

# Coming Back to Where You Started is Not the Same as Never Leaving: Editorial, Volume 11, Part 1

Gareth J Johnson

Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick, UK

Correspondence: [gareth.johnson@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:gareth.johnson@warwick.ac.uk)

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

ORCID: [0000-0003-3953-6155](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3953-6155)



**Copyright notice:** This article is issued under the terms of the **Creative Commons Attribution License**, which permits use and redistribution of the work provided that the original author and source are credited.

You must give appropriate credit (author attribution), provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

---

*Always remember that the crowd that applauds your coronation is the same crowd that will applaud your beheading. People like a show. Sir Terry Pratchett.*

## Introduction

Welcome to the twenty sixth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. This is a landmark issue for us, as you will read about below, because it represents our tenth birthday issue since our creation in 2013. How have we changed over that time? Well, read on for a potted history of the journal. If you are a new reader, you are most welcome. Conversely, if you are a regular reader, or have even been with us since day one, then you are even more welcome. As normal, this