

Editorial

By **Richard House**
Magazine Editor

Welcome, one and all, to the second issue of the AHP online 'magazine' (as we're now calling it) for *Self & Society*. We think we have another bumper issue for readers.

The first thing to say is that there's *still* too much of me! I'm not comfortable with including my own pieces and making the requisite editorial decisions so to do, and my wish and intention is to reduce my input to the magazine, as we attract more contributors. But we're still suffering from a backlog of material for *Self & Society* journal, and the two very lengthy interviews included here were conducted several years ago – so it feels very important to get these into the public sphere as soon as possible. Much thanks go to Professors Ernesto Spinelli and Sami Timimi for their great patience in waiting for all the work they put into these interviews coming to publishing fruition in this issue.

Before introducing the magazine contents, a brief note about our **AHP events for 2019**. We are currently planning a series of humanistic café-style events in London in 2019, culminating in a conference in September, focusing on the relationship between Humanistic Psychology and what's happening in the world today. We envisage Wednesday evening meetings, with bring-and-share catering, well-known speakers and ample networking opportunities. Series title: '**Engaging Our Hearts in Dangerous Times**'. Our first workshop leader on Wed 20 March will be the excellent **Caroline Brazier**, course leader of the Tariki Psychotherapy Training Programme and the Ten Directions ecotherapy training, and an old friend of the AHP and *Self & Society*. Watch this space for more details...

And so to the issue itself. We begin with six richly diverse articles. First, we are delighted and excited to be publishing as an exclusive the full transcript of a speech that **Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield** gave in the UK House of Lords cross-bench debate of 17 January 2019, on the theme: 'Baroness Kidron to move that this House takes note of the relationship between the use of digital technology and the health and wellbeing of children and young people'. This is an issue that's thankfully receiving increasing attention in our technology-addicted culture, and as always Susan has the courage to go to places on these issues that hardly any other mainstream

scientists are prepared to.

Secondly, from the USA, in the first of a two-part article, **Eliot Benjamin** takes us on a journey into the heart of politics and Humanistic Psychology in 'the era of Trump', enabling us to reflect deeply on whether, and if so how, politics sits with Humanistic Psychology's commitments and praxis.

Next, in 'Happiness, Austerity and Malignant Individualism', we have a prescient paper by **Philip Thomas** and **Tamasin Knight** which looks at how, in austerity Britain, the psychological therapies have been recruited in ethically highly dubious ways in order to support a government back-to-work agenda.

On a not-unrelated theme, we are honoured to be publishing intrepid researcher and celebrated writer on Britain's welfare state, **Mo Stewart's**, seminar text that she presented at the University of Liverpool last September – being an uncompromising whistle-stop tour of the modern democratic and moral outrage that is the UK Conservative government's benefits policy towards the country's disabled citizens.

Then, in 'The Heart's Journey', recently deceased and much-missed poet **Jay Ramsay** gives us a deeply evocative poetic article in which Jay expresses what most if not all humanistic and transpersonal practitioners know, i.e. that 'All mind-work now needs to be heart-work... the heart's journey is the only way for us'. And 'Hatred only divides, and further divides (like splits in the psyche): only the heart can re-unite.' Amen to that.

And in our sixth article, 'Three Kinds of Madness', **Serge Beddington-Behrens**, who chaired the plenary session beautifully at last year's June AHPb London conference on 'Love, Madness and Transformation', has written a reflective piece inspired by the conference, in which he eloquently describes three kinds of 'madness' – 'cuckoo', 'divine' and 'normal' – with by far the most dangerous of the three being the latter.

Next, we have two major interviews with two eminent and esteemed professors – **Ernesto Spinelli** and **Sami Timimi** – who might not wish to don the label 'humanistic', yet whose

critical and incisive insights into therapy and psychiatry, respectively, have much to say that coheres with a humanistic approach and worldview. We hope these enlightening interviews can be widely read across the psy field.

Following this, in our regular series 'How Humanistic Psychology Has Changed My Life', two old friends of *Self & Society*, **Nick Duffell** and **Jennifer Maidman**, describe their personal and professional journeys in and with Humanistic Psychology. *Please contact the editor* if you would like to contribute to this excellent series (around 1,000 words, which can be as discursive and personal as you wish).

