

From the Editor's Desk: Stepping into the role

Sandra Kane

Stepping into the role of incoming Editor for the *Grounded Theory Review* is both an honour and a deeply energizing moment in my scholarly journey. This journal has long been a home for rigorous conceptual work, methodological clarity, and the enduring legacy of Dr. Barney Glaser's vision. As I take on this role, I do so with a profound sense of responsibility and excitement for what lies ahead, not only for the journal but also for the global community of grounded theorists who continue to advance and enliven this methodology.

Over the past three years, our Editor, Dr. Barry Chametzky, has provided steady, thoughtful leadership that has moved the journal forward in meaningful ways. His work guiding the transition from the old platform to the new one created a stronger, more accessible foundation for authors and readers alike. He also oversaw the archiving of more than twenty years of *Grounded Theory Review* articles, ensuring that important scholarship remains available to the global community. His commitment to preserving the journal's history while preparing it for the future has positioned us well for the next chapter, and I want to acknowledge and thank him for the time, care, and expertise he invested in this role.

Taking Barry's lead, my vision for the journal is one that continues to embrace the underpinnings of classic grounded theory: conceptual abstraction, theoretical sensitivity,

methodological fidelity, and the belief that all is data. These principles not only set the methodology apart; they bring us together. They remind us that discovery is always possible, that meaning can emerge from the most unexpected places, and that theory grounded in data has the power to illuminate what has been overlooked.

As we look ahead and build on the strong foundation Barry has created, we will continue to move the journal forward in that same spirit of growth and renewal. I am thrilled to share two important developments for the *Grounded Theory Review*. First, we are in the process of streamlining the revision process for both authors and reviewers. Our goal is to create a more supportive, transparent, and efficient experience that honours the iterative nature of grounded theory while reducing unnecessary barriers. Second, we will begin assigning DOIs to all journal articles. This is a significant step toward increasing global accessibility, retrievability, and scholarly impact. It positions our authors' work more prominently on the world stage and strengthens the journal's visibility within the broader research community.

I also want the *Grounded Theory Review* to continue to grow as a place where connections are made. I envision a journal that welcomes novice researchers, those who are new to grounded theory, and those who are simply curious and eager to learn more. I

want this to be a space where knowledge is shared freely rather than guarded, where mentorship is woven into our culture, and where a pay-it-forward philosophy guides how we support one another. When we create opportunities for learning, collaboration, and genuine engagement, we strengthen not only individual researchers but the entire grounded theory research community.

Several ways I connect with and contribute to this broader research community come through my own scholarly work. My current role as a post-doctoral fellow with the Institute for Theory and Methodologies has expanded my understanding of grounded action and its remarkable potential. Grounded action offers a pathway for grounded theory to move beyond conceptualization and into meaningful, real-world change. It has the power to inform policy, reshape systems, and set new trends in practice that are responsive, contemporary, and deeply relevant. Learning from leaders in this space has reinforced my belief that grounded theory is not only a methodology; it is a mechanism for transformation.

I am also an active member of the Glaserian Classic Grounded Theory International Association, where our annual virtual conference brings together researchers from around the world. These gatherings are a highlight of my year. They offer a space to exchange ideas, challenge assumptions, and collectively strengthen the

methodological foundations that guide our work. Engaging with scholars across continents reminds me that classic grounded theory is both timeless and timely, rooted in strong principles yet adaptable to the complexities of modern research.

I am excited for the future of this journal and for the continued propagation of classic grounded theory as a methodology with merit, value, and the capacity to drive real, meaningful change. It is no longer enough to rely on the familiar refrain, “That will not work because it has not worked before,” a statement so often heard in long-standing systems, traditional academic structures, organizational routines, and other deeply entrenched processes that may no longer be effective or responsive to current needs. This refrain tends to surface when change feels uncomfortable, when established practices are protected out of habit, or when innovation challenges the status quo. In many cases, the issue is not that change is impossible but that the missing piece has simply not yet been discovered. Grounded theory offers a way of uncovering what has remained unseen and brings forward insights that can open the door to new possibilities.

Here is to discovery, to curiosity, and to the next chapter of the *Grounded Theory Review!*

*Dr. Sandra J. Kane – Newly Appointed
Editor – Grounded Theory Review*

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