

Editorial

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Welcome to Volume 6 Issue 1 of the International Student Experience Journal. As always we have a range of articles and reviews from academics, language teachers and students.

Firstly, we have a research paper from Sidonie Ecochard from the University of Strathclyde and Julie Fotheringham from Edinburgh Napier University looking at the challenges associated with analysing qualitative data with a focus on Scottish Higher Education institutions. It concludes that ‘Thematic analysis may not always be the best approach to representing and honouring the accounts of international students studying in the UK’.

The second article comes from staff and students from the University of Reading and focuses on student integration there. The four authors saw the focus of their research change from social networking and social media to ‘the role of networking in the transition period of international and home students’. The authors promise us a more in depth follow up research project and we look forward to seeing it in a future issue.

Article 3 is a reflective piece from Sidonie, one of the authors of the first article. Sidonie shares her experience of being a student in her native France with her different experience of living and studying abroad, in her case in Scotland. Following that, and in her role as a ‘professional’ student, she did a PG programme in Finland as well as travelling to many other countries. These experiences have led her to question the home and international student distinction as she shares the many challenges she has faced with us.

Next comes an article about the experience of studying in New Zealand, or Aotearoa , by two Chinese students who ‘share their encounters and understandings of Aotearoa LGBT culture in relation to their Chinese identity, based on their personal experiences and communications with other LGBT international students’. Both offer fascinating accounts and insights and contrast their experience with that of LGBT students in their respective home countries of China and Malaysia.

To finish we offer a double dose of Janice, with Janice Hinckfuss and Janice Bain offering us their individual and distinct experiences of the 2018 St Andrews conference. Reading these will no doubt persuade many to take part in the 2019 conference and as someone who has been to St Andrews on many occasions, you won’t regret it.

Finally, a small apology for the tardiness of this issue and we hope you agree that it was worth the wait. If you would like to be involved in the editing, writing, proof reading or mentoring involved in producing ISEJ, please do get in touch. Most importantly of all, we’d like to see your contributions to the next issue which is already developing.