

A Time to Broaden the Family: Editorial, Volume 10, Part 1

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That's what being a boss is. You steer the ship the best way you know. Sometimes it's smooth, sometimes you hit the rocks. In the meantime, you find your pleasures where you can. ('He is Risen', 2001)

Introduction

Welcome to the twenty third edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, and the first issue in our tenth volume. If you have never read *Exchanges* before, then you are obviously most welcome, as it is always a pleasure for us to have new readers. Naturally, you also as welcome if you are part of our ever-growing community of regular readers too. As has been traditional, this editorial article provides an overview of the work included in the main body of this issue, alongside a few reflections from myself. The editorial also contains an overview of the various ways readers can contribute to future *Exchanges* issues. I would like to especially draw your attention to the ways you can be part of our 10th birthday issue, scheduled for publication in October 2023. Naturally, there is also a guide on how and where to engage with the journal via our social media presences, which where you will frequently find myself holding forth news, updates and observations on a regular basis.

Ch-ch-changes

It has been an interesting few months here at *Exchanges*, not least of which being our host department seeing a transition from our longstanding Director to a new person in post: we hope they are both enjoying their respective new challenges. Here at *Exchanges* too, albeit behind the scenes, it has been a period of modest readjustment. Over the summer I have been enjoying some discussions with long-standing Board members about their terms of office and any plans they have beyond their membership. Before I came aboard the journal, 'terms of office' for the Board were not something to which anyone had given much thought. Board members had previously been recruited through an arcane process: it may have involved a charm offensive or random chance - I have never been exactly clear. Board members, typically, would subsequently depart from the journal when the time seemed right for them. Be it developments

in their personal or professional lives, there always came a time when there was no longer the time for *Exchanges* to spare.

Consequently, one of the earlier things I accomplished in my early years on the journal, after a few initial experiences with the Board as they were configured then, was spelling out how we expect members to commit to an eighteen month to two-year period 'in office'. This is now enshrined in our internal policy, and while we do, occasionally, have an editor who stands down a little early, the vast extant majority have far exceeded this commitment. This longevity is something for which, operationally and personally, I am deeply grateful - recruiting, onboarding, training and supporting new team members is certainly not a zero-sum requirement on my own time! Plus, after working with these people so long, they're more than mere colleagues, they are the heart of the *Exchanges* family.

Thankfully, the outcomes from my discussions with the longstanding Board members has been a positive one as the majority of them have chosen to stay on board: every pun intended. Certainly, this is great news in terms of retaining their insight, experience and wisdom as part of our team (not to mention the demands on my own time too!) Conversely though, *Exchanges* was conceived as and continues to be a journal where the developmental experience is an intrinsic part of our mission and operations. We often, colloquially at least, describe ourselves as a journal 'for and by early career researchers', although my policy is always to be broadly inclusive than exclusive in applying that mantra for our contributors. Hence, while it is fantastic to be keeping aboard my experienced team members, at the same time we have perhaps been missing out on both offering the editorial development experience to others alongside benefitting from fresh insights too.

So, to that end over the late summer *Exchanges* 'opened the books', to borrow a phraseology from mobster fiction, and invited expressions of interest for new Board members.ⁱ The idea being that these would be additional rather than replacement members of the team, although as you will read later, we have had a least one departure since our last regular issue. Previously when we have had open calls for Board members, or indeed even associate editors, these have been targeted at specific institutions across Warwick's global partnerships. This time though, we threw the net much wider, involving early career scholars and late-stage post-graduate researchers across the EUTOPIA alliance and affiliate institutions to consider expressing an interest in joining us.ⁱⁱ

Over the recent weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting the various applicants and as a result am delighted to reveal we have been able to successfully recruit a number of new Board members. Each of them brings something exciting, intriguing or insightful to the team in terms of past

skills, disciplinary knowledge, enthusiasm or a combination of all three. Personally, I am very much looking forward to working with and getting to know them all better. You will have to keep an eye on the *Exchanges* Board page for more information about them, as this will be updated very soon. In the meantime, I will be conducting their initial training and onboarding over the later months of 2022 before letting them loose on their first manuscripts.

Of course, knowing *Exchanges'* author and contributor community, I expect each of them will find themselves engaged in supporting submitting authors and their manuscripts before too long too. I hope you will all make them feel welcome, and even get in touch directly to discuss any aspect of the journal. After all, each of our Board members are the front line of our promotional and outreach programme, able to discuss potential contributions to the journal with prospective authors or indeed reviewers too. That's not to say contributors cannot talk to myself, as I always enjoy these kinds of exchanges, but sometimes it is nice to talk to a member of the team whose research interests or domain might be closer to one's own.

