

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second issue of volume nine of Sites. In this issue we continue to feature a diverse range of writings, with a distinct New Zealand focus. In addition to elucidating some of the current debates surrounding illness, identity and nationalism, the current papers make a substantive contribution to methodological considerations in contemporary ethnographic fieldwork.

The first article in this issue by Trnka and McLauchlan argues that parent-experts play a fundamental role in managing and normalising childhood asthma in New Zealand, highlighting a global trend of ever-increasing patient ‘responsibilization’ and self-reliance. The contribution by Turner explores New Zealand’s first reggae album and highlights some of the salient political and social events referenced in the Herbs’ debut EP. In another historical analysis, Milosavljevic and Johnson explore how community organisations have contributed to the proliferation of Scottish Highland bagpiping and the interplay between local, national, and global organisations. Grimshaw’s article provides a perceptive reflection on Pakeha identity in New Zealand, arguing that ‘Pakeha’ is a distinctly modernist construction that developed in the mid-twentieth century. A further study focusing on identity in contemporary New Zealand is the article by Dobson. This study cogently elucidates the effects of conflict discourses and stereotypes on the lives of Muslim women living in New Zealand and highlights the complexity (and dynamism) of identity creation. The last two contributions in this issue provide valuable methodological contributions to contemporary ethnographic research. In her reflexive account of fieldwork, Gibson highlights the centrality of serendipity and fieldwork difficulties in shaping ethnographic inquiry. Finally, McGuirk provides a comprehensive literature review of Participatory Action Research in New Zealand, emphasising the benefits of incorporating these research frameworks into ethnographic studies.

My sincerest thanks to Allison Brown (University of Otago Central Library) and Ruth Fitzgerald (University of Otago) for their efforts in implementing a number of infrastructural changes at Sites. All Sites’ articles will now be

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assigned a DOI (digital object identifier), which is used to identify electronic documents and provide article metadata (including location).

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Cyril Schäfer
General Editor