

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Writing SF

- Quick hellos
- Why is SF particularly tricky to write about?
- What to do about it!
- Places to write
- JSFP – our aims, team and preferred article formats
- The editorial process at JSFP – what to expect
- Successes, failures and next steps

Want to write for the journal, offer to join the team or have a question? Email us at [journalsfp@gmail.com](mailto:journalsfp@gmail.com)

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Quick hellos

- Name
- Next writing project you're working on or thinking about

# HELLO!

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Why is SF so tricky to write about?

- Very context-dependent – no clear always-applicable definition
- Subject-verb-object language doesn't convey systemic/interactional connections
- Meanings can and do shift (Wittgenstein – meaning of a word is its use)
- Explanations can be (but are not always) minefields (esp for clients)
- Many things happen sometimes but not all the time
- Embracing emergence and uncertainty is hard in academic writing (which wants to be certain and always true)



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## So – how to approach writing SF?

- Don't despair! 😊
- Write about practice – which can be your experience, and that of your clients
- Make it specific! Give us the context for THIS work
- Include details of actual questions and client dialogue (with permission) – really helps bring it to life
- Connect with relevant previous literature
- Don't overclaim – three cases of X diagnosis doesn't mean 'SF works with X diagnosis)
- If you want to write about theory (and good luck) then be prepared to get into tangles



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## Contrasting fortunes



CONCEPTUAL ARTICLES

December 02, 2024 BST

**Unspoken Answers: Using Silence in Session – Engaging Client Silence With Thoughtful Solution Focused Questions to Address Family Discord** CN TW PL RO

Joseph Lettieri, Ayse Adil

This article explores how using silence as part of a family therapy session can address family discord, particularly when paired with thoughtful Solution Focused Brief Therapy (SFBT) questions that

[Abstract](#)

‘Measuring what works’

Quick survey after an SF project

Not well-thought-out  
Confused terminology  
Shifting use of terms  
No chance to revisit

Sadly, rejected

Masters degree theses...

Can’t be published as it (too long)

Could be reworked into a paper  
But it’s a lot of work!

(Different purposes to thesis  
and paper)

Can fall between two stools:  
Experimental but small N

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

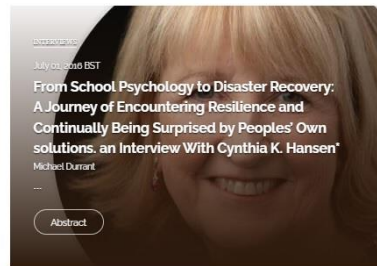
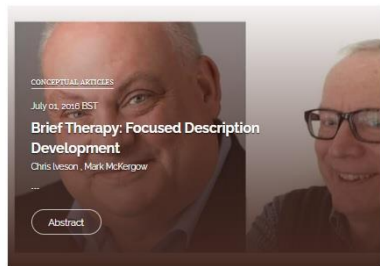
## Places to publish

- Academic peer-reviewed journals
  - Journal of Solution Focused Practices
  - Journal of Systemic Therapies
  - Others
- Local SF newsletters and publications
  - SFiO InterAction – online, SF in organisations
  - National association newsletters, websites etc
  - National coaching associations, OD groups etc
- Books
  - Find a publisher (best option!)
  - Self publish (can work if you have lots of customers direct – worth getting help)
- Your own blog or website
  - Substack becoming more popular
  - Need to share it!

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

JSFP is a peer-reviewed journal publishing academically sound and practitioner-friendly material about Solution Focused practices

journalsfp.org



CONCEPTUAL ARTICLES  
July 01, 2016 BST  
Complimenting in Solution-Focused Brief Therapy  
Frank Thomas



BOOK REVIEWS  
July 01, 2016 BST  
Host: Six New Roles of Engagement for Teams, Organizations, Communities and Movements by Mark McKergow and Helen Bailey



GENERAL  
July 01, 2016 BST  
Volume 2 Issue 1 Front Matter  
Journal of Solution Focused Practices



GENERAL  
December 01, 2014 BST  
Volume 1 Issue 2 Front Matter  
Journal of Solution Focused Practices



INTERVIEWS  
December 01, 2014 BST  
Not All Who Wander Are Lost: Wandering and Wondering in the Solution-Focused world, an Interview With Frank N. Thomas  
Frances Huber



