

Editorial Volume 4 (1)

Introduction

We are delighted to present the seventh edition of *Exchanges: the Warwick Research Journal*. This edition begins the fourth volume of the journal and continues to promote exciting interdisciplinary research and scholarship from researchers at all stages of their careers.

Every year *Exchanges* continues to grow in reputation as a peer-reviewed, open access, interdisciplinary journal. This is evidenced by the large number of high-quality submissions we continue to attract. This edition includes articles from a range of disciplines, including English and Comparative Literature, Theatre Studies, Adaptation Studies, Philosophy, Modern Languages and Literatures, Sociology, Politics and International Relations, Engineering, Chemistry, and Agriculture. All of the articles published in this edition highlight the importance of breaking down traditional disciplinary boundaries. We hope that they will offer productive exchanges between different academic disciplines.

Exchange, debate, and dialogue

Exchanges always strives to promote dialogue and debate through the articles and pieces it publishes. All three conversations focus on interdisciplinarity: 'A Conversation with Martin Stannard and Barbara Cooke' touches upon digital humanities; 'Interview on Experimental Philosophy with Joshua Knobe' discusses the intersection of philosophy and psychology; and 'A group interview about publishing with Professor Jack Zipes' brings together a variety of fields such as German, comparative literature, translation, and cultural studies.

Annabel Williams asks Professor Martin Stannard, a renowned biographer and literary scholar, about life writing, particularly reading 'the life as the context of the work' (2). Professor Stannard shares his experience of working with the novelist Muriel Spark to write her biography. As Co-Executive Editor and Principal Investigator, Professor Stannard leads Oxford University Press's 43-volume scholarly edition of *The Complete Works of Evelyn Waugh*. Dr Barbara Cooke, Research Associate of the project and editor of Waugh's autobiography, *A Little Learning*, joins the conversation to discuss the importance of digital humanities technology to such a huge project which brings together researchers and resources from all over the world. Professor Stannard

also offers invaluable advice for early career researchers and shares his insightful observations of the current research culture.

Pendaran Roberts talks to Professor Joshua Knobe, a renowned experimental philosopher, who works on philosophy of mind, action, and ethics and is particularly known for the 'Knobe effect'. Experimental philosophy, Professor Knobe explains, is an interdisciplinary field that 'aims to make progress on the kinds of questions traditionally associated with philosophy using the kinds of methods traditionally associated with psychology' (15). Understandably, the conversation centres on interdisciplinary research in philosophy, from the level of support from the institution to the job market and employability. Professor Knobe also discusses his current research on essences and the best way to introduce undergraduate students to experimental philosophy.

A group of early career researchers from different disciplines at the University of Warwick interview Professor Jack Zipes about publishing. Professor Zipes has a wealth of experience as academic, author, editor, and translator, publishing particularly on fairy tales and storytelling. Emma Parfitt asks for advice on how to turn a thesis into a monograph. Peter Wards wants to know how to strike a balance between monographs and journal articles especially in light of REF 2020. Heidi Fritz is interested in publishing for the general public. Emine Erdoğan plans to edit a collection of essays in Turkish on a topic with which Turkish readers are unfamiliar; Professor Zipes suggests that she translate a few significant essays from English to introduce the topic to her readers. This conversation piece can be read alongside another piece on publishing in this edition, 'Science for All'.

Featured section: 'Shakespeare 400'

This edition offers a featured section to celebrate 400 years of Shakespeare's legacy.

In her 'Destabilising Decapitation in *King Henry VI*', Hannah Simpson examines decapitations and the decapitated head in Shakespeare's *King Henry VI* trilogy and the ways in which it undermines the state's claim to authority. Simpson argues that Shakespeare 'often resisted the idea of the decapitated head as a permanent, definitive inscription of state authority' (45), by staging illicit beheadings and by allowing the severed head on the stage to have an agency and influence. Shakespeare's subversion therefore challenges the view of his plays, history plays in particular, as politically conservative.

While Simpson concentrates on early modern England, Ronan Hatfull brings us back to contemporary Edinburgh with his review of the Reduced Shakespeare Company (RSC)'s new play, *William Shakespeare's Long Lost First Play (abridged)*. The theme is also subversion. Blending Shakespeare's characters from different plays, this new play is considered by Hatfull to be a parody and adaptation. It also raises interesting questions about the divide between 'high' and 'low' culture. Drawing on his interviews with Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor, the company's managing partners, co-directors, co-writers, and performers, Hatfull points out the link between 'the RSC's approach and the film industry's current preoccupation with "world-building", a term used to describe the process of creating a shared imaginary world' (64).

Global issues, cutting-edge research, and interdisciplinarity

The two remaining articles, two review articles, and four critical reflection pieces published in this edition cover a wide range of topics. Topical, they respond to the opportunities and challenges the world faces today; some are concerned with the key areas identified in the University of Warwick's Global Research Priorities (GRP) programme, particularly 'Connecting Cultures', 'Global Governance', 'Science and Tech for Health', and 'Food' (<https://www2.warwick.ac.uk/research/priorities/>).

