social inclusive, innovated and prosperous region. Griffith's Logan Campus is indeed a special place, and has been a place of learning, healing, and improving the life chances for the Logan community since its beginning, showing the difference that place based approaches can make. The in-focus collection has a total of seven papers. Most of these have been collated from past editions, but two are new publications which are presented in this edition.

In the first of the newly published Placed-Based articles, "Local knowledge: Constructing place-based ways of knowing in complex disability service provision", Adrienne McGhee shares a vivid and evocative ethnographic study on palliative care for people with disabilities who are aging. Shared with us is the story of Katie, an elderly women with an intellectual disability. This vignette details how Katie's support team "responded to her profound and intensifying need from within existing resources, developing an embedded, practitioner-constructed, place-based knowledge that enabled Katie to die-in-place with dignity", challenging the current deficit based understanding of disability support worker's knowledge. Ethnography is rarely used in health studies, despite it having much to offer as an authentic and embedded research approach, and has a specificity and contextuality that focuses well on place.

Karie Jo Peralta and Shahna Arps, in "Civic participation of Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic: An urban-rural/peri-urban comparison" has a very different approach to

considering place. In this paper, the authors focus on spatial variation of Haitian immigrants in the Dominican Republic and ask if there is variation between urban and rural locations using data on 91 respondents from a 2017 household survey. They analysed self-reported attendance at voluntary association meetings and found significantly greater engagement among rural Haitian immigrants. Community engagement is key to place based approaches and social inclusion, for immigrant Haitian's as well as the people of Logan, the location of *Changefest*, many of who are also immigrants and/or refugees. Place is important for positive social change.

In conclusion to this editorial, we wish all our readers health, hope and safety as 2020 draws to an end. The new year brings the promise of renewal and change for the better. Let's work together to make 2021 better in time and in place, with inclusivity.

Lyndal Sleep, Phd   **Pooja Sawrikar, Phd**
Co-Editor   Co-Editor

School of Human Services and Social Work
Griffith University
Australia

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