BOOK REVIEWS  
December 01, 2014 BST  
Book Review Solution-Focused Practice: Effective Communication to Facilitate Change by Guy Shennan  
Frances Huber



BOOK REVIEWS  
December 01, 2014 BST  
Book Review Learning Solution-Focused Therapy: An Illustrated Guide by Anne Bodmer Lutz  
Gale Miller



# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Some background

2014: Founded by Michael Durrant as JSFBT, published in print only by AASFBT (now ASFA)

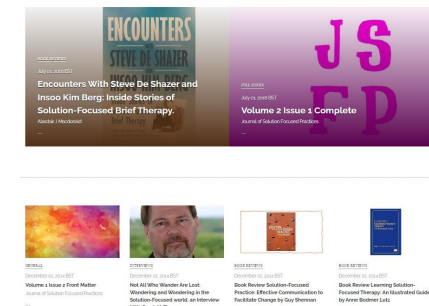


2019: Sara Jordan takes over as editor with David Hains (ASFA) organising sponsorship / support. Now online at Univ Nevada Las Vegas



JSFP

2023: Mark McKergow takes over as editor. Journal becomes independent with international board and sponsors. Fully online [journalsfp.org](https://journalsfp.org)





# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Meet the team



Anton Stellamans  
(Conceptual papers)



Cecil R Walker  
(Opinion pieces)



Andreea Zak  
(Research)



Alex Ashida  
(Journal manager)

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

We welcome articles of all kinds in relation to SF practice and theory

- Empirical research papers (care with design!)
- Conceptual articles (ideally linked to practice)
- Case studies\* (importance of client permission)
- Interviews
- Opinion pieces\* (thinking something? Say it!)
- Classic papers
- Research reviews
- Book reviews\* (Know an interesting book? Offer to review)
- And more...

\*Guidelines on the website

**No reading fees**  
**No publication fees**

\*guidelines available at

**<http://journalsfp.org>**

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# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## **What happens when you send in a piece to the journal?**

- ‘Full on’ articles about research and conceptual developments
  - Assigned to one of the editors
  - They get two independent reviewers to look at it (double blind)
  - Reviews give comments and recommend
    - Accept (with minor changes)
    - Revise and resubmit (encouragement to continue!)
    - Reject (we have never given this while I have been editor)
- Opinion pieces
  - Assigned to one of the editors
  - Editor reviews it and may draw on other people
  - Usually some comments about how to improve it (encouragement to continue!)
- Book reviews
  - Looked at by book review editor (currently Mark)

Most articles are then sub-edited by our ex-journalist sub editor for minor polishing of the language

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## Things to watch out for

- We use APA formatting conventions for
  - References and citations
  - Headings (max three levels + NO 'Introduction')
  - Reference list in alphabetical order of first author
  - For experimental work – standard headings for sections
- Follow the instructions on the website
  - Include a title sheet with authors, abstract keywords etc
  - Plus an anonymised manuscript (no authors) and with refs by the authors anonymised (replace name by 'Author'), such that you are not identifiable (we can help with this)
  - Please make sure you've read it carefully and corrected typos, and that all citations match up with references
- Stand by for constructive comments from reviewers!

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## **Diversity, equity and inclusion**

- We want to include as many voices as possible in the journal
- Work originating in languages other than English
- People who are not so accustomed to academic writing
- Translations into as many languages as possible (this needs volunteers please!)
- Stories of SF practice from around the world (including interviews)

We want to work with authors with something to say. Please get in touch and we can help you present your work in a way that is both academically sound and congruent with your own background, culture and practice.

# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## How to get updates from the journal

- Best way - join our Substack account

<https://journalofsolutionfocusedprac.substack.com/>

- LinkedIn
- Facebook
- Instagram



# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Questions and thoughts – what more would you like to see from the journal?





# Journal of Solution Focused Practices

## Key links

Journal website: <http://journalsfp.org>

Substack for updates: <https://journalsolutionfocusedprac.substack.com/>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jsfp-journal-of-solution-focused-practices-93846b283/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=journal%20of%20solution%20focused%20practices>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/journal\\_of\\_sf\\_practices/](https://www.instagram.com/journal_of_sf_practices/)

Want to write for the journal, offer to join the team or have a question? Email us at [journalsfp@gmail.com](mailto:journalsfp@gmail.com)