Next, we engage with a new 'social (political/cultural/spiritual) movement' that is taking the globe by storm – Extinction Rebellion (XR). First, we offer a mini-symposium about the new movement, with a position article by XR activist **Skeena Rathor**, and with commentaries by **Denis Postle** and **Nicola Saunders**. We also include the texts of two multiple-signatory press letters on XR that were published in the *Guardian* newspaper in September and December 2018, which set out the crisis context in which XR has been founded.

We also start a new regular feature in this issue, viz. 'Zohar's Mystic Humanistic Agony Column', in which long-standing AHP friend **Dina Zohar Glouberman** responds to readers' questions. Again, if you have a question that you'd like Zohar to grapple with, do please send it to me at the email below.

In 2017 the music world lost a virtuoso musician who had a massive influence on modern jazz and rock music – the great **Allan Holdsworth**. As the box-set title of Allan's work rightly has it, 'The Man Who Changed Guitar Forever!'. At the time I asked jazz-fusion and World Music legend **John McLaughlin** to send us some thoughts about Allan, which we're delighted to publish here. I also include my own review of the Soft Machine album 'Bundles' (1975), which includes my own reminiscences of first encountering Allan live in 1974.

We're then delighted to include a letter from **Gaie Houston** reminiscing on the early days of *Self & Society* and our dear now-departed John Rowan's contribution.

We also have a number of interesting book reviews. Our poetry editor **Julian Nangle** first reviews Lynne Wycherley's acclaimed poetry anthology *The Testimony of the Trees*. Next, we have a long and characteristically thoughtful review of a classic book on Nietzsche and education, by **Onel Brooks**. **Roger Duncan** then reviews an exciting new book that presages the ecological direction in which education and schooling must go, if we are to have a remotely sustainable future as a species. **Graham Mummery** then reviews Dina Zohar Glouberman's autobiography *Love, Madness and Transformation*. And

finally, I include two short reviews of my own of books on psychotherapy's role in medicine and healing, and on the audit-culture assaults on our beleaguered school teachers.

As usual, we end with poetry: a poem by **Graham Mummery** inspired by Jean Gebser; and two poems from **Jay Ramsay**, including one for Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn. More editorial words about Jay are in order at this point. Jay died peacefully, aged 60, in his new county home of Devon just after Christmas, and the world has lost a great poet and a great man. I wish to remind subscribers and members of the brave and magnificent conference talk that Jay gave us last July – which, if you've not seen it yet, recounts his personal journey with cancer in a poetic and brutally honest, searing way. This riveting talk can be viewed at goo.gl/wfP8ZL (with a full written transcript at goo.gl/wW5Lcc), and is around 26 minutes long. Truly a must-watch.

In addition, in his final months Jay wrote an extraordinary book of poetry (with Martin Palmer) – *The Dangerous Book: The Bible as You've Never Seen It*, in which Jay put the whole of the bible story to poetry – 560 pages of poetry in all. 'Prolific and inspired' doesn't begin to get anywhere near describing what this extraordinary book represents. Bel Mooney made Jay's book her Book of the Year in the *Daily Mail* (see goo.gl/WJfGse), where she wrote this: 'My award for the bravest, most unusual and exhilarating volume goes to Jay Ramsay. I'd read Ramsay's poetry before – but nothing like this. He's been bold enough to take the Holy Bible and re-imagine it afresh in poetry, prose and drama. Muscular, exciting, controversial and beautiful, this takes the Bible out of church and offers it back to everybody.' We will be reviewing Jay's *Dangerous Book* in the next issue of the magazine and of *Self & Society*.

Rest In Peace, great man.

And finally in this already over-long editorial – an **Erratum**. In the previous issue, the poem 'And It Will Become Manyfold' was attributed to Graham Mummery. In fact, this was Graham's translation of a poem by **Jean Gebser**. My apologies for this error.

I think there will something for everyone in this second issue of our online offering, and lots to interest many of you. Please send me contributions for the summer issue at the email below; thank you.

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