

EDITORIAL

Voices from Around the Globe

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JSAA has been seeking to provide an opportunity for Student Affairs professionals and higher education scholars from around the globe to share their research and experiences of student services and student affairs programmes from their respective regional and institutional contexts. This has been given a specific platform with the guest-edited issue “Voices from Around the Globe” which is the result of a collaboration with the International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS), and particularly with the guest editors, Kathleen Callahan and Chinedu Mba.

In this respect, we are pleased that the present issue highlights the intersection of global and local issues in Student Affairs, and of debates around local professionalisation and epistemic-discursive communities of practice in Student Affairs. Global and local issues are not so much about the spatial but the framework and lens of Student Affairs, which simultaneously aim to be locally relevant and embedded, *and* globally referenced to an overarching set of guidelines abstracted from the local and articulated at the global. Correspondingly it is instructive to invoke the notion of the *Global Gemeinschaft* (Robertson, 1995) as one community in the world, with many communities inherent within it; the notion that new identity is shaped by global-international and global-local influences on the epistemic-discursive community of Student Affairs (Castell, 1997). Furthermore, the *JSAA*-IASAS collaborative issue also brings into focus global trends and their local expression, including the reorganisation of knowledge in Student Affairs in relation to changing local realities. By foregrounding Botswana, China, South Africa and the USA, a comparative discourse is set up which is part of the global.

Callahan and Mba’s guest editorial provides a succinct overview of the guest-edited articles in the issue. We are particularly glad that several of them address matters directly related to the professionalisation of Student Affairs in their respective contexts: on the history, challenges and solution to professionalisation in China, on standard setting and

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quality assurance in Botswana, and on the development of a sister journal to *JSAA*, the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Student Affairs* in the Philippines. In addition, we add to the guest-edited collection the article by Arega Bazezew and Mulugeta Neka on incidents of, causes for, and the management of interpersonal conflicts among undergraduate students at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia.

Finally, it is a great achievement to be credited to our authors, reviewers and editors that since January 2017, the *Journal of Student Affairs in Africa* is accredited in South Africa by the national Department of Higher Education and Training as a subsidy-earning scholarly journal on the SA-list of accredited journals. This means that authors affiliated to South African universities can submit their peer-reviewed articles, i.e. research articles and reflective practice articles, as recognised research outputs for subsidy purposes. Furthermore, *JSAA* is now also fully indexed and full-text available from the Education Resources Information Centre (ERIC) in addition to our co-hosting with African Journals Online (AJOL) and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ).

References

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