# Philosophy of Coaching

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### **Editor's Introduction**

Welcome to the seventh issue of the peer reviewed, open access academic journal Philosophy of Coaching, and to the first issue that we have edited together.

Now feels like an appropriate opportunity to acknowledge the foundational efforts of Dr Julian Humphreys, who recognised the need for a new forum for sharing ideas and perspectives about coaching and challenging prevailing assumptions. After grasping the initial opportunity, Julian has invested several years of hard work in getting this journal up and running. We offer our thanks to Julian and hope we are successful in taking on his mantle.

In our first issue we have not focused on a specific theme. Instead, in our Call for Papers, we invited submissions on any and all topics relevant to the purpose of the journal, which is to further our collective understanding as to what coaching is, what coaching can become, and how coaching can have a positive impact on society as a whole.

The coaching industry is a diverse and eclectic community, and we encourage those with insights from different domains to share their ideas and philosophies in service of further developing the field. The coaching industry, it seems to us, has reached the latest in a series of crossroads, a point at which some continue to urge us all to choose the traditional 'professional' path, with its focus on establishing boundaried fields of knowledge and on defining coaching in terms of a finite list of competencies. The risks of choosing such a route include the devaluation of alternative perspectives and a subsequent impoverishment of coaching as a force for good. We chose to take on editorship of the journal to further promote a forum for creativity and challenge, without requiring the reporting of original experimental research. We know many practitioners out there who have something valuable to say, but may not have the resources to conduct research.

This edition of the journal includes three articles and three book reviews.

In the first paper, Alicia Hullinger, Joel DiGirolamo and Thomas Tkach report the outcome of a literature review on the themes of reflection, awareness and self-regulation. The outcome of their review is the Reflective Practice Model, a framework that positions the three themes in a single framework, a

framework that constitutes a set of skills to be learned, skills that enable a coach to enhance their capacity to facilitate reflection.

In the second paper, Paul Lawrence notices the emergence of the term 'systemic coaching' as a response to the increasing complexities of the worlds in which we operate. Whilst the need for coaches to think more holistically is widely recognised, there is less discourse as to what we more specifically mean when we talk about 'systems' and 'systems thinking'. Lawrence encourages coaches to familiarise themselves with relevant thinking from the worlds of management science and organisational development, and to determine their own personal philosophies as self-as-systemic-coach.

In the final paper, Erek Ostrowski reports on outcomes from group coaching with entrepreneurs and in a graduate school learning environment. Ostrowski found that group coaching facilitates individual learning and change over time through a social process. Opportunities to engage in vicarious learning and to receive feedback from peers, distinguishes group coaching from individual coaching and makes group coaching a particularly useful component of graduate business programs.

The three book reviews include Cat Dunne's review of *Peer Supervision in Coaching and Mentoring. A Versatile Guide for Reflective Practice* by Tammy Turner, Michelle Lucas and Carol Whitaker (2018), Keegan Luiters' review of *Transformational Coaching to Lead Culturally Diverse Teams* by Sunny Stout Rostron (2019), and Gordon Spence's review of *Coaching and Mentoring Research. A Practical Guide* by Lindsay Oades, Christine Leanne Siokou and Gavin Slemp (2019).

In closing, we would like to invite you to help us build the scope and reach of the journal by telling your colleagues about it and encouraging them to subscribe (for free) at philosophyofcoaching.org/subscribe. In addition, we warmly invite you to contribute to the content of the journal, by submitting a paper for peer-review and advancing the intellectual development of coaching.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the journal.

Paul Lawrence PhD and Gordon Spence PhD Co-Editors

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