



Editorial

Julie Hay

I am delighted to be welcoming you to the second issue of IJTAR - and to be able to report that we now have over 430 registered readers, which seems pretty good to me at this early stage of IJTAR's existence.

As in the first issue, we have variety in that we have papers from Germany and the UK; papers about transactional analysis theory, the impact of TA training, and the methodology of case studies; and the papers provide contrasts between an extensive quantitative study, a small quantitative study, and a paper providing information and encouragement to conduct and report on more case studies.

We begin with Lena Kornyeveva reporting on a major study, with N=1318 and subsamples of at least 200. Statistical analyses indicated support for the hypotheses that existential positions and acculturation styles are correlated – and that individuals who grew up in authoritarian rather than democratic cultures are more likely to hold negative existential positions.

It is worth noting that this paper reports on one aspect only of the author's research; other elements will be reported elsewhere and the author includes details in her paper of how to obtain her full PhD thesis as an e-book.

The second article is a collaborative study by 5 authors – Biljana van Rijn, Ciara Wild, Heather Fowle, Charlotte Sills and Servaas van Beekum - on the impact of transactional analysis psychotherapy training on self awareness and ability for contact of students. This is a naturalistic study with a relatively

small sample, that engages the subjects as co-researchers within an action research cycle. The study results indicate that self awareness and ability for contact did indeed increase during the training although the problem of denying training to a control group means that causality cannot be claimed.

This paper raises interesting questions about how we evaluate self awareness and ability for contact, and how self and supervisor assessment of these might be indicative of clinical practice.

The third paper in this issue, by Mark Widdowson, is a comprehensive overview of case study methodology, culminating in a call to the transactional analysis community to engage in more of this method of research so as to build up a database of results from which more general conclusions can be drawn.

The author has added his thoughts to an extensive collation of relevant information, so that a review of the strengths and criticisms of this methodology are followed by 'how to do it' suggestions and a helpful listing of various resources available for measuring outcomes and process. This paper is one that beginning researchers will definitely want to keep for reference.

So once again, thanks to the authors and our IJTAR reviewers, I am able to provide you with a stimulating issue for the start of our 2011 volume.

I wish you happy reading and welcome your feedback about the journal – and of course your article submissions for future issues.