

# Wars With and Without Bullets: a special issue of *The Journal of Critical Psychology, Counselling and Psychotherapy*

Editorial by guest editor David Fryer

It is impossible to hear the phrase ‘the war without bullets’ without thinking of the extraordinary Scottish activist-scholar, Cathy McCormack. This Special Issue has been edited to celebrate Cathy’s work, its many impacts, to work to which it has led, does lead, will lead and work in similar traditions.

Cathy is an activist, author, blogger, broadcaster, film maker, popular educator and teacher. Cathy will come to be known as one of the finest Scots of her generation. Derek Malcolm was spot on in his Foreword to *The Wee Yellow Butterfly* (McCormack, 2009: 8), when he described Cathy McCormack as ‘a marker for our times... a woman with a passion, with an ingrained sense of justice... a carrier of humanity... a bearer of standards of decency... a doer and a thinker’.

I have the privilege of knowing Cathy personally in many of these roles. I had already heard of Cathy through Mark Wilson, community psychologist at Easterhouse Child-Centred Project, but first met Cathy in person when she and fellow activists from Easterhouse, attended and dominated discussion at one of a series of ‘bru’ seminars about unemployment that I convened at Stirling University. Since that meeting, Cathy and I have: written and published together; taught undergraduate psychologists and clinical psychologists in training together; presented together at international academic conferences; we have appeared together on a panel at the Edinburgh Radical Book Festival; I screened Cathy’s movie, *At the Sharp End of the Knife*, at the MacRobert Cinema as a Stirling University event and where she