

Special Section

Introduction to the Special Section: Perspectives on Reminiscence and Life Review

In March 2013, eleven leaders in the field of reminiscence and life review were asked if they would be willing to contribute an invited article for the inaugural issue of the journal. In spite of the relatively short time frame in which to complete their work, they all agreed. The authors were not asked to write about a specific topic or theme, but were told they could write about any subject they wished. The only guidance provided was that the topic of their paper should be of special interest to them and one they thought could be of benefit to the field. As will be readily apparent to those familiar with the reminiscence and life review literature, every author in the Special Section has a record of significant contribution to the field – some from the vantage point of research, some through practice, and others from a combination of both. Not surprisingly, their engaging, thought-provoking, and position-shaping articles are exactly what we were hoping for in order to get the journal off to a strong start.

In addition to the consistently high quality of the contributions, it is interesting to note how different the topics are from each other. Within the space of just 11 articles, the authors discuss the past and the future; theory and direct observation; case studies and randomized controlled trials; cognitive neuroscience, religious practice, business models, confidentiality, and reminiscence through writing, speaking, and acting. As a sample of activity within the field of reminiscence and life review, these articles accurately reflect the wide range of questions and areas of application pursued by its members.

Before you explore their articles, let me express my deepest thanks to the authors of the Special Section for providing their distinctive, varied, and valuable perspectives on reminiscence and life review.

I hope you enjoy reading their work as much as I have.

Tom Pierce
Editor, *The International Journal of Reminiscence and Life Review*