

Editors' farewell

It is with great sadness that we take our leave of the editorship of the *Women's Studies Journal*. Along with Rachel Simon-Kumar, we took on this role in May 2013, with the predictably steep learning curve. Our first issue – a double issue – was published at the end of that year, and we'll admit it left us a little shell-shocked. We've certainly gained a new respect for journal editors in general – this job involves a myriad of things you don't even consider until they're suddenly a problem. However, the three of us comprised a mutually supportive team, and with each subsequent issue we learnt new things, developed new systems, and honed our expertise.

It isn't overstating things to say it's been a privilege to be at the helm of the *WSJ* for these years. We've worked with some wonderful people as authors, as reviewers, and as the production team, maintaining the publication as one of the critical voices of feminism in Aotearoa/New Zealand that it has always been. In a time in which women's studies programmes around the country are being disestablished (most recently here at the University of Waikato), this voice has taken on a new significance.

We are particularly proud of the graduate students who have contributed to the *WSJ* – fostering the work of young feminists has been one of the real joys of this role, and their writing brings a lively spark to the journal. The two publications in this issue that resulted from this year's *Women's Studies Journal* Graduate Prize for a Feminist Essay are just the most recent examples of this. This year's theme was 'intersectional feminism', and Leola Murphy's winning essay provides an excellent example of the application of the work of Sarah Ahmed to the context of Aotearoa/New Zealand, with a focus on mana wāhine. We have again also published the runner up, Emma Blackett's piece on the Women for Trump group, which demonstrates both excellent scholarship and timely consideration of the ways in which women explain their support of Donald Trump, often saying this is a 'feminist' act. The fact that both a winner and a runner up are again being published this year is a testament to the strong feminist work being done by graduate students in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and the panel commends both the students and their lecturers or supervisors.

Of course, we extend our warmest gratitude to the Women's Studies Association (NZ)/Pae Akoranga Wāhine for their support, both material and in spirit, during our tenure. Working with the Association, and especially with Hilary Lapsley, has been a pleasure. We hope that the incoming collective enjoy that relationship as much as we have.

And that leads us to offer our congratulations to the new editorial collective, who at the time of writing could still not be named. We were delighted by the number of expressions of interest that were submitted in taking over this role, and all the groups made very strong applications. We felt that the level of interest was a clear indication that the *WSJ* is in good heart, and we wish the new collective the very best. It isn't an easy thing to take on, but it is immensely rewarding, and we will definitely have a gap left in our lives.

Finally, thanks to the readership – new, older, sporadic, dedicated. A journal is nothing without its readers.

Aroha nui,

Johanna Schmidt and Carolyn Michelle, Women's Studies Journal co-editors