
Editorial: What We Write Matters

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David Jardine has often said to me that, despite his track record of 18 books and over 140 articles, it is still a thrill every time to see a piece of his work published. I share that joy and sense of amazement. In my 25+-year academic career, I have amassed over 120 publications, including one book. The book is entitled *Conducting Hermeneutic Research: From Philosophy to Practice*, co-authored by Drs. Graham McCaffrey, James Field, and Catherine Laing, and published in 2015 by Peter Lang (Moules et al., 2015). Ten years later, today I learned that our second edition of the book has been published, again by Peter Lang (<https://www.peterlang.com/document/1564140>).

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I have spent the day reveling in that joy that David admitted and wondering about the nature of that joy. It is not *just* about amassing another publication; at this point in my career, it is not as important for my CV as it once was. It is about something much more meaningful. In the new book preface, I write:

It is meaningful to me that a new edition is being published this year as it will be the end of my teaching career. In July 2025, I start two years of scholarly leave, leading to retirement, and most significantly, I hand off the course I co-developed and taught since 2004, *Hermeneutic Research*, the course after which this book is fashioned. I taught many years of it with my co-author, Dr. Graham McCaffrey. It has been a source of absolute joy and sustainment, and I have learned far more than what I taught. It has been a privilege to teach and learn with so many students around their understandings of the philosophy of hermeneutics and how it can be embraced as a philosophical grounding of conducting excellent research that makes a difference in our human conditions of “living well with and for others in just institutions” (Riceour, 1992, p. 352). This research seeks, encounters, and strives for understanding the frail and human conditions of relationships, mortality, suffering, life, grief, birth, and love. (Moules et al., 2026, p. xviii)

What we write matters and what we write about matters. We do not write for vanity, recognition, or as Cicero did, for posterity. This book has made a difference for others in ways I have learned have mattered. It has made a difference in graduate student research of young adult cancer survivors, digital storytelling, friendship in pediatric oncology nurses, experiences of nursing aides during Covid19 in Long Term Care, experiences of children living with life threatening illness, young adult family relationships during experiences of blood cancer, legacy building in palliative care, experiences of infertility, boredom of child and youth mental health nursing, and undisclosed trauma in schools. In the preface of the book, I also write:

We have completed many research studies and supervised multiple students who have conducted hermeneutic research guided by our book. We integrate our more recent research, and we proudly feature some of our recent former students’ work here – Drs. Michael Lang, Katherine Webber, and Katherine Wong. (Moules et al., 2026, p. xvii)

The second edition of the book has retained the same structure and much of the same content, but new content, references, ideas, and thinking have been added. My co-authors and I invited Professor Theodore George (Texas A&M University) to join us in this edition, and the addition of a philosopher seemed to blend as seamlessly as our subtitle of “*From Philosophy to Practice*.” We have developed meaningful collaborations and relationships with philosophers and other practitioners across disciplines. We reconceptualized our chapter on “method” and made distinctions between other popular interpretive methods. In the preface I write:

In these past ten years, we have also had the privilege of hosting the *Canadian Hermeneutic Institute* and learned from the expertise of philosophers such as Ted George, Walter Brogan, James Risser, David Vessey, and Dennis Schmidt as well as the many papers given by the attendees of our meetings. We cannot understate the relevance these meetings have to our philosophical appreciation of hermeneutics and our commitment to the action of applied hermeneutics in our practice professions of nursing and education.

Similarly, our work with the *Journal of Applied Hermeneutics* has given voice to current research and thinking across disciplines. We are continually grateful to Professor Richard Kearney for suggesting the journal at the institute in 2011. Fourteen years of publications are his legacy as well as ours. (Moules et al., 2026, p. xvii)

As we proudly herald the arrival of the second edition, we know that, even as it is published, we have already thought differently, taught differently, read differently, and most importantly, written differently. But what remains the same is that what we write still matters - - at least it should. We hope this book matters and makes a difference.

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