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Editorial

Claudia Psaila and Andreana Dibben

Outgoing and incoming Editor-in-Chief

The pursuit of social wellbeing in our contemporary world is a continued negotiation between personal resilience and the socio-political and ecological forces that shape, and often strain, our lives. Increasingly, wellbeing is defined by our capacity to engage with complexity, adapt meaningfully, and find possibility in the face of disruption. This volume of Studies in Social Wellbeing gathers contributions that address such experience of adaptation and resilience with nuance, sensitivity, and intellectual rigour. Each article invites us to dwell within the uncomfortable spaces of disruption and to attend to the ways individuals and communities strive for coherence, connection, and justice.

This issue is also marked by a shift in the journal's editorial leadership. Dr Claudia Psaila concludes her time as editor-in-chief, having led the journal with care and commitment during a time of transition. Dr Andreana Dibben now takes up the role, with a continued commitment to interdisciplinary, critical, and socially engaged scholarship. We write this editorial together, in a spirit of continuity, mutual respect, and a shared belief in the power of research to intervene in the conditions that structure lives.

The opening article by Laurenti and Darmanin Kissaun explores the deeply personal experiences of non-offending caregivers following the disclosure of child sexual abuse (pp. 8 - 40). Using a phenomenological lens, the authors trace the trauma, guilt, and grief endured by caregivers navigating the shock of disclosure, giving attention to the cultural and familial layers that shape

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responses to abuse in Malta. They argue for trauma-informed, psycho-educational interventions, particularly in contexts where silence and stigma still dominate narratives of abuse. This work foregrounds the relational nature of recovery and challenges us to centre caregivers' wellbeing as essential to children's healing.

In their study of Filipino migrant workers in Hungary, Balague and Bene (pp. 41 - 72) examine the intersections of labour migration, healthcare access, and psychosocial wellbeing. Against the backdrop of shifting migration policies and economic precarity, their mixed-method analysis reveals the uneven geographies of care that migrant workers must navigate. What emerges is a complex interplay between resilience and marginalisation. The study offers concrete policy recommendations, underlining that migrant wellbeing cannot be meaningfully addressed without structural commitments to equity, access, and inclusion.

Bonello and Lauri bring ecological precarity into focus with their study on eco-anxiety among participants in the small island state of Malta (pp. 73 - 117). Through the application of the Hogg Eco-Anxiety Scale, the authors bring to light a pervasive sense of existential threat, especially among younger participants. Their findings remind us that the ecological crisis is not an abstract future event but a lived present reality that unsettles the very foundations of wellbeing. By connecting subjective experiences to broader environmental uncertainties, this paper serves as a timely reminder that environmental concern is also a site of psychological distress, and that our understanding of wellbeing must extend to the ecological domain.

In a psychologically rich and evocative contribution, Borg examines panic attacks as moments of existential collapse—"attacks of emotional blindness" (pp. 118 - 147). Her conceptual reframing invites us to move beyond the biomedical model and toward a phenomenological understanding of panic as a disruption in narrative and emotional coherence. This perspective challenges clinicians to reimagine how they engage with clients and encourages a reconceptualisation of panic through the lens of narrative and personal agency, enriching psychotherapeutic practice.

The final article by Vassallo, Pace, and Vella (pp. 148 - 195) investigates the subjective wellbeing of middle and secondary school students in Malta, using a national sample. Their analysis offers critical insight into how school satisfaction, peer relationships, and a sense of purpose contribute to young people's wellbeing. Notably, the authors emphasise the need to recognise children as active agents in their own lives, challenging adult-centric approaches that treat them solely as future citizens rather than as present subjects of rights and care.

Each article in this issue offers insight into how people navigate moments of rupture, and what social systems can do to support and not merely survive them. What connects these diverse contributions is an ethical commitment to situated knowledge, a sensitivity to relational dynamics, and an insistence on attending to the lived realities that shape wellbeing. Whether through the aftermath of trauma, the complexities of migration, ecological uncertainty, or adolescent development, the authors in this issue offer contextually grounded analyses that expand our understanding of what it means to live —and to live well —in conditions of uncertainty.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the contributors whose work lies at the heart of this issue and to the generous reviewers whose thoughtful engagement helped shape it. Dr. Claudia Psaila concludes her time as editor-in-chief with gratitude for the opportunity to have contributed to the journal's development, as she continues to serve as a member of the editorial board. Meanwhile, Dr. Andreana Dibben steps into the role with enthusiasm for its future directions. We are especially grateful to Ms Maria Giulia Borg for her committed and discerning service as outgoing Assistant Editor, and warmly welcome Mr Michael Debattista, whose insight and care we are confident will enrich the journal's next chapter. We also welcome Dr. Katya Degiovanni, a new member of the Editorial Board.

May this issue not only inform but also provoke, unsettle, and inspire. May it remind us that social wellbeing is not a fixed state, but an ongoing and collective project of care, resistance, and imagination.