

## Editor's Comment

“Does it Make A Difference?” Not only a question about voluntary work, but also the title of the first article published in this issue. It asks how volunteering affects the recipient of voluntary efforts. Making a difference is not only the aim of volunteers, but of all diaconal work. This includes also research about diaconia and this journal. As the resigning editor Trygve Wyller quoted in the editor's comment for Volume 2/2018 from the very first editor's comment in 2010 “... that a particular social practice belongs to the core of Christianity. It is our conviction that the quality of such practices increases by a strengthening of research and academic reflections in the area.” The aim of *Diaconia* has not only been to provide a platform for research in the field of diaconia, but also to make it as accessible as possible for all researchers and practitioners all over the globe. Trygve Wyller's conviction was that diaconia as an academic subject and as a practice had to be discussed globally and his tireless work for implementing such an international and open discourse has resulted in transforming *Diaconia* into an Open Access journal two years ago. Thanks to the new Open Access format everybody all over the world can read *Diaconia* whenever he or she wants to. It is privilege and an obligation for me to take on the responsibility for this open, ambitious and inclusive project together with a fantastic, interdisciplinary editorial team.

The obligation veers in at least two directions. Firstly, the editors will be committed to keep the journal up-date technically by always searching for the best tools for realising its aim of being an inclusive and easily accessible, international academic platform for research. Secondly, the editors are tasked with delving into the pressing questions from diaconal task that inform the high-standard research published in the journal. The review section will help to promote the exchange between different world regions and the connection between practice and research. I am very happy that Kaia Schultz Rønsdal (k.d.m.s.ronsdal@teologi.uio.no) and Erica Meijers (p.e.m.meijers@pthu.nl) will be the new review editors and take good care of the section. A review report will be published once a year. Please do not hesitate to contact Kaia and Erica.

The articles in this volume are all good examples for linking challenges from practice to revolving academic reflection. Henrietta Grönlund's and Hanna Falk's above-mentioned analysis of the effects of volunteering gives also important indications how diaconal voluntary work could be developed. The article of Harald Askeland, Gry Espedal and Stephen Sirris uses the cases of three faith-based health organisations in Norway to discuss how values can translate religion into organisational self-representations and symbolic prac-

tices in diaconal health services. Inger Marie Lid applies the case of a diaconal institution when asking how social justice can be integrated in diaconal practice. For her answer, she analyses diaconal disability care from the theoretical angle of Martha Nussbaum's capabilities approach. Sturla Stålsett reflects in his article theologically about the current economic structures as a framework for diaconal work coming by using the perspective of human precariousness. Erica Meijers starts from a concrete meal-sharing project in the Netherlands to explore table-fellowship as a neglected field in current theology of diaconia. Do not miss these important articles.

We hope that you continue to follow *Diaconia*. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions or reflections about the future of the journal at [annette.leis-peters@vid.no](mailto:annette.leis-peters@vid.no).

With best wishes for a good reading.

Annette Leis-Peters