

REPORT TO NZAP COUNCIL, APRIL 2021

From the Ata Journal Editors

Kia Ora Koutou,

In 2020 we published two issues of *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand*. The February 2020 hard copy issue of the journal included contributions from Gabriela Mercado in collaboration with Patrick Casement, John Farnsworth, Helen Palmer, Emma Green and Margot Solomon, John O'Connor, and Anna Fleming. In April 2020, this issue was also published online on the Tuwhera website, which is accessible via the following link:

<https://ojs.aut.ac.nz/ata/index.php/ata>

This website also provides readers and researchers with back issues of the Journal going back to 2012.

November 2020 issue

The November 2020 issue of the Journal, with its theme “Wiwini Wawana Wehi Ihi – Terror in the Transference”, contains a range of papers exploring this theme, most of which were due to be presented at the planned March 2020 NZAP conference. Very sadly, in late March 2020, Aotearoa New Zealand entered Level 4 lockdown in response to the Covid-19 pandemic sweeping the world. In the same month, the Wellington branch of NZAP was due to host the NZAP national conference, celebrating the work and heart of NZAP and its members, and exploring the disturbing possibilities and creative potential of the conference theme, “Wiwini Wawana Wehi Ihi – Terror in the Transference.” Whilst some conference events were possible, including the delivery of the keynote addresses via Zoom by Dr Larry Hedges, sadly, most of the conference events, including presentations from psychotherapists based in Aotearoa New Zealand and in Australia, were cancelled, as the impact of Covid-19's arrival in Aotearoa New Zealand dawned upon us all. Whilst some of the planned conference presentations were subsequently offered via Zoom in 2020, the cancellation of much of the conference, and the rich embodied experience it would have offered conference participants, was a very painful decision for the NZAP Council, and particularly for the conference organisers. The grief of those losses and the cancellations these entailed were shared by us all.

In many ways, the papers which appear in the November 2020 issue of *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand* reflect the extraordinary mahi of the conference organisers and are a tribute to them, for all but one of these papers was due to be presented at the conference in Wellington. We offer our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Wellington conference organisers for the tremendous work they did in preparing for the conference, and for the offerings which were possible via Zoom. Whilst much of your work did not come to fruition in the way that had been planned, the creativity you brought to these challenging circumstances, and the work you undertook, enabled the papers that appear in the November 2020 issue of *Ata* and are a reflection of your endeavour, commitment, and aroha. Kia ora and thank you.

The Covid-19 pandemic and its terrifying consequences have invited us all to face the implications of an approach to life in which for so long we as human beings have assumed our superior dominion over the earth and the nonhuman world. The temptations of consumerism, technology, individualism and material wealth have seduced humanity to believe the fiction of our superiority. Covid-19 and its relationship to the climate crisis that we all face have, like Icarus, brought us shudderingly back to Papatūānuku. And with this crashing fall we face our tremendous collective fear and grief, as we

face the loss of the fantasy of a planet under our control. We meet instead the truth of our humanity: that the earth is not “our” planet, to be lived upon, dominated and owned, but rather that we are in and of the earth, that the human and nonhuman world are interdependent and inseparable, and that our lives are changing and must change, if we are to live a life that respects this intertwined interdependence. To do so we must grieve our losses, and face the future together, connected to the tenderness of our humanity and of the earth’s and our own vulnerability.

We suggest that the papers offered in the November 2020 issue of *Ata* provide a stimulating invitation to face our grief, to stay close to the terror, to stay close to each other and our relationship with the world. Each paper, despite considerable differences in approach and topic, invites the reader to explore the nature of destructiveness and the possibility that recognising our destructiveness may allow for greater creativity, as we face the losses, terrors and potentials that lie ahead and before us, clinically, and in our lives.

The November 2020 hard copy issue contains contributions from Violet Sherwood, Rod Sandle, Sean Manning and David Nichols, Jennifer De Leon, and John O’Connor. This issue is also currently in the process of being made available on the Tuwhera website.

Production costs

We are pleased that we have been able to reduce production costs over the last 12 months, particularly with a reduction in the costs associated with subediting.

Upcoming Ata Journal issues

We are planning the publication of two further issues of the Journal in 2021, one due to be published in July, and the second in late November or early December. We are currently calling for papers for these issues and encourage potential authors to contact John O’Connor on johnnygj@xtra.co.nz.

To note, whilst we were not able to publish work from the keynote speaker of the March 2020 NZAP conference, Dr Larry Hedges, in the most recent issue, Dr Hedges has kindly agreed for us to publish his work in the upcoming issue. In addition, we are hopeful of papers being submitted that arise out of the recent “Te Ipu Taiao – The Climate Crucible” webinar series.

A call for papers will soon be sent to NZAP members via Inform.

Appreciations

The production of the Ata Journal is the result of the hard work and dedicated mahi of many. We thank Hineira Woodard for her generous and expert work providing te reo Māori interpretations of the abstracts; tēnā koe, Hineira. Our deep thanks to our creative, skilful, unfailingly cheerful, and always punctual designer, Katy Yiakmis; tēnā koe, Katy. Thank you to Nikky Winchester who brings a keen eye for detail to the role of assistant editor. We are greatly appreciative of her dedicated contribution to the Journal: tēnā koe Nikky. We thank Trevor Pye for the artwork which appears on the cover of the most recent issue, November 2020. Trevor’s stunning work was originally designed as the logo for the March 2020 NZAP conference. It creatively captures the theme of the conference and of this issue, “Wiwini Wawana Wehi Ihi – Terror in the Transference”; tēnā koe, Trevor. Finally, we thank you, the reader (NZAP member or subscriber), for your continuing support of the Journal; we hope you find the Journal evocative, provocative, enjoyable, and engaging reading.

Conclusion

We the co-editors of the Journal, Wiremu Woodard and John O’Connor, are enjoying working together, in collaboration with writers with diverse perspectives in relation to psychotherapy, particularly within the Aotearoa New Zealand context. We are working well together as a team and

will continue to do so. We are looking forward to continuing to develop the Journal, and specifically the publication of the next two issues, both of which we anticipate will provide stimulating and engaging reading.

John O'Connor

Co-Editor, *Ata: Journal of Psychotherapy Aotearoa New Zealand*

(On behalf of Co-Editor Wiremu Woodard)