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Editorial

Change in editorial leadership and publication delay

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EDITORIAL NOTE ON A CHANGE IN EDITORIAL LEADERSHIP

It is with great regret that I must inform you that our Editor-in-Chief, Daina Crafa, has stepped down from her role at the journal. She will provide her own reflections on this decision in a forthcoming issue, and I will therefore limit my remarks here. What can be stated without reservation is that Daina has brought renewed vitality to the journal. She introduced substantial improvements across its technical infrastructure, organizational processes, and scholarly content. Under her leadership, a new editorial board was established, and she successfully engaged a broad range of authors to contribute to the journal. With the support of the editorial board and our reviewers—and in particular thanks to the indispensable behind-the-scenes work of our editorial assistant, Fatemeh—I have temporarily resumed editorial leadership, enabling us to bring this issue to publication. More from and about Daina Crafa will follow in one of our upcoming issues. We extend our sincere gratitude to Daina for her outstanding contributions to the journal and to the field of cultural psychiatry.

CURRENT ISSUE

The letter by Wolthusen and colleagues offers a timely and rigorously argued endorsement of equity as a foundational principle in global mental health scholarship, rather than a peripheral concern. By applying a socioecological model, the authors move the debate beyond rhetoric toward

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actionable, measurable reforms across intrapersonal, interpersonal, and institutional levels. Their analysis compellingly exposes how structural barriers—particularly visa regimes and financial constraints—undermine the very knowledge exchange that global conferences claim to promote. This work stands as a persuasive call for global mental health institutions to align their practices with their professed commitments to equity and representation. This paper should and has to be discussed within the WACP board as well as beyond.

Kupriyanova and colleagues provide a valuable and methodologically grounded contribution to cultural psychiatry by illuminating how coping strategies among children and adolescents with disabilities are shaped by ethnocultural context. By linking empirical findings to concrete psychotherapeutic and rehabilitative implications, the study bridges research and practice in a way that is often missing in cross-cultural mental health work.

Osada and Ueno offer a nuanced and timely contribution to family and cultural psychiatry by capturing how Japanese families navigated uncertainty, anxiety, and adaptation during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. By situating family functioning within cultural and social contexts specific to Japan, the authors enrich global understandings of disaster-related mental health.

Lee delivers a rigorous and culturally attuned analysis that deepens our understanding of how modernization, place, and values intersect to shape depression in South Korea. The clear demonstration of greater depressive severity in less urban regions highlights an urgent and often overlooked equity gap in mental health care access. Equally compelling is the identification of horizontal collectivism as a protective factor, offering culturally grounded insight into resilience amid social change.

Gómez Cangas and colleagues offer a powerful and ethically grounded contribution by centering migrant youth voices through a participatory photovoice methodology. The study moves beyond deficit-based narratives to reveal how resilience, cultural worldview, and collective responsibility shaped young migrants' coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. By documenting both psychological vulnerability and adaptive strength, the authors present a nuanced account that challenges simplistic portrayals of migrant mental health.

It is my earnest hope that the articles featured in this edition of the Cultural Psychiatry Research Review will be of significant benefit to both professionals and aficionados within the discipline. Your insightful feedback regarding the published contributions, as well as your willingness to share your specialized research, will undeniably serve as a profound source of inspiration and encouragement for the continued advancement of our scholarly endeavors.