



## Editorial

by **Christopher R. Stones**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

Since the announcement two editorials ago that, as from 2010, the *IPJP* would be introducing an author fee for submissions accepted for publication, there have been several enquiries regarding the reasons for this as well as the process involved. Although this matter has been dealt with previously, and is now clearly advertised on the journal's website, it nevertheless merits some comment in the current editorial, given the significance of the introduction of an author fee for the *IPJP*.

In the editorial of Volume 8 (Edition 1), it was stated that, "While the *IPJP* remains committed to the spirit of open-access, and holds dearly to the notion that the acquisition of knowledge should not be restricted to only those who can afford to pay, the fact is that even online journals have costs ... [and consequently] authors (apart from those invited to contribute reviews, guest commentary and so on) with institutional support will be asked pay a modest publication fee per paper."

The journal has always been run on a very tight budget, and has only managed to sustain itself through the generosity of Edith Cowan University, which has continued from the outset to provide financial support, together with Rhodes University for a four year period and, more recently, the University of Johannesburg. These institutions have covered the costs of hosting the journal, which includes paying for the domain name (*IPJP*) as well as the other ongoing costs related to webmaster and language editing functions that are necessary for any journal.

After conducting a thorough survey, as well as

approaching the editors of several other journals, it became apparent that the *IPJP* is one of the few journals that still carries all the costs and does not levy a fee on either side of the production – implying neither cost to the author nor charge to the readership. In view of the journal's mandate to be an open-access journal and its commitment to ensuring ongoing free and unrestricted access to material in the journal, it was decided to go the author fee route. Not only does this ensure long-term sustainability, but it also continues to permit unrestricted access to the journal material. We are very reluctant to charge readers for each download. It also becomes relatively expensive to ensure security on the site and would entail the additional cost of paying for 'secure' hosting as well as keeping track of the fees paid in daily. By way of illustrating this, the *IPJP* has an average of 188 downloads each day. The costs of managing this would simply add to the overall expenses entailed in running the journal.

Many authors have research grants and institutional support, and it is our assumption that most authors will not have to dig into their own pockets but could motivate to receive support from their institutions. Of course, we are mindful that many prospective authors might not have such support, for instance those in private practice and many younger authors, as well as many of the authors from Eastern Europe and the Asian continent. Consequently, it was agreed that, when authors are unable to meet the processing fee – and depending upon the calibre and overall value of the paper to the journal – part, or all, of this fee would be waived. Additionally, certain categories of papers would not be subject to an author fee, such as invited

papers, book reviews, special editions, and so forth.

The possibility of charging a subscription fee was also considered. The difficulty with such a model is that, in order to cover processing costs, there would have to be an annual or quarterly fee, or possibly a fee to permit only a limited number of downloads. Also important here is that the *IPJP* is not the mouthpiece of a professional association to which annual membership fees are paid and which could be used to subsidize publication. In any case, it was felt that readers might not want to commit themselves for either an entire year or part thereof, as they might be interested in only one or two papers. Importantly, the *IPJP* would then – by its policy – have joined the ranks of the ‘closed-access’ journals, which is against the *raison d’être* of the journal.

Readers might find the following observations, based on my survey of the publication field, interesting. In general, work on an accepted hard copy manuscript is charged out at an average page fee of \$150. For hard copy journals, there are, moreover, often additional charges for colour photographs in the region of \$150 each, while tables carry a charge of \$105 each! Author corrections (listed as ‘minor’) attract a fee of \$6 per change.

A survey of several electronic journals revealed that many charge what amounts to a per page fee of \$27.50 (plus additional fees for tables, graphs, graphics and so on). The per page fee is, however, applied in multiples of four pages, so that the minimum author charge is in the region of \$110.00 for an article of four or fewer pages. Readers will know that the *IPJP*’s papers are invariably much longer than that. Moreover, these papers are then ‘‘resold’’ to readers. This model ensures that the cost to the author is kept to a minimum, while each reader pays from \$15 to \$45 per download.

Then there are those electronic journals that, like the *IPJP*, offer open access to readers. Some of these journals charge the authors per article fees of up to \$1,950! Although this is an exception, the point remains that author fees tend, on the whole, to be significantly higher than the model adopted by the *IPJP*, with the average per page fee for electronic copy being in the region of \$105 as opposed to the *IPJP*’s total article processing fee of US\$650.

We were surprised by the rates cited, but this pattern of cost-rise and profit-chasing (while conceding that it is not inexpensive to operate a journal) has been occurring across the academic world, as the big publishing houses have systematically bought out

many of the smaller non-affiliated journals and consequently now seem to have a stranglehold on much of the academic publishing terrain.