In her article "There is no better means of instruction on China than letting China speak for herself": Thomas Percy and *Hau Kiou Choaan'*, Mengmeng Yan argues that as a study of Chinese culture through its literature, evidenced by Percy's footnotes and editorial interventions, *Hau Kiou Choaan* 'represents a fresh enquiry into literary orientalism in Britain of the eighteenth century' (81). Although it shows Percy's prejudices against China, seen primarily as the Other at that time, *Hau Kiou Choaan* facilitates Britain's encounter with and understanding of Chinese culture. For Yan, Percy thus made his contribution to the studies of China.

In 'Modelling and Simulations of a Narrow Track Tilting Vehicle', J. J. Chong, James Marco, and David Greenwood introduce to us what is expected to be the next generation of mobility: a narrow track tilting vehicle (NTV) is a combination of a passenger car and a motorcycle. Smaller, more energy efficient, and greener, it may tackle the problems such as emission, pollution, and parking shortage due to the increasing demand and the proliferation of cars, especially in cities. Chong, Marco, and Greenwood investigate the dynamics of NTVs with a new approach in order to solve a problem of the NTV itself: that is 'the tendency to become unstable during cornering when facing lateral acceleration' (87).

Michael Wogens offers a review of the current scholarly debate on security sector reform (SSR), assessing its limitations and prospects. A relatively new and contested concept, SSR has developed rapidly as a result of the proliferation of intra-state wars and the increased international involvement in conflict-affected states. Having identified a state-centric approach to the debate, Wogens suggests that the perspectives of actors at the sub-state level should also be considered. Moreover, 'current donor-driven reform narratives and theoretical categories should be critically re-evaluated on the basis of the actual adaption on the ground' (107).

Another review article in this edition deals with participatory development; Akor Omachile Opaluwah investigates this topic by highlighting its pedagogical capacity, focusing on participatory budgeting and participatory policy making. In contrast to the top-down approach, participatory development, which emerged in the seventies, is believed to be able to engage individuals and groups, particularly those marginalised and disadvantaged. It is therefore often viewed and presented as a form of empowerment. Opaluwah argues that participation should be regarded as an end of its own. Since participation, as evidence shows, increases social learning, Opaluwah concludes that 'if orchestrated or managed effectively, rather than left to chance, this learning can be made more effective' (133).

Rebecca Vipond reflects on a two-day symposium, 'Global Futures: Building Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Research Careers', held at the University of Warwick in May this year. The symposium, convened by the Institute of Advanced Study, aimed at the early career researchers. It covered a variety of topics pertinent to this group, such as funding opportunities, grant and fellowship applications, research and non-research careers, publications, and public engagement and impact.

In 'Science for All', Liam Messin and John Meadows discuss publishing in science, which complements the interview with Professor Zipes with a focus on publishing in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Messin and Meadows focus on scientific journals in the light of current research culture, REF and funding, for example. They are particularly concerned about the chase of 'novel, positive data to achieve credible metrics at the expense of verification' (151) and 'a trend towards conservatism in grant proposals, papers and science discovery' (*ibid.*) due to risk-mitigation strategies. Messin and Meadows calls for inclusivity, accountability, and

transparency. Open access publishing might be viewed as the start of the open science revolution.

Fabrizio Alberti highlights the 'Current Trends in Natural Products Research from the CBNP10 Symposium at Warwick'. Natural products are compounds that are biosynthesised by living organisms. They have been used for their antibacterial, insecticidal, herbicidal, and antinematodal properties. Alberti traces the development of the studies of natural products. He points out that '[c]onventional synthetic approaches of obtaining derivatives of natural products are now being supported (or in some cases replaced) by enzyme-catalysed reactions, whereby the use of biocatalysts is envisaged to substantially reduce the cost of industrial chemical derivatisation' (164).

In 'Urban Gardening in the Crisis Conjuncture', Christopher Maughan reflects on the one-day conference 'Critical Foodscapes', organised by him and co-funded by the IAS, Warwick and the Food GRP. It aimed to bring 'a "critical studies" approach to the emerging research area of urban community food growing' (168). Maughan identifies urban gardening's two tasks: to 'form part of a viable alternative to the industrial food system' (*ibid.*) and to 'develop the critical insight to ensure it can identify and excise the unjust operation of power in its own governance' (*ibid.*).

Thanks

Many thanks for your continued support of the journal through your readership and engagement with our articles. Readers play an important part in the life of the journal and we encourage you to share, comment on, enter into discussion, and ask questions about our articles and critical reflections. We hope you find this edition as stimulating and thought-provoking as we have, and hope that you enjoy reading pieces outside of your research specialisms.

Finally, we want to thank all of the peer reviewers who generously volunteered their time to read each of our submissions carefully and provided helpful, constructive feedback for our authors. We are truly grateful to Yvonne Budden, Head of Scholarly Communications at the University of Warwick, for her continued support and assistance with the development of the journal.

We look forward to the next edition, which will be published in April 2017 and will feature a themed section on 'Collaboration'.

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