

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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This is the second issue on “Doing Research on the Ground,” guest edited by Bill Meezan and Karen Staller. All the articles in these issues grappled with some of the most important and least discussed dilemmas in social science research. These challenges are markedly increased when the research is conducted by social workers who must consider the ethical implications of human research.

The authors in the first issue published in Fall, 2005, struggled with the complex nature of their relationships with the persons whose lives they searched and opinions they solicited. In this current issue the authors acknowledge, sometimes ruefully, the difficult environments in which they conducted their research. How do academic researchers manage the collaboration process with community partners? What happens when the results of the research do not meet the expectations of these partners? These are the previously unwritten stories behind the research that fills our academic publications. Similarly, writing with research partners who have considerably more institutional and professional power carries its own set of painful negotiations, ones that the unequal nature of the relationship can render exquisitely sensitive. All these back stories that accompany doing research on the ground are shared by the authors in these compelling narratives that contextualize their research.

The idea for the issues came from an outstanding researcher and great friend of *Reflections*, Bill Meezan, who envisioned a way of looking at the research process that was imaginative and unique. I want to thank him and his co editor, Karen Staller, for taking a considerable amount of their personal and professional time to create these issues. *Reflections* has been greatly enhanced by their courageous work and by that of these authors.

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