Papers

After all that, I am sure you are ready to learn more about the contents of this volume, so let us explore each of them in turn.

Articles

We open the issue with a piece from **Jaime A. Teixeira da Silva** and **Aceil Al-Khatib** which is entitled *The Deontology of Using Pets in Academic Publishing-Related Sting Operations*. In this article the authors explore issues around fakery within the academic publishing sphere. In particular they zero in on the fascinating area of 'animals personified within publishing roles', within both hoxes and publishing 'stings'. The authors argue though how such operations may lack scholarly value and therefore have no place within academic publishing *per se*. Helpfully, the piece concludes by offering guidelines offering assistance to those working within publishing to counter such potential threats to their integrity and credibility ([1](#)).

Our next article from **Nick Redfern**, explores *Distributional Thinking about Film Style: Quantile comparisons of motion picture shot length data*. The author explores this approach in comparing movie shot-length distributions between different films, within a computational analysis framing. Offering a robust examination of the applied techniques, Redfern demonstrates various perspectives and approaches which can assist in the quantisation and analysis of shot-length duration. Intriguingly the paper ends by proposing quantitative analytical techniques alone do not offer a

sufficiently nuanced method to allow a truly comprehensive analysis of filmic style but, nevertheless, still retain much of value as an interrogative resource within the film-studies arena (21).

A change in gear next, as **Pavel Fedotov** concerns themselves with an examination of the *Critical Analysis of the Electric Vehicle Industry: Five forces and strategic action fields*. Within a strategic management lens, Fedotov outlines the five forces framework and what its application can reveal within the electric vehicle industry and their adoption within the public sphere. From this analysis, the paper then argues how significant obstacles to the adoption of, and profitability from, electric vehicles can be revealed. Additionally, while the author's discussion seeks to extend the discussion around the five forces framework, the paper does acknowledge some limitations exist within its application, despite its demonstrable value and applicability (43).

We move next to our most substantive article this issue which comes from **Huayi Huang**. In *Reflections from Research Practice: Realism and its reality, coming to know this, and working out its mechanisms of socio-material change*, the author explores 'depth ontology' – arguing how this new approach to understanding our social and material worlds can be comprehended and deployed. The central strand of this paper's thesis is how this approach can serve to illustrate, illuminate and invigorate comprehension of the quotidian experiences of early career researchers' praxis. Moreover, the author offers further historical context to the paper's discussions, especially evidenced within thinking around ideas of change from Aristotle and Plato (57).

Our next paper offers an intriguing insight into unpublished work by an acclaimed author. In *Genetic End of the Line: The unpublished novels of Anita Mason*, **Colin Hutchinson** therefore explores three unreleased works by the Booker Prize-nominated author Mason. Offering firstly a precis of their narrative, Hutchinson goes on to offer illuminating insight and contrasts between each text's diversity while drawing attention to commonalities within their narratives. The paper highlights how unlike Mason's prior work, these books offer readers ambiguous ending. Moreover, attention is drawn to how each is framed within a more 'gloomy' picture of civilisation's collapse too. Finally, the paper concludes by suggesting how the 'process of fabulation' can aid readers in examination of their own fates (94).

Our final peer-reviewed article of the issue offers a comprehensive and highly pragmatic review of literature on and around *Arnstein's Ladder of Citizen Participation*. In their article, **Simon Varwell** explores how this framework has been deployed over the past half century in areas as diverse as planning, housing, health, schools and higher education. The

author suggests Arnstein's Ladder retains a value today in understanding and supporting effective conversations about partnerships, engagement and democracy alike. Nevertheless, it concludes that despite the extensive body of prior work and application, further research in this field could yield valuable refinements to the framework ([108](#)).

Critical Reflections

Finally, this issue, we have one of our always popular critical reflection pieces. In *The Use of Collage in Autoethnography*, Harriet Richmond offers a deeply personal insight into the impetus that drove them to explore this method. The paper subsequently explores the role collage can play in presenting an 'embodied and affective' approach to comprehending one's lifeworld. In particular, Richmond suggests how the 'messy' aspects of collage can serve to offer similar insights into the problematic of 'knowing' and 'researcher practice' alike ([145](#)).

Calls for Papers

Looking forward to future issues, here is some information about our two main current calls for contributions. Naturally, authors are advised to keep an eye out between issues on our social media feeds and announcement page for news of additional calls too.