Although the *IPJP* remains an online open-access electronic journal, with full-article downloadable PDFs, it has now become possible for the journal to offer – though its publisher, the South Africa based *National Inquiry Services Centre (NISC)* – bound hard copy compilations of the journal’s publications. Further information in this regard will be supplied once the prospect has become more concrete.

But now let us turn our focus from monetary matters to the matter of the current edition of the *IPJP*. The six papers included range in theme from the metaphysical to Merleau-Ponty, from methodological issues and issues of morality to the lifeworld issues of mothers of multiply disabled children. In her exposition of a relational approach to phenomenological research, Linda Finlay argues that data is co-created as a consequence of the researcher-participant relationship, since much of what we are able to learn about another arises within the intersubjective space between the researcher and co-researcher. This is followed by Eva Alerby’s linking of Merleau-Ponty’s theory of the lived body with the perceptions of a foundation phase teacher in her explication of the notion of learning as embodied experience and the implications of this for the boundaries of learning. Christopher Pulte’s paper points to the notion of morality as infused with qualities which can be traced to two competing paradigms, and proposes that a way out of this duality is to be found in the thinking of Friedrich Nietzsche. Thereafter, Ülker Öktem of Turkey explores the problems arising from Husserl’s approach to the problem of evidence, by explicating it in light of the approach to the problem by early philosophers such as Plato, Descartes and Kant and considering the possibility that certain anomalies evident in Husserl’s phenomenology are indicative of a leaning towards pre-existing philosophical notions.

Unlike the earlier papers in this volume, the final two papers both originate, in focus as well as geographically, from the Indo-Pacific region. The first of these, by Surya Kanta Maharana, explores possible parallels between Husserl’s transcendental phenomenology and the Advaita Vedānta of Śamkara, focusing in particular on the notion of consciousness and the links in this regard between Husserl’s ‘Transcendental I’ and the ‘Witness Consciousness’ of Śamkara. In the process, Maharana points not only to intriguing conceptual links between Indian philosophy and phenomenology, but to Husserl’s own interest in this area during the early stages of his

career and his apparent realisation that “Indian thought moved in an important sense on the same level as his own philosophy” (Schuhmann, 1992).

The second paper from the Indo-Pacific region is an empirical study by Eve Hemming and Jacqui Akhurst located within the developing socio-economic and political context of post-apartheid South Africa and focusing on the experiential lifeworlds of isiZulu mothers of children diagnosed with multiple disabilities. The study illustrates the need to ensure the appropriateness and effectiveness of intervention programmes by heeding the importance of understanding a community’s context, along with the felt needs of the target group and their ways of making meaning, rather than imposing interventions informed by the providers’ preconceptions of what is required.

The readings in this edition conclude with reviews of two recent publications deemed of potential interest to readers of the *IPJP*. The first of these is a critique by Larise du Plessis of Ron Dultz’s most recent book, *Who Are We?*, to which is appended Dultz’s rejoinder. The second book, reviewed by Prevan Moodley, is the second edition of *Reflective Lifeworld Research* by Karin Dahlberg, who serves on the Editorial Board of the *IPJP*, and her co-authors, Helena Dahlberg and Maria Nyström.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish our readers an enjoyable and fruitful reading of the papers presented, satisfaction (at least in part) of your intellectual needs, and an increased desire to better understand the world we inhabit.

### About the Author



Professor Christopher Stones, previously of Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa and currently Professor of Psychology in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg, has enjoyed a lengthy academic and research career, in the course of which he has taught in the areas of physiological, clinical, forensic, social and research psychology. He is Vice-President of the South African Association for Psychotherapy and past Chairman of the South African Society for Clinical Psychology. Editor-in-Chief of the *Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology* since 2003, he is also on the editorial panels of two other on-line journals. Using both natural scientific quantitative methodologies and phenomenological approaches, Professor Stones’s research interests are in the areas of identity, attitudes and attitude change, phenomenological praxis and methodologies, abnormal psychology and psychotherapy, spirituality and religious experience, in all of which areas he has published extensively. An Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, with which he is also registered as a Chartered Psychologist, Professor Stones is registered with the South African professional board as both a research and a clinical psychologist, and conducts a part-time clinical practice with particular focus on adolescents, young adults and families, as well as offering long-term psychotherapy. In addition, he is regularly called on to serve as an “expert witness” in medico-legal (civil and criminal) court proceedings.

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