



## Editorial

By **Richard House**  
Magazine Editor

Welcome to the 4<sup>th</sup> issue of our online AHP Magazine for *Self & Society*. I want to start with a confession and an apology. This issue is labelled ‘Winter 2019–20’, and I had intended to have it completed and sent out to subscribers by the end of 2019. However, the small matter of a British general election intruded on to the scene; and I was personally so shattered by the result of that election that it has taken me quite some weeks to recover, and feel able to embark on the considerable task of putting the magazine together. All things considered, it feels quite some achievement to have got it out in early February; but I owe everyone a sincere apology for the lateness of this issue appearing in your inbox.

Better news is that I think it’s a great issue, with a lot of diverse, high-quality content. First and foremost, I’m delighted to include in this issue a major theme symposium on supervision, guest-edited by an old friend of S&S and Humanistic Psychology, **Robin Shohet**. Robin and his partner Joan have been running a characteristically innovative supervision diploma course, and one of the course conditions for certification was that trainees have an article published on supervision – hence this special theme issue of their students’ papers, which helps to satisfy one of the conditions of the diploma. Robin and Joan’s

new forthcoming book, *In Love with Supervision*, captures very clearly the notion that supervision (or ‘inter-vision’, as some have suggested it would be better to call it) is a deeply relational experience, and not one of managerialist surveillance. I will leave Robin to introduce the eight articles – but suffice to say here that together they display a richness, diversity and deeply thoughtful engagement with the supervision experience that will be of great interest to anyone working therapeutically in the field. My thanks to all for gracing this issue of our magazine so engagingly.

The remainder of this issue includes articles, interviews, review essays, reviews and poetry on a diverse range of themes – all of which will be of interest to humanistic practitioners, scholars and lay readers. First, we are delighted to include two inspiring articles on education written from a humanistic-ethos perspective – with **Faysal Mikdada** sharing some deep wisdom about learning and schooling drawing on his life as a teacher, and **Richard Brinton** offering some witheringly critical views on England’s school inspectorate, Ofsted.

Next, we have another characteristically visionary article from Extinction Rebellion co-founder, **Skeena Rathor-Finebaum**, titled ‘A

Love Letter from the Future’ – the theme of which will be self-explanatory.

Next, we warmly welcome another exciting new writer in the magazine – **Daniel Tilsley** from UEA’s Philosophy Department. Daniel’s research specialism is in the area of film, and in his extended review essay on John Carpenter’s film *In the Mouth of Madness* (1994), he shows how film can take us into realms and depths that are the very stuff of Humanistic Psychology, like freedom, and the inherent fragility in our ways of seeing in the world – and with the film medium itself functioning as a form of therapy.

Next, in another review essay, I delve into a new book by Steffen Mau on the so-called ‘metric society’, which raises profound questions about the trajectory of modern technological society, and the rise of the Audit Culture and its associated ‘quantification of the social’ that is increasingly colonising our lives – usually by stealth and the cultivation of addiction, and without any serious and informed public debate.

Two manageably short interviews then follow – one with 5G technology authority **Michael Bevington**, and the other with therapist **Gavin Robinson** looking at some specifically psychological and psychodynamic insights into the anti-Semitism phenomenon in British politics.

We always strive to provide you with a wide range of interesting and relevant reviews in this magazine. In this issue, we have reviews of Manu Bazzano’s *Nietzsche and Psychotherapy*, Naomi Klein’s *This Changes Everything*, Rupert Read’s *A Film-Philosophy of Ecology and Enlightenment*, Marianne Williamson’s *A Politics of Love*, *The Routledge Handbook of Food as a Commons*, and

another review of Julian Nangle’s poetry collection, *Poppy and Other Poems of Grief and Celebration*.

Add to this some splendid poetry from long-standing AHP friends **Julian Nangle** and **Brian Thorne**, and I hope that there will be again something for everyone, and a substantial amount of interest to most readers.

Can I draw your attention, finally, to an excellent forthcoming PCSR/Free Psychotherapy Network conference in Birmingham in early May, titled ‘People Not Pathology: Humanising Counselling and Psychotherapy’. Certainly one to get readers’ juices flowing – full details below!

The preparation for the first of our new-design Spring *Self & Society* magazine is already well advanced – and we look forward to this latest incarnation of S&S plopping on to your doormats in April or May. And great thanks are due to our stalwart designer and general expert on all-things-technical, **Adrian Barker**, without whose tireless help you wouldn’t be reading this now. Thank you, Adrian. And equally indispensable are all our wonderful contributors, without whom, again, this magazine wouldn’t exist. Any readers with ideas for future issues – please email at the address below.

Happy, interesting and challenging reading to one and all.

Richard House  
Stroud, February 2020  
[richardahouse@hotmail.com](mailto:richardahouse@hotmail.com)