

# Drama Therapy Review



ISSN 2054-7668 | Online ISSN 2054-7676  
2 issues per volume | First published in 2015

## Issue 9.1: 'Breathing Beyond Borders: Racial Justice and Decolonial Healing Practices'

**Submission deadline: 1 August 2022**

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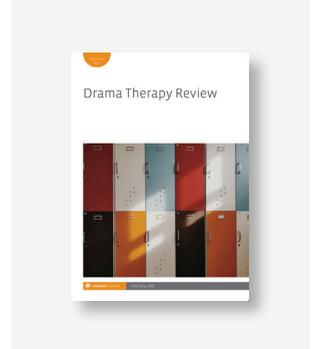
This Special Issue is presented in partnership with *Dramatherapy*, the official journal of the British Association of Dramatherapists. It is our hope that this first transatlantic collaboration between our journals communicates our commitment to advancing racial justice in our field and in the contexts in which we live and work. Contributors may choose to submit to either journal.

What do you believe in that keeps you breathing? "I can't breathe!" is an indictment of longstanding cultural ruptures, racial fault lines and a clarion call. The unrest across the world today is the result of unaddressed and unresolved histories of racialized oppression manifest in the present. Racism is a global public health crisis that is lethal to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). Both the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing killings of Black people at the hands of police have amplified the ways that systems and institutions disadvantage people of color, and especially Black people.

George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Elijah McClain (the murders are so numerous that neither the mind nor the page can hold them all...). The uprisings against police brutality across the world after George Floyd's death evoke Frantz Fanon's concept of 'combat breathing' where breath is a tool of resistance. Combat breathing reveals historical and contemporary complexities for conscientization and critiquing social disparities. Multiple losses shape colonised breathing and often leave us breathless. While the manifestation of these traumas may present differently across the global south and global north, they are interconnected.

This Special Issue asks us to consult our healing histories, imaginaries, theories and artistic practices in order to interrogate how cycles of inequalities are reproduced or radically ruptured. How are you, as a BIPOC drama therapist, breathing? How do you resist, disrupt, interrupt the multiple and compounding forces that systematically seek to render you, or those you work with, breathless? What or who encourages you? What ancestral, familial and ritual practices do you draw to sustain your land, body and relationships? The drama therapy field is not exempt from participation in anti-Black racism, racial oppression or carceral logic. What does it mean to be a BIPOC clinician in a predominantly white field? Where does joy live and what critical role(s) does it play in BIPOC existence? This call intentionally and unapologetically seeks the voices, experience, knowledge and wisdom of drama therapists who identify as BIPOC.

We seek rigorous accounts of socially engaged transdisciplinary art and healing practices grounded in BIPOC perspectives, drama therapy, aesthetics, theories and frameworks. Research and conceptual articles, poetry, prose, interviews, commentaries and artworks (e.g photo essays), can cover topics such as BIPOC mental health; health migration; social justice; art activism; counter-narratives; spatial justice; gender and reproductive rights, and other critical areas. We hope practitioners' narratives will establish an immersive, grounded and much needed critical framing of decolonised healing practices for new practitioners and transnational peers.



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