

EDITORIAL

It is with a great and perhaps curious mix of responsibility, honor, trepidation, and gratitude that I undertake the editorship of the Journal, beginning with this issue. I am all too aware that the Journal of Environmental Psychology is the premier archival vessel for the crucial research and thinking in this field, so the responsibility is clear enough. The feeling of honor comes from the trust placed in me by those who nominated and supported me for this position. One can scarcely feel more validated as an academic than to be offered the editorship of the flagship of one's field. The trepidation comes from the challenge I anticipate as I attempt to uphold and continue the heroic work begun by David Canter, which is distinguished only in part by the incredible service he has rendered to the field over the course of twenty years. Very few editors have ever served so long. Everyone in the field owes a huge debt to David for all his efforts. Finally, I feel grateful to the many people who have worked with or for me to prepare me for sitting here on this virtual mountaintop, full of responsibility, honor, and trepidation. It takes buckets of good fortune to have encountered the wonderful mix of mentors, colleagues, students, and employees with whom I have worked over the years.

In general, I envision the Journal proceeding in the same direction as it has before. It goes almost without saying that I hope to see submissions that make substantive contributions to the advancement of knowledge and thinking in environmental psychology. These contributions may make any of several kinds of contributions. They may be rigorous studies in the tradition of experimental psychology that conclusively test a theory of environmental psychology in a laboratory. They may be rigorous qualitative studies of some actual setting or place. They may be rigorous field studies or surveys that illuminate the environmental behavior, attitudes, values, or ethics of a population. They may be rigorous reviews of the literature that gather and critically examine recent research in some area of the field, and draw clear conclusions about what it all means and what should be done next. They may be rigorous book reviews that inform and constructively criti-

cize new volumes in our field. Last, but perhaps most important, they may be purely theoretical statements, rigorous and bold in their thinking. Did I seem to overuse one particular word? It was not without intention: I hope to see rigorous work, no matter what its methodological approach or purpose. I also hope to see work that is substantive: work that, as it is planned and after it is completed, the environmental psychology community will enthusiastically affirm: that work really matters!

One of the Journal's goals has always been to represent international work. It is my impression that the community of environmental psychologists includes a fast-growing contingent of researchers from around the world. This is exactly as it should be. However, I am troubled and, to be honest, I feel somewhat guilty as a native English speaker that fate, politics or economics has made my language the scientific *lingua franca* of the world. Frankly, it is embarrassing to me, but I feel fortunate too, of course, not to have to master another language. I have often wondered how many good researchers have been daunted or thwarted by the language barrier, a barrier that really should not exist. Beyond all these feelings, I wish to do something to reduce this barrier. It is this: to appeal to international-minded environmental psychologists who are also fortunate enough to possess a professional or native command of English to serve as unofficial consulting editors to researchers whose work may fulfill all the criteria for publication in the Journal, but whose English is not yet at the professional level. I issue this call now, and I will repeat it in meetings and in newsletters and on listserves: tell me if you, as a native or professional-level anglophone, are willing to help edit the English of a manuscript that may well be meritorious, yet is not written in professional English. I envision these consulting editors as being altruistic in the sense of authorship—that is, I would expect them to be satisfied with an acknowledging footnote rather than co-authorship—but perhaps that depends on each collaboration. I can imagine potential payoffs beyond altruism to such collaborations: building ties across nations and creating cross-cultural collaborative research

teams. In sum, I am now accepting offers to engage in such consulting editor work, and I am now asking every reader to make colleagues whose English may have held them back from submitting good work to the Journal aware of this option. It will be my job to match consulting editors with writers whose English needs a little help.

Anyone who pays close attention to the masthead will notice a few changes in the editorial board. A change of editors is an opportunity for editorial board members to change, too. I wish to emphasize that no one was pushed! Three long-serving board members, Neil Weinstein, Amita Sinha, and Irwin Altman, have decided to end their tenure. On behalf of the Journal, and all those they served, I wish to thank Neil, Amita, and Irv for all their work over the years. In their place, I wish to welcome to the editorial board Joseph Reser, whose work I have admired for over 20 years, and Jennifer Veitch and Donald Hine, who represent the new generation of

eager and active environmental psychologists that Irwin Altman urged me to include on the Board.

Next, I wish to make clear that in any editorial transition, there will be manuscripts in the first issues of the Journal nominally edited by the new editor that actually were overseen by the previous editor, before manuscripts processed by the incoming editor can be ready. In the present case, there may be quite a few such manuscripts published by our distinguished founding editor before those I work on can appear. These will be marked with an asterisk on the table of contents.

Finally, I very much look forward to working with everyone in the environmental psychology community, around the world. Send your ideas and your best work!

ROBERT GIFFORD
January 2002, Victoria,
British Columbia