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Editorial

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Treasa Kenny

Broadening our Perspective

Editorial

by Treasa Kenny, Editor

This is my final issue as Editor. I would like to thank all those who have contributed to our knowledge and understanding through their articles - and to all those who have read and shared those articles. Producing a journal requires a real team effort and I would like to thank the Editorial Board, our Copy Editor, the Library staff in Maynooth University and Carmen Ruiz of the Kennedy Institute for Conflict Intervention.

This edition of our Journal brings together a fascinating collection of six articles and one book review. As always, please feel free to share the knowledge we offer in the **Journal of Mediation and Applied Conflict Analysis**. Details on the submission of articles are on our home page. Among the topics covered are:

- The work of the Traveller Mediation Service
- Dialogue between the Police and Community;
- Mediation with Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Families;
- Taking a restorative approach to online shaming;
- The fundamentals of interaction in mediation;
- Assessment of family mediation trainees in England and Wales;
- a review of Tony Whatling's book on 'Dealing with Disputes and Conflicts: a self-help tool-kit for resolving arguments in everyday life'.

Chris McDonagh and Aileen O'Brien's article on 'Mediation through a Cultural Lens: the work of the Traveller Mediation Service in context' gives an understanding of the work and methodology of the Traveller Mediation Service within the historical context of the Traveller community in Irish Society. The article offers a socio-cultural perspective on understanding conflict both within the Traveller community and in relationship to the wider community.

Ian Marder and his colleagues in their article ‘Restorative Circles for Police-Community Dialogue: a facilitation script from the UBUNTU Project in Dublin, Ireland’ presents and explains a script that the authors devised and used to facilitate a two-day dialogue process between six Gardaí (Irish police officers) and six young Black adults in Blanchardstown, Dublin, Ireland. Drawing on literature from the fields of restorative practices and dialogue, the paper recounts the four stages of the process delivered. .

G Overton’s article ‘The Uptake of Mediation for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic families’ reflects on the findings from research to determine the uptake of the mediation and support service from those of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds living in Edinburgh, and to compare this against the percentage of the population living in Edinburgh from BAME backgrounds.

Ciaran Kissane, in his article ‘Online Shaming: A Restorative Approach’, examines the concept of shame from a definitional and theoretical perspective including how the rapid growth and increasing dominance of online interactions have propagated a pandemic of online shaming due to the importance of ‘the virtual self’

Michael Tophoff’s article on ‘From Identity to Singularity: fundamentals of interaction in mediation’ offers his narrative on facets of identity formation as well as the destructive potential of fixed binary positions. It advises the mediator to overcome the divide that separates parties by appreciating their respective positions.

The final article, by **Amel Ketani** ‘Improving the Assessment of Family Mediation Trainees in England and Wales: a focus on the portfolio requirement’ considers how to make improvements to the current family mediation training in England and Wales in the way in which it assesses trainees.

Also in this issue, I review the book ‘Dealing with Disputes and Conflicts: a self-help tool-kit for resolving arguments in everyday life’, by Tony Whatling. This book resonates with the core themes of dialogue, engagement and skills development addressed through other articles in this issue.