Authentic Interdisciplinarity: Anniversary Issue Call for Papers

Tying into the 10th anniversary issue of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal* (October 2023) we are seeking contributions which seek to celebrate, challenge or define ideas around authentic interdisciplinarity. Authors may wish to draw on their own research practices and activities or adopt a more holistic stance in engaging with the prior literature and activities within this broadly demarcated field. As is *Exchanges'* tradition, we will potentially consider any work which its authors choose to present which seeks to address the themes evident within this call.

Contributing authors may wish to draw upon methods or methodological practices within a variety of field. Alternatively, they may consider explore if there are discrete or disparate audiences for interdisciplinary rather than unitary disciplinary work in academia today. Additionally, pieces considering, rationalising or amplifying cross-disciplinary discourse concerning centring on the concepts of authentic interdisciplinarity would be warmly received. Potential authors looking for further inspiration to frame their articles are encouraged to download the full text of the call, which is available on the journal's site ([Exchanges, 2022a](#)).

Bear in mind if you want to contribute a peer-reviewed article, then time is fast approaching on the submission deadline. That said there is still plenty of time to get provide us with one of our shorter communications for the issue as well.

Deadlines:

- **Peer-Reviewed Papers or Review Articles: 30th November 2022**
- **Critical Reflections, Conversations (interviews) or Essays: 30th June 2023**

Open Calls for Paper

Thematic call aside, you will be pleased to know the journal welcomes submissions throughout the year on any subject, with no deadline. Articles which pass our review processes and are accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available issue. As *Exchanges* has a core mission to support the development and dissemination of research by early career and post-graduate researchers, we are especially pleased to receive manuscripts from emerging scholars or first-time authors. However, contributions from established and senior scholars are also welcomed too. Further details of our open call requirements can be found online (**Exchanges, 2022b**).

Submissions may be made under our peer-reviewed articles or review articles format, or alternatively our editorially reviewed shorter critical reflections and conversation formats.ⁱⁱⁱ These latter formats are often able to transit to publication faster and make an ideal first article for authors who may not have published a scholarly article before or for those looking to embrace a vein of reflexivity into their professional output. You can find further guidance on these formats, on our website or via the EIC himself.

For this open call there are no submission deadlines as manuscripts are accepted for consideration throughout the year. Manuscripts which pass our review requirements will be published in the next available regular journal issue. Regular issues of *Exchanges* are typically published in late April and October.

Informal Approaches

The Editor-in-Chief welcomes approaches from authors via email, or video-call, to discuss prospective articles for themed and regular issues of the journal.^{iv} However, abstract submission or editorial discussions ahead of a submission are not a requirement, and authors may submit complete manuscripts without any prior communication. Authors are encouraged to include a note to editor indicating the format of their work (e.g., article, critical reflection etc.).

All submitted manuscripts will undergo editorial review, with those seeking publication as research articles additionally undergoing formal peer-review by external assessors. Editorial decisions on manuscript acceptance are final, although unsuccessful authors are normally encouraged to consider revising their work for later reconsideration.

Advice for prospective authors appears frequently in our podcasts, editorials and throughout the *Exchanges* author portal pages (**Exchanges, 2022c**). *Exchanges* is a diamond open access, scholar-led journal, meaning there are no author fees or reader subscription charges (**Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013; Bosman et al, 2021**). Authors retain copyright over their work but grant the journal first publication rights as a submission requirement.

Forthcoming Issues

This is our last anticipated issue for 2022, although should we find progress on either of our special issues currently under preparation - -relating to the Anthropocene and pluralities of translation – then we might have one more in us before Christmas. However, failing that, we anticipate both of these issues reaching publication in the new year. After that, our next regular issue will be the Spring 2023 edition, scheduled for publication in late April. While work on peer reviewed pieces for that is well underway, we would love to have some more critical reflections or conversations submitted between now and the start of March '23.

While I can't as of yet announce any more special issues, I am very hopeful there will be news on this very soon. So, keep a watch on our announcements page, website and social media channels for more on this.^v

Naturally, should any of our readers around the world be interested in exploring what goes into collaborating on a special issue for *Exchanges*, and how they might explore creating one, then please do get in touch. I am always happy to have exploratory conversations with scholars at any point.

Acknowledgements

My thanks as always firstly to all our authors and reviewers for their vital intellectual contributions towards this issue. Without you, producing a quality-assured, peer-reviewed, scholar-led publication would not be possible.

My continued thanks to the members of our Editorial Board for their suggestions for suitable reviewers during the production of this issue. I especially welcome onboard our new Board members, who you will be able to learn more about on our Editorial Team pages shortly.

