

## EDITORIAL

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Since *Diffusion* was first launched in 2008, the importance of research at undergraduate level has certainly gained in significance. In the UK this is partly due to the encouragement provided by the British Conference of Undergraduate Research (BCUR), whose first conference was held at the University of Central Lancashire in 2011, and whose fifth (at Winchester on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015) is currently in preparation. However, I should like to think that the increasing number of UK undergraduate research journals that have emerged in recent years is also a result of the earlier, pioneering journals of this initiative, journals which include the University of Central Lancashire's *Diffusion*.

There is no doubt that the publication of undergraduate journals online has also contributed enormously to the awareness and practical application of research at undergraduate level, and to the dissemination of ideas and achievements across a global network. Students today have access to numerous examples of undergraduate work, which provide exemplars as well as food for thought and further inquiry. Knowledge sharing is crucial in the advancement of learning, not least in the specialised field. But the ability to stand back from the specific line of inquiry and recognise a place for that research in the wider context of current concerns is also highly beneficial, and this is one of the advantages of a multi-disciplinary journal such as *Diffusion*. Thus, as I introduce the eight articles which make up *Diffusion* 7:2, I am aware, not only of the high quality of work again demonstrated here (all eight of the contributors to this issue were awarded a first class honours degree), but of the engagement which these students have with topics that, although diverse in terms of discipline, are very much of current interest and wider significance.

The first contribution, Michael Kewley's Philosophy paper, addresses the moral dilemma of 'Fighting Justly in an Unjust War'. On the hundredth anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, this is a timely contribution and yet the subject remains of current relevance. For ongoing military conflicts and acts of terrorism continue to raise questions concerning justice and moral behaviour in war and whether justice *for war* (*jus ad bellum*) is a necessary condition of justice *in war* (*jus in bello*).

From Philosophy we turn to two papers from Counselling and Psychotherapy and one from Psychology. Diane Birrell examines 'Alcohol as a Selfobject in Alcohol Use Disorder', Jennifer Nelson considers the question: 'Could Debt be a result of Greed and Persecutory Anxiety?', and Kenneth

Connelly researches 'The Role of Metacognition within Social Anxiety Disorder'. These studies are a sharp reminder that in the twenty-first century, when many illnesses can be treated and cured, an increasing number of people are suffering from psychological disorders which remain extremely difficult to overcome. Some of these conditions affect members of the student community, making these research papers all the more relevant in this context.

The fifth article included in *Diffusion* 7:2 is concerned with actual healthcare services, another topic of current interest, as the National Health Service in the UK is being continually held under scrutiny from varying perspectives. Here, from Sociology, Kirstie Blaik reviews 'The Human Rights Implications of the North American Model of Healthcare', identifying the ways in which this system is currently failing many American citizens by discriminating between rich and poor. As a result, according to this research, one of the richest countries in the world is falling short in terms of certain basic human rights.

The next article shifts the focus from the USA back to the University of Central Lancashire's home ground and the problem of domestic violence. From Social Work, Estelle Catherine Munro provides 'A Case study of Domestic Violence and the African-Caribbean Community in Preston and Surrounding Areas'. This local study analyses the results of a recent questionnaire, completed by a small sample from the Preston African-Caribbean community, within the wider context of published research in the field. The analysis identifies existing difficulties and important areas for further research which might lead to improvements in the use of facilities currently available for victims and their families.

To complete this issue we have included two papers from Forensic Linguistics. Farzana Choudhury analyses the language, extracted from a television interview, of murderer Jodi Arias, in order to address the question: 'Can Language be Useful in Detecting Deception?', and Sumayya Mulla provides 'A Study of "Idea" Plagiarism in Two Undergraduate Students' Emails'. Of course plagiarism itself is a subject which concerns all students, but recent advances in forensic investigation have brought criminality and forensic science to wider public attention, not least via the numerous television dramas which, sometimes rather gruesomely, present both real and imagined cases. These two articles apply forensic methods of investigation to different forms of deceit conveyed by language. The first examines the spoken language of a known liar and the second analyses plagiarised writing; both reveal some interesting and very telling results.

All the articles in *Diffusion* 7:2 were written in the final year of an undergraduate programme, and each demonstrates the level of achievement possible when hard work, dedication and independent thinking are combined. I hope that student readers of this issue, whether drawn to articles in their own subject areas, or tempted by those of wider interest, will find the work published here both engaging and enlightening, and will subsequently be inspired in their own intellectual endeavours.