# JOURNAL OF THE National Institute for Career Education and Counselling

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# Contents

#### EDITORIAL

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•

•

•

•

•

•

•

•

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•

•

•

2 Overview of this issue Pete Robertson

#### ARTICLES

3 The impact of COVID-19 on career

#### **Tristram Hooley**

13 'How do I get hired?' Early career individuals' employment strategies during the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Rochelle Parks-Yancy and Delonia Cooley

24 Career development during COVID: Increased migration aspirations of South African University students

#### A. J. Albien and T. A. Beppo

31 Meeting the career development needs of single parents

#### Elsa R. Olaru and Emma Bolger

40 Decolonising career guidance: Experiences of female BAME career guidance professionals through the lens of intersectionality theory

#### Vaidehi Ranavaya

48 Opportunities and risks in the use of AI in career development practice

#### Marianne Wilson, Pete Robertson, Peter Cruickshank, and Dimitra Gkatzia

#### **NEWS**

- 58 Call for papers
- 59 Forthcoming events

# Editorial

# Overview of this issue

Issue 48 marks a landmark in the evolution of this Journal.We have moved to an open access platform for electronic format. This means the Journal will be freely accessible to all via the internet. The Journal is now hosted by the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. Current issues and the full back catalogue will be available and searchable. This includes issues in the period 2000-2010 (Issues 1-25), when this publication went under its previous name of *Career Research and Development:The NICEC Journal*. We hope that open access will bring the work of NICEC Fellows to a wider audience.We will continue to offer opportunities to career development practitioners, research students, and new voices in the field, to publish alongside established academics.

This is an open call issue, attracting submissions on a variety of topics. We have prioritised contributions that address the unavoidable issue of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on careers, together with articles addressing other themes of contemporary change, and current concern.

It is difficult not to understand COVID through the lens of one's own experience. Whilst some experiences may be shared, to a large degree people's socio-economic status determined the impact of the pandemic on their lives. For some, predominantly the professional classes, work continued unabated, shifting to the home environment. For others COVID destroyed livelihoods, or jeopardised income security. Some work cannot be done at home and 'key worker' groups had to expose themselves to risk of infection by continuing in the workplace. And some, notably health workers, had dramatically increased workloads.

The effects of the pandemic are at once subtle and far reaching. The relationship between work, technology, time, and space has been disrupted. To some extent, COVID has accelerated pre-existing social and industrial changes. Its impact has been global, and this is reflecting in our international selection of articles. Crucially the effects of COVID cannot be understood in isolation from other factors and trends that it is entangled with. As result this issue also addresses some other contemporary social and technological issues.

We start with **Hooley** who offers an overview and personal reflections on the impact of COVID on careers, locating it in a socio-political context. This article provides a big picture within which we can frame our conversations on recent global events as a shaper of career development.

**Parks-Yancy and Colley** take the conversation to the USA, and present evidence of the challenges faced by jobseekers during the pandemic. The way in which jobseekers present themselves to employers in a difficult labour market becomes critical to their success.

Continuing international perspectives, **Albien and Beppo** describe a study into the aspirations of South African students, in a difficult labour market. They demonstrate that COVID has influenced young people's migration intentions.

Returning to the UK, **Olaru and Bolger** explore the career development experiences of single parents, acknowledging that the challenges they face have been intensified by COVID.

**Ranavaya** explores the experiences of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) career development practitioners. This is an under-researched topic, seen here through the contemporary lens of decolonisation.

Finally, **Wilson, Robertson, Cruickshank and Hall** explore the potential and the pitfalls of artificial intelligence technologies for career development services. They highlight some of the ethical issues that these emerging technologies present to the profession. This article was edited by Lyn Barham.

# Pete Robertson, Editor