

Saying Goodbye and Fighting for the Future

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Abstract

This article is an introduction to the special issue relating to the Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series funded by the British Academy. In it, project lead Catherine Price offers an overview of the project workshops and their contents, and provides a lead in the main content of the issue which is dedicated to outputs from these sessions' participants. The article concludes with a range of acknowledgements for those who have contributed to the project and the issue in various ways.

Keywords: Anthropocene; More-Than-Human-World; British Academy; introduction; workshops

This special issue is the culmination of *The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series* funded by the *British Academy*. Over a period of four months in 2021, 18 emerging scholars took part in a series of workshops designed to develop academic writing skills. The workshops were all held online, and whilst this was partly a necessity because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it did enable inclusivity and diversity. Participants were from several countries including the UK, India, Portugal, Norway, the USA, Canada, and Australia. Disciplines represented included geography, sociology, science and technology studies, design, and English literature.

Workshops were designed to provide an overview of conventional academic writing and publishing, through to more novel forms of communicating academic research. We started with a workshop led by Professor Pat Thomson on blogging and conversation pieces. Several blog posts produced during this workshop appear on *The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series Blog* (2023).

Dr Helen Kara led a workshop on creative academic writing. We were given an overview of creative academic writing, storytelling, poetic inquiry, play/screenplay writing, and comics, and also had an opportunity to practice these different forms of writing. Some of the work produced in this session by various participants can be found in the Creative Academic Writing Workshop blog post (Price, 2021), on *The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series Blog*.

A workshop on 'Writing Green Stories' was led by Professor Denise Baden. This session focused on green themes in fiction writing, and participants took part in writing exercises to develop their writing styles.

Dr Gareth Johnson led two workshops on academic publishing. The first focused on writing for academic journals, whilst the second concentrated on peer review and revisions to manuscripts. The results of these two workshops can be found within the pages of this special issue.

The series finished with an inspiring seminar by Dr Sophie Chao, on *The Promise of Multispecies Justice* (2022). This was a fitting end to the series, as participants reflected on the promises associated with multispecies justice in an increasingly catastrophic world.

The breadth and depth of thinking around the Anthropocene and more-than-human world which emerged from the workshops is evident not only in this special issue, but also in the blog posts which feature on *The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series Blog* (2023). This scholarship is urgently needed if we are to address the problems of the Anthropocene including the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, the depletion of water and other physical resources, and pollution

and toxic chemicals. Whilst it is time to say goodbye to The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series project, it is just the beginning of fighting for a flourishing more-than-human world, for now and in the future. The articles in this special issue contribute to that fight.

Acknowledgements

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Firstly, thank you to all the emerging scholars who contributed to the workshops, blog and special issue. It has been a joy and pleasure to work with you all. Your enthusiasm has been infectious, and without you, this project would not have been a success.

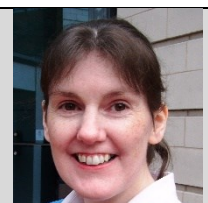
Thank you to Professor Pat Thomson, Dr Helen Kara, and Professor Denise Baden for facilitating the workshops and providing the opportunity for emerging scholars to experiment with different forms of communicating academic research.

A special thanks to Dr Sophie Chao for generously taking the time to present her research to the group and for such an in-depth discussion.

Thank you to all those who acted as reviewers on this special issue, and for giving up your time to do so. A special thanks also to Dr Roy Rozario, Dr Sun Yee Yip, Amy Gibbons, and Quynh Vu. Your contributions have brought this special issue to a high academic standard and into print.

Finally, a massive thank you to Dr Gareth Johnson, Exchanges' Editor-in-Chief. Your support has been invaluable throughout the whole lifetime of the project. I have learnt so much from you about academic publishing. Thank you for facilitating the two academic writing workshops and for passing your knowledge on to the emerging scholars.

Catherine Price is a Research Fellow in the School of Geography, University of Nottingham. Her research interests include climate change and just transitions to low carbon societies, the social and ethical impacts of agricultural technologies, and relationships between humans and more-than-human worlds. She leads the British Academy funded project, *The Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World Writing Workshop Series*.



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