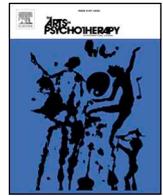




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Honouring Colwyn Trevarthen



Colwyn Trevarthen, Professor (Emeritus) of Child Psychology and Psychobiology at the University of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Member of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters, and Vice-President of the British Association for Early Childhood Education, is a biologist and brain scientist. Colwyn began infancy research in 1966 at Harvard with Jerome Bruner and Dr Berry Brazelton, and he has directed his studies to discover the motives and affections that lead a child to learn with companions of all ages.

Colwyn's thinking around intersubjectivity has underpinned and inspired many researchers and practitioners; and for the two editors of this issue, he is also a friend, colleague and mentor. We know him as a man of seemingly inexhaustible enthusiasm for writing, discussing and thinking about infant development and the origins and nature of human togetherness; the influence of Colwyn's work spreads far and wide.

Colwyn's work on intersubjectivity has received thousands of citations. This is less remarkable than the breadth of fields influenced by his work from the behemoth that is contemporary neurosciences to international practice-base fields such as education, and the small but well established field of creative arts therapies. We note his multiple creative collaborations with internationally renowned scholars, including the neuroscientists Stephen Porges, and Jaak Panksepp.

The Arts in Psychotherapy is focussed on the work of researchers and practitioners in the creative arts therapies. The goal of the journal is to develop and enhance capacities within and beyond the field; in particular to enhance understanding of the impact and value of creative arts therapies within healthcare services, community programme and lifespan mental health. Colwyn is regularly cited within the papers in this journal, whether the focus is on dance and movement, music, or other areas of the creative arts where many researchers, theorists and practitioners find great value in his work. The field of music therapy has

been particularly impacted by the emergence of *communicative musicality*, which built on Colwyn's many years of curiosity about the ways prospective awareness of moving underpin human development (Malloch & Trevarthen, 2009).

In this issue researchers from within and outside the creative arts therapies present their perspectives on the impact of Colwyn's work for the field, reflecting on the significance and uniqueness of his contributions. However, we wish to note our regret that the passing of Mercedes (Didi) Pavlicevic means she has not contributed to this special issue. She was approached early in the conception of the special issue and was keen to be involved. Similarly Jaak Panksepp advised he would contribute but sadly passed soon after our invitation.

As we take our time to reflect on Colwyn's work it is impossible to segregate the impact of his work from the influence of knowing and being known by him. It is therefore with great pleasure that we offer this issue to readers of this journal as a mark of respect and gratitude to Colwyn.

References

Malloch, S., & Trevarthen, C. (2009). *Communicative musicality: Exploring the basis of human companionship*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

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