

Feedback for ANZJFT

Each year, the British *Journal of Family Therapy* offers a lengthy review of worldwide family therapy journals. This review, now conducted by Alan Carr, refers to 'particularly significant papers' and also to 'less significant, but representative articles' in certain key areas (399).

On this page, we have selected those of Carr's comments which highlight ANZJFT papers published in 2004. Under the heading 'Innovations in family therapy', he remarks that '... in two articles Gallagher (2004a, 2004b) provided sound guidance on working with parents victimized by their children'. In his paragraph, 'Making family therapy more accessible', appears Andrew Fuller's paper written some years back, but not previously published:

Fuller (2004) in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Family Therapy* (ANZJFT) described a model of home-based family therapy for families experiencing psychiatric crises. The model involves using specific engagement strategies, problem-solving to manage crises, and practices to address safety issues (405).

Among the papers listed under 'Therapeutic relationship in couples therapy' (406), he notes that:

Flaskas (2004) in the ANZJFT reviewed multiple conceptualisation of therapeutic relationships within the field of marital and family therapy, and her paper offers a useful overview of these key issues: the adoption of collaborative style; adopting positions of curiosity and not-knowing; listening and witnessing; practices of transparency and the therapist's use of self; and addressing therapeutic impasses and failures (406).

ANZJFT authors had two entries under the 'Gender' heading.

In ANZJFT there were two important issues on lesbian parenting. Perlesz and McNair (2004) in a study of 151 Australian lesbian parents found that despite the constraints and challenges of living within a heteronormative and homophobic society and dealing with discrimination and legal, political and social non-legitimation, the group of lesbian parents they studied expressed great pride in raising well-adjusted and happy children. They also described their families as thoughtfully planned, proud, accepting and celebratory of diversity and difference, flexible in gender roles, and as having interesting, supportive, extended kinship networks that included a wide range of positive role models for their children ... In Telford's (2004) paper on therapy with lesbian couples, she argued that to be effective and ethical, therapists must be aware of their own views, fears and assumptions about homosexuality, and the ways that society, including the world of therapy, still subjugates same-sex relationships (409).

And again, two entries under the heading 'Multicultural clinical practices':

Orathinkal and Vansteenwegen (2004) in ANZJFT presented an approach to working with Melanesian families (from Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands) which takes into consideration Melanesian worldviews, values and social systems, and is grounded in a traditional 'mediation-reconciliation ritual' model of solving family or couple conflicts. The model is particularly suited to working with families in which domestic violence has occurred, which is a frequent problem in Melanesian families. Lidchi *et al.* (2004) in ANZJFT described using family biograms with families forcibly displaced in Colombia. Biograms map changes over time, including the experiences leading up to the family's flight, the consequences of that flight, and the meaning the family gives to its changed situation, as well as the family's resources for re-establishing itself in a new culture. Common themes may be extrapolated from biograms, and these qualitative research findings may be used to help agencies plan larger scale interventions (411).

The ANZJFT features three times under the heading 'Historical transitions', and twice in the list of obituaries (Brian Cade is listed among the many who wrote an obituary for Cecchin):

Margaret Topham (1927–2004), a founding figure in Austrian [sic] family therapy, died in 2004. Her achievements have been remembered in obituaries by Jim Crawley, Ann Stark and Mike Locke (Tributes to Margaret Topham, 2004) and Max Cornwell (2004). She was the first Australian family therapist in full-time private practice, the first person to introduce family therapy to the Australian media, and an influential and gifted therapist (414–415).

The third appearance under this heading is:

Twenty-five years of the ANZJFT. The year 2004 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of ANZJFT which was founded in 1979 by Brian Stagoll, Moshe Lang, Graham Martin and Michael White (415).

(Before the alarm bells go off, Graham Martin's elevation to be the fourth man in the pub comes from a rapid reading of Anne Sved-Williams' Editorial in 25, 1. Graham worked extremely hard in the early days of the Journal, in Adelaide, Anne's city. Hence the error. In fact, the fourth 'man in the pub' was Peter Churven!)

Reference

Carr, Alan, 2005. Thematic Review of Family Therapy Journals in 2004, *Journal of Family Therapy*, 27, 4: 399–421.