

# Editorial

## *Keith Tudor and Alayne Hall (Ngati Whatua, Te Rarawa, Tainui)*

E ngā waka, e ngā mana, e ngā hau e wha, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou arā me to whānau hoki. Tenā koutou tenā koutou, tenā koutou katoa. He tino hari maua, i te tari putanga tuatoru na *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand*. To the many talented and esteemed who are propelled together by the four winds, spread throughout the islands we greet you and your families, and welcome you to the journal and, specifically, to this first issue of the online-only version of the journal.

We are, as ever, grateful to the contributors for having offered us five most stimulating articles which reflect and reflect on the social world (San Roque) and the personal world (Carter), on groups (Roldan and Slater), and on gender (Roldan) and culture (San Roque, Carter, and Crocket et al.). We are also grateful to Jyoti Smith who, for the second year, and with the continued support of the School of Public Health and Psychosocial Studies, Auckland University of Technology, is working as an Editorial Assistant on *Ata*. We also continue to be grateful for the work of Hineira Woodard for her translation/interpretation of the abstracts into te reo Māori — tēna koe, Hineira.

We begin with an article “A Place in the Country” by Craig San Roque, an Australian colleague who has contributed to bicultural understanding of place, home, and culture, and who combines his clinical work as a Jungian analyst with his activism and advocacy of indigenous rights and people (see San Roque, 2012). It is also a feature of the internationalism of *Ata* that we not only consider articles from overseas authors but also make this the lead article of this issue. In his wide-ranging and thought-provoking article, San Roque poses a key question: “How significantly does the world around us shape our lives?” and addresses this by considering aspects of place — location, home, and environment — philosophically, psychologically — and politically. In this, his article is reminiscent of an article published in the first issue of *Ata* on political aspects of “home” by Shepherd and Woodard (2012).

In the next article, Philip Carter describes his journey in finding his place to be and to stand, and, specifically, the experiences that have shaped his identity and functioning as a psychodramatist. His narrative is, as he puts it, “one expression of what it is to have the ancestral bounty of both Māori and European lineages” (p. 25). Carter’s reflections are an interesting narrative of personal discovery, connection, disconnection, and reconnection. When discussing the experiences of injustices and atrocities perpetrated on Ngarae Raumati we are given a glimpse into both pre- and post-European contact where inter-tribal Māori warfare was employed to establish claim. An informed Indigenous perspective concerning the impacts of colonisation may find Carter’s claim that “my particular line weren’t colonised” (p. 31) controversial and his standpoint will no doubt create an environment of interesting debate and dispute. The paradox of connection and disconnection is played out both in his personal narrative and in the groupwork he describes with men living without violence.

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The next two articles focus on groups.

Ten years ago, Felisa Roldan wrote an article on the feminine (Roldan, 2005), which was published in *Ata's* predecessor, *Forum*, in which she articulated “the feminine” as a philosophy, a value system, and a style which was — and still is — the centre of how she works as a psychotherapist. In this current article, Roldan applies this approach in working with young women in a group setting and, in doing so, demonstrates the value of the concept to clinical work, in this instance, in the context of working with women with eating disorders. Apart from offering us an insight into her work, Roldan also makes an important point about how certain concepts, which derive from a “masculine” value system, are privileged and not least in what are often referred to as “scientific journals” in the fields of psychotherapy, psychology, and psychiatry. In discussing the feminine, we consider that Roldan is reclaiming the intuitive, the immeasurable, and the non-manualised; in short, what Rogers (1973) was referring to when he questioned whether we dared to develop a *human* science. Of course, claiming certain qualities and values as feminine and others masculine, even in terms of archetypes and culture, is not without its critics, and, just as Roldan herself has invited feedback on her article, we would welcome other articles on these perspectives and questions.

The next article, which also reports on a group, this time an adolescent group, is written by Dr Peter Slater. In the article, Dr Slater explores Bion's thinking about the co-existence of psychotic and non-psychotic states in the personality and argues that Bion's description of psychotic states is highly relevant when applied to adolescent states of mind. Dr Slater's article and his reflections on the group he ran also represent a transition in that both began in the UK, whilst the article has been finished following his emigration to this country where he has taken up the post of Senior Lecturer at Auckland University of Technology where he is also Programme Leader for the programmes in child and adolescent psychotherapy. Dr Slater has also accepted our invitation to join the Editorial Board of the journal — we extend a warm welcome to him, and to his family, and look forward to further contributions to the journal on therapeutic work with children, adolescents, and their whānau, both from him and from others.

The final article in this issue is on supervision as cultural partnership. Following on from an article on cultural supervision written by Margaret Poutu Morice and Jonathan Fay, and published in *Ata* two years ago (Morice & Fay, 2013), Kathie Crockett et al. report on an exploratory, qualitative study into how supervision might support culturally-appropriate counselling practice — and, by extension, psychotherapy — in this country. In the context of bicultural engagement based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the authors pose an important question: “How does professional supervision work as cultural partnership in Aotearoa New Zealand?” We are delighted to welcome an article based on research — and would encourage other colleagues who have conducted research in the field to submit such articles to the journal; and also welcome submissions from counselling colleagues.

The issue concludes with two reviews. In the first, Gavin Stansfield reviews the first of two volumes on trauma, history, and memory, edited by Michael O'Loughlin. In the second, Evan and Isabelle Sherrard offer their different experiences of the film *The Ground We Won*, directed by Christopher Pryor.

The journal continues to be well supported by its two Editorial Advisory Boards, which, this year, we have expanded with the addition of four colleagues.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Susan (Huhana) Jane Hickey to the Indigenous Editorial Advisory Board. She is Māori, Aboriginal, Native American, and Sami. Huhana was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to people with disabilities which included recognition of her role as the indigenous peoples' representative for the UN disability ad hoc caucus steering group. We look forward to working with Huhana and other colleagues to raise the profile of people with disabilities in psychotherapy. Joining the other Editorial Advisory Board are John Farnsworth who is the member of the NZAP Council with specific interest in and responsibilities for IT, and who is helping to establish the "look" of the online journal; Dr Peter Slater, and Seonaigh Stevens, who is representing the New Zealand Association of Child and Adolescent Psychotherapists (NZACAP). As Editors, we have taken this initiative of offering a place on the Editorial Board to the Association in order to open up the journal to colleagues who work with children, adolescents, and their whanau. We hope that, in addition to Peter and Judith Morris, the presence of Seonaigh will lead to regular articles on this population and field of psychotherapy.

We are particularly appreciative of Phil Carter, Kathie Crocket, and Peter Slater for their specific responses and contributions to this issue. We look forward to more contributions from members of the Editorial Boards, as well as the wider membership of the NZAP and the NZACAP, and the even wider readership. The journal continues to look healthy: the next three, special issues are already planned:

Volume 19(2) The Ground Beneath our Feet [Special Issue] (December 2015)

Volume 20(1) Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy [Special Issue, edited by Dr Mark Thorpe]  
(July 2016)

Volume 20(2) Mind, Body, Spirit [Special Issue] (December 2016)

We do encourage colleagues to continue to submit articles for peer review, and also to approach us with ideas. Enjoy!

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