A special thanks Giulia Champion who departed from the team at the end of the summer. Having been with us since 2019, and as the instigator of our first special issues and as an associate editor and later Board member, Giulia has played a vital and active role within the editorial life of the journal. Her insight, cheerfulness and insights will be much missed, but naturally wish her every future success with her career.

My gratitude too to Rob Talbot and Yvonne Budden at the University of Warwick for their ongoing technical support, as well as to the IAS' John Burden for his part in advocating and supporting *Exchanges'* mission.

Finally, my grateful thanks as always to our publisher, the [Institute of Advanced Study](#) at the University of Warwick for their unceasing financial and strategic backing for *Exchanges* and our related activities. Notably, I'd like to especially salute our outgoing Director, Peter Scott for his unfailing support and enthusiasm throughout my tenure on the journal. Not to mention his role in recruiting me to my post of EIC in the first place.

Continuing the Conversation

Exchanges has a range of routes for keeping abreast of our latest news, developments and calls for papers. In-between issues to continue the interdisciplinary exchange of experience underlying our operations you may wish to listen to our growing range of podcasts or read our blog posts. Please do contribute as we value hearing the thoughts of our author and readership communities.

Editorial Blog: blogs.warwick.ac.uk/exchangesias/

Linked.In: www.linkedin.com/groups/12162247/

Twitter: [@ExchangesIAS](https://twitter.com/ExchangesIAS)

As Editor-in-Chief I am also always pleased to discuss potential publications, collaborative opportunities or invites to talk further about *Exchanges* and our activities. Contact me if you would like to arrange a consultation via Teams – or even on occasion campus and further afield.

The Exchanges Discourse Podcast

Since our August 'lonely nerds' issue was published, I have been speaking with four of the issue's authors about their research, publication and publishing advice for early career researchers. You can find a list of these recent episodes, along with links to all the past podcast episodes of *The Exchanges Discourse* via the journal site.

exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/podcast

I heartily encourage all readers of the journal, and especially first-time authors, to like, share and subscribe to our episodes: available on all major podcast platforms, and specifically hosted on the *Anchor.fm* site.^{vi} All episodes are free to stream or download and listen to at your leisure. Naturally, we also welcome approaches suggestions for topics we could address as part of future episodes too.

Podcast: anchor.fm/exchangesias

Gareth has been *Exchanges'* Editor-in-Chief since 2018. Along with a doctorate in cultural academic publishing practices (Nottingham Trent), he also possesses various other degrees in biomedical technology (Sheffield Hallam), information management (Sheffield) and research practice (NTU). His varied career includes extensive experience in running regional and national professional bodies, academic libraries, project management and applied research roles. His professional and research interests focus on power-relationships within and evolution of scholarly academic publication practice, viewed from within social theory and political economic frameworks. He has extensive skills in areas including academic writing, partner relationship management and effective communication practices. He is an outspoken proponent for greater academic agency through scholar-led publishing. Gareth is also a Fellow of the *Higher Education Academy*, and hosts a number of podcasts, including *The Exchanges Discourse*.



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Endnotes

ⁱ I should stress, that we do not follow any of the purported ceremonies of ‘the mob’ world for inducting new editors. Although, it is perhaps worth noting how many related films and series the EIC counts among their favourites. But probably best if you just *fuhgeddaboutit*.

ⁱⁱ For more about the EUTOPIA alliance, see here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/global/partnerships/europe/eutopia/>

ⁱⁱⁱ **Word counts:** We do not include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendices for the purposes of establishing a submissions word count. While submissions just over or under their word count will still be initially considered for review, those significantly in excess of these numbers will be declined and returned to their authors with advice for revision.

^{iv} **Contact Details:** The EIC’s address is given at the head of this article, and on the Exchanges Contact pages. <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/about/contact>

^v **Initiating Special Issues:** If you are seeking a suitable home for a dedicated volume of the journal we certainly welcome outline discussions for the ways in which *Exchanges* could become your publication partner. While our facilities are modest, we have been excited to work with various scholars on special issues past and future (**Exchanges, 2022b**). You are warmly invited to contact myself as Editor-in-Chief to discuss any prospective ideas, without commitment. You may also wish to listen to a past episode of *The Exchanges Discourse* (**Exchanges, 2020**) wherein I discuss the thinking and pragmatic concerns around initiating a special issue collaboration with our journal.

^{vi} **Podcast:** The podcast is also streamed on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts and other podcasting platforms. Search for it by name.