

Editorial Policy, Statement of Initiatives, and Announcement of Associate Editors

Since 1973, when the *American Journal of Community Psychology* was founded by Charles D. Spielberger, it has been devoted to fostering the scholarly pursuit of those ideas critical to the development of community psychology. As the newly appointed Editor, I look forward to the opportunity and challenge this offers. My term runs from January 1, 1993 through December 31, 1997. Effective immediately, all manuscripts and related communications regarding the journal should be directed to me. I have profited greatly from Julian Rappaport's help in making the transition to Editor, and hope that when my term ends I can be as useful to the succeeding Editor as he has been to me. The primary purpose of this statement is to provide a reaffirmation of the basic mission of the journal and to provide an overview of the kinds of initiatives I intend to support and hopefully nurture during my tenure as Editor. First, however, I want to welcome a new group of community psychologists who have agreed to join me as Associate Editors during the next 5 years.

During Julian Rappaport's tenure as Editor, Associate Editors were selected to nurture specific topical interest areas, including environmental/ecological psychology, legal issues, social policy, methodology, underrepresented populations, and innovative programs. A separate monographs editors was also appointed. The journal remains interested in those content areas and in the concept of monographs, but upon consultation with this group of Associate Editors, I have decided to revise the Associate Editor structure. Rather than select individuals to nurture discrete content areas, I have asked four outstanding community psychologists to join me as a working group during the next 5 years. The tasks of the Associate Editors will be twofold. First, they will serve as action editors for a portion of the manuscripts submitted to the journal. Second, they will work collaboratively with me to plan initiatives which the journal will undertake. These initiatives may take the form of special sections or special issues, calls for papers on select topics, and possible collaborations with

other APA Divisions or interest groups to pursue topics of interest to community psychology.

I am very pleased to announce that Ana Mari Cauce, Irwin N. Sandler, Marybeth Shinn, and Melvin N. Wilson have agreed to serve as Associate Editors of the journal for the next 5 years. I look forward to working with them, and deeply appreciate their willingness to give of their time and ideas.

MISSION OF THE JOURNAL

The primary mission of the *American Journal of Community Psychology* (AJCP) has not changed since its inception. Under Editors Charles Spielberger, John Glidewell, and Julian Rappaport it has been devoted to fostering scholarly dialogue and debate around issues of theory, empirical research, and intervention in the field of community psychology. Since its formal inception in the 1960s, community psychology has evolved in varied directions and has refused to accept artificial boundaries on its domain of inquiry. The function of the journal has been and will continue to be one of both documenting and influencing this evolution. As the official journal of Division 27 of the American Psychological Association, the Society for Community Research and Action, the contents of the journal should reflect the issues of both common cause and disagreement among members of the field. Consistent with the name of the Society, the journal should foster an understanding of the interdependence of research and practice and should seek out ways to engage these varied perspectives in scholarly debate. I intend to pursue this more general goal as Editor.

Recently I met with the Associate Editors to discuss journal editorial policy. We agreed to continue several aspects of current policy. These include the continuation of the student editorial board; the interest in publishing monographs reporting programmatic research, interventions, or case studies as well as individual articles; and the practice of having select articles serve as the centerpiece for responses from other members of the field. We agreed to continue the mentoring program under the direction of Ana Mari Cauce (see AJCP, Vol. 18, pp. 767-768, for a program description). We also reaffirmed that topics appropriate for the journal included those outlined in Julian Rappaport's 1988 statement of editorial policy: I reproduce it here because its spirit and intent continues:

Topics appropriate for publication in the *American Journal of Community Psychology* include but are not limited to: individual and community mental and physical health; educational, legal, and work environment processes, policies, and opportunities; social welfare and social justice. Studies of social problems, broadly defined, as well

as evaluations of interventions, are welcomed. Both quantitative and qualitative research are appropriate. Quality of conception and methods appropriate to the question asked and to the current state of knowledge are more important than any particular methodology. A variety of levels of analysis are appropriate, including societal, neighborhood, organizational, group, and individual. Papers concerned with prevention of problems in living, promotion of emotional and physical health, well being and competence, empowerment of marginal groups, collective social action, social networks, institutional and organizational change, self and mutual help, and community based interventions such as collaborative research, advocacy, consultation, training, and planning are welcomed. Although not limited to those areas, *American Journal of Community Psychology* seeks manuscripts concerned with underrepresented populations (such as women, ethnic minorities, and the physically disabled), social policy, innovative programs and methodologies, and studies which foster interrelationships between law, ecological, environmental, and community psychology. (AJCP, 16, 154-155)

I hope especially to stimulate articles in three areas where community psychology has not fulfilled its initial mission: papers on the implications of human diversity for community psychology, reports of research and intervention which go beyond the individual level of analysis, and papers concerned with redefining the research relationship between scholar and citizen in a more collaborative direction. In this spirit, the Associate Editors and I have agreed to support a greater focus on context in the reporting of both research and intervention. We encourage authors to describe the nature of the settings where the work occurs, the relationship of the professional to the settings, who the research participants are, the nature and impact of feedback to participants, and the impact of the work on settings as well as individuals. Our belief is that such information will nurture good science in community psychology by providing data relevant to a more comprehensive understanding of the findings and their ecological validity. It further represents a commitment to value multiple ways of knowing and to descriptive as well as hypothesis-testing work. We realize that providing such information will often require additional journal space. We expect to engage in an ongoing dialogue with authors and the field about what contextual data are most meaningful. I welcome ideas, proposals, and conversations about both how best to include context in research reports and how the journal can play a constructive role in nurturing underdeveloped areas in community psychology.

CALL FOR REVIEWERS

The above agenda requires the development of both an editorial board and a number of ad hoc editorial consultants with a broad range of professional knowledge bases and interests. These interests should span

both methodological and substantive concerns; they require the contributions of individuals committed to issues of human diversity, interdisciplinary collaboration, and social ethics; they necessitate a broadening of who is included in the community psychology dialogue. In addition to my efforts and those of the Associate Editors in stimulating such participation, I encourage either self-nominations or the nomination of individuals who could contribute in an editorial role. Such correspondence should include both a statement of interest and, where possible, an accompanying vita.

Finally, scholarly journals must and should reflect the ongoing work of members of the field. Thus, the journal's primary responsibility is to that work submitted by researchers and practitioners and reviewed by their peers. However, the journal also encourages those with ideas about creating special sections or special issues of the journal devoted to topics of relevance to community psychology to contact the Editor or any of the Associate Editors. Such participation is not only welcomed but also critical if the journal is to reflect the important issues of the day and energize community psychologists to contribute to scholarly dialogue about the implications of these issues.

Edison J. Trickett
Editor