

I've Seen the Future, and it Will Be: Editorial, Volume 10, Part 2

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*I've seen the future and it will be,
I've seen the future and it works.
And if there's life after, we will see,
So I can't go like a jerk (Prince, 1990)*

Introduction

Welcome to the twenty fourth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. If you are a new reader, then you are especially welcome although naturally a hearty greeting to our longstanding readers too. This editorial, as is normally the case, offers an introduction to the journal's contents alongside some insights into recent developments at the journal. Naturally, it also contains information for potential authors looking to make a contribution to future journal issues. Alongside this there's also a guide to our various social media presences – and most notably – news about our new direct announcements mailing list too.

In the Year 2525...

This issue represents the fifth in our series of special themed issues, which began with 2020's *Cannibalism* volume (v7.2). Each of these special issues have been the result of collaborative projects wherein the journal works alongside one or more external scholars in drawing together a collection of work on a topic of mutual interest. This time our principal collaborator has been Dr Catherine Price of the University of Nottingham, to whom we are naturally grateful. In partnership with colleagues the Delft University of Technology, Netherlands and with the funding support of the British Academy Catherine has been leading on The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World project for some time. As Catherine has provided a narrative concerning this collaboration's genesis and evolution within a couple of pieces later on, I won't belabour the points here (**Price, 2023a; 2023b**).

However, I would like to note as with all our preceding special issues this has felt like a productive, engaging and I would argue authentically and mutually beneficial collaboration experience. As Editor-in-Chief (EIC) I've

especially enjoyed working with Catherine through the workshops which preceded this issue's call for papers and then on into the editorial production itself. I should also like to note that delivering on part of the workshop programme, and in drawing together the issue, I have also enjoyed some very interesting interactions with the delegates, many of whom are also contributing authors this issue.

If reading this editorial, or more importantly this issue itself, has piqued your interest in collaborating with the journal on a future special issue project: well, then I would love to hear from you. You can contact me via the address above, or alternatively visit our site to learn more about our past and future special issue plans, and the various pre-requisites involved. That said, an informal, exploratory conversation to explore the possibilities more, commits does not commit you to anything! ⁱ

Living in Electric Dreams

Since we are looking forward this issue towards an uncertain future, I would like to take the opportunity to flag up a new contributor policy introduced in recent weeks. You cannot have failed to read or hear about AI (artificial intelligence) tools like *ChatGPT* in recent months, and undoubtably their use in academia continues to be a 'hot topic'. Consequently, *Exchanges* and its Board have in line with best practice ethical guidance, and current publishing practices at major journal titles introduced a policy concerning the use of such tools within manuscripts submitted to the journal.

Briefly speaking, within this policy AI tools cannot be cited as authors within any *Exchanges* submissions. Moreover, authors are regarded as solely responsible for any and all contents of their manuscripts. Additionally, where AI tools are used to prepare any portion of the manuscript, the usage of these tools needs to be cited, explained and transparent. Through this policy stance, authors are not denied the usage of AI tools within their work, but are required to demonstrably show how such tools have contributed to their research, writing and related endeavours.

While, undoubtedly, this will be a policy we revisit as external practices and guidance evolves, you can read the current policy guidance on *Exchanges* policy page (**Exchanges 2023a**). Naturally, where any prospective authors have any concerns, they are warmly invited to get in touch with us directly ahead of any submission.

Papers

Having dispensed with introductions and policy matters, let's turn to the issues articles. I am delighted to present an interesting range of scholarship on our central theme, and I am sure every reader will find something to pique their interests.

Introduction

In *Saying Goodbye and Fighting for the Future* **Catherine Price** offers readers a brief overview of the associated *More-Than-Human-World* writing workshop programme, which engendered this issue, while offering insight into project's wider goals. The piece also highlights the funders, collaborators, contributors and supporters who have been so vital in supporting the project and this issue too ([1](#)).

Articles

We then move on to the articles themselves, opening with **Alena Cicholewski** and their article *Empathy as an Answer to Challenges of the Anthropocene in Asian American Young Adult Science Fiction*. In this, the author particularly explores the novels of Malinda Lo and Cindy Po. In a close reading approach, Cicholewski considers when combined with ecopedagogy research, how far novels like these encourage a sense of empathy between the human and more-than-human beings ([5](#)).

Next, in *Repositioning Craft and Design in the Anthropocene*, **Berilsu Tarcán**, **Ida Nilstad Pettersen** and **Ferne Edwards** offer a consideration of how more-than-human approaches can be applied to craftwork. The authors stress how the study of craftwork maintains a relevance in this domain due to its pre-industrial practice origins. Introducing a fresh more-than-human framing into this arena, they further consider, especially relating to textiles, how such crafted artefacts represent traditional and indigenous knowledge. This, they suggest, offers a new approach for addressing the 'nonhuman' within human-crafted works ([26](#)).

Following on, **Catherine Price** offers a timely exploration into *Do we need Artificial Pollination if we have Multispecies Justice in the Anthropocene?* Here, the author considers how the loss of native pollinators in the current era raises questions of multispecies justice. In illustrating their argument, Price explores three artificial pollination technologies, highlighting how these technological solutions fail to address wider pollinator-loss issues, such as habitat loss and climate change. Considering this wider picture, the author stresses enables potential futures wherein democracy, diversity and sustainability can be applied in a more-than-human world ([50](#)).

We turn to considerations of *Corals, Geo-Sociality, and Anthropocene Dwelling* with **Justin Westgate**. Exploring the ecological emergency around the Great Barrier Reef, the author offers insights into what humans could learn from its environmental dynamic. Suggesting that these demonstrated ‘evolved fluid-dynamic and planetary relationships’ could offer insights into more-than human ontologies, the paper offers a picture of an inextricably interconnected environment. Intriguingly, in contrast to common framings as locations requiring protection, Westgate suggests there is actually much to be admired in coral’s tenacious structural resilience too ([74](#)).

In our next paper, **Nina Vieira** considers whaling and its relationship to the dynamics of the Portuguese Empire. In *Whales Lost and Found*, the author examines how this has shaped the ways in which society and people perceived and utilised both the ocean and the marine animals within it during this historical period. As the impacts upon the whale populations was considerable, Vieira offers an insightful view into the biodiversity loss during this time, contrasted with the impacts on creatures within the current Anthropocene ([106](#)).

We shift themes in the next paper, from **Sonakshi Srivastava**, to consider human-centric aspects within Indra Sinha’s works. In *Res(crip)ting the Gaze: Agency and the aesthetics of disability in ‘Animal’s People’*, the author considers the boundaries of ‘dis/ability’ within the framing of the Sinha’s book, the Anthropocene and the aesthetics of disability politics. In this way Srivastava offers insights into the human impact upon human bodies, as an effect of environmental disasters ([131](#)).

And finally for this section, **Alejandra Melian-Morse** offers to make us consider *Teaching to Care for Land as Home*. With some resonance with the prior piece, the author considers how a feminist, justice-oriented approach to environmental care can achieve functionality through the lens of the Anthropocene. Within this scope, Melian-Morse adopts an ethnographic approach to consider this within an all-girls outdoor education programme. It exposes the benefits derived from an ecofeminist approach and the subsequent repositioning of the relationship between the environment and the programme participants ([144](#)).

Critical Reflections & Conversations

To round out our special issue, we present a pair of shorter articles. The first while badged under our critical reflections format you’ll see is actually a fascinating fusion with the conversational style. In *Caring with the Non-Human: Reciprocity in market gardening*, **Michiel van de Pavert** and **Adriana Ressorio** present and debate theory as well as practice around soil

care. Considering rationalities and reciprocity between humans and non-humans, dialogically they explore a range of soil care facets in an engaging, pragmatic and enlightening mode. (163).

Fittingly, in an issue of global discourse around the Anthropocene, we close with an overt trans-national conversation between **Catherine Price** and **Sophie Chao**. In *Multispecies, More-Than-Human, Non-Human, Other-Than-Human: Reimagining idioms of animacy in an age of planetary unmaking* the pair offer an invaluable definition of terminology from multispecies to non-human, and more-than-human. In seeking to simplify the conversation, excitingly the duo rapidly uncover how a greater complexity exists when one truly considers debates concerning idea around the beyond-human worlds are within ‘an epoch of planetary unmaking’. Their discussions resonate strongly with many of the papers in the issue, and as such provides an ideal codicil to the various debates (177).

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 feeds, announcements and newsletter for additional news for potential contributors.

Authentic Interdisciplinarity: Anniversary Issue Call for Papers

Tying into the 10th anniversary issue of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal* (Late Autumn 2023) we are seeking contributions which seek to celebrate, challenge or define ideas around authentic interdisciplinarity. While the deadline for peer-reviewed articles has now passed, there is still time for authors to contribute a shorter piece such as a conversation or critical reflection for consideration.

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**). 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. As always, authors are welcome to discuss their submission proposal with the Editor where desired.

Deadline:

- **Critical Reflections, Conversations (interviews) or Essays: 30th June 2023**

Open Calls for Paper

Thematic call aside, *Exchanges* continues to invite and welcome submissions throughout the year on any subject. Articles passing our review processes and accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available issue (normally published in either April and October). *Exchanges* readers have a broad range of interests, hence articles from any discipline or tradition written for a broad, scholarly audience will be considered. However, articles which explicitly embrace elements of interdisciplinary thought, praxis or application are especially welcome.

Manuscript submissions may be made under our peer-reviewed articles or review articles format, or alternatively our editorially reviewed shorter critical reflections and conversation formats. ⁱⁱ 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.

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**).

There are no submission deadlines as manuscripts are accepted for consideration throughout the year.

Informal Approaches

The Editor-in-Chief welcomes approaches from authors to discuss prospective articles for themed and regular issues of the journal. ⁱⁱⁱ 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 always encouraged to include a note to editor indicating the article format under which their manuscript is to be considered (e.g., peer-reviewed article, critical reflection etc.).

All submitted manuscripts will undergo scoping and 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**). Authors may wish to also familiarise themselves with *Exchanges* journal policies (*Exchanges 2023a*).

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. Authors are also invited to review

Forthcoming Issues

Our next issue will be the Spring 2023 issue, for which preparations are naturally underway. In that issue's editorial I'll be talking more about our author survey report and updating readers on our publication policies too. Later this year we are looking forward to bringing you our *Pluralities of Translation* special issue as well ahead of our autumn 2023 issue, comprising our tenth birthday issue. We do hope you will be able to join us for each of these.

Acknowledgements

My thanks most especially to Catherine Price for her work in inspiring this special issue, and for her support for the journal over the past couple of years. I am also grateful to all the workshop participants – especially those who directly contributed to this issue's contents. Naturally, my thanks to goes to all those editors who worked on this issue, especially Amy Gibbons and Catherine for their work as associate editors on it.

Thanks as well goes out to all our reviewers for their vital and often timely intellectual contributions towards this issue, without whom, 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 would like to note an especial thanks to Natasha Abrahams, University of Melbourne who departed the editorial Board at the end of 2022. Natasha joined the journal a few months before I did and was one of our longest serving Board members. Myself and the rest of the Board, naturally wish her every future success!

Finally, my gratitude too to Dr Fiona Fisher and the [Institute of Advanced Study](#) for their part in continuing to strategically and operationally supporting *Exchanges'* mission.

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)

Exchanges Newsletter

We also launched a new newsletter via email, which encapsulates all the latest news from the journal in one monthly message. At time of writing the April issue is due to go out, but you can register to receive it and access all the back issues at the same time. Register your interest via the link below.

www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A0=EXCHANGES-ANNOUNCE

The Exchanges Discourse Podcast

Since our last issue at the end October there has been a considerable number of new podcast episodes. Six of our past authors have graced us with interviews about their lives, careers and research publication. More than that we've two episodes focussing in with practical advice and guidance for authors on publishing either critical reflections or conversation articles (**Exchanges 2023b&c**). We have also just released our first panel discussion episode, with a number of past authors returning to debate and explore issues of interdisciplinarity (**Exchanges, 2023d**). Easily our longest episode to date, it is a fascinating listen and highly energised discussion between our four panellists, and well worth a listen.

You can find a list of these and all forty-three past episodes of *The Exchanges Discourse* via the *Exchanges* site.

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

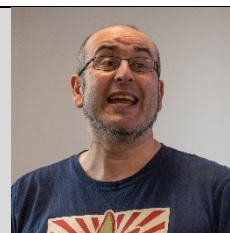
I heartily encourage all readers of the journal, and especially first-time authors, to like, share and subscribe to our episodes, which are available on most major podcast platforms, and specifically hosted on the *Spotify for Podcasters* site.^{iv}

Podcast: podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/exchangesias

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. Although, the easiest way to be invited to appear in an episode is to author an article for *Exchanges*!

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 the contact details at the start of this editorial or via the links on the site.

Gareth has been *Exchanges*' Editor-in-Chief since 2018. With a doctorate in cultural academic publishing practices (NTU), he also possesses various other degrees in biomedical technology (SHU), 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. He retains professional interests on power-relationships within and evolution of scholarly academic publication practice, within social theory and political economic frameworks. He has aptitudes in areas including academic writing, partner relationship management and effective communication praxis. An outspoken proponent for greater academic agency through scholar-led publishing, Gareth is also a Fellow of the *Higher Education Academy*, and regularly contributes to a number of podcasts.



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Endnotes

ⁱ **Initiating Special Issues:** We certainly welcome outline discussions for the ways in which *Exchanges* could become your publication partner for a proposed special issue – however, we cannot guarantee we can accommodate every request. You are warmly invited to contact myself as Editor-in-Chief to discuss any prospective ideas, without commitment. There is more information about requirements and steps in initiating a special issue available on both the *Exchanges* and *IAS* pages, as well as in previous episodes of the podcast (*Exchanges*, 2023e; *IAS* 2023).

ⁱⁱ **Word counts:** For the purposes of considering a submissions' word count, we do not typically include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendices. While submissions just over or under their word count will still be initially considered for review, any significantly in excess will normally be declined and returned to their authors with advice for revision.

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

^{iv} **Podcast:** The podcast is also streamed and available on the Apple and Google Podcasts podcasting platforms. Search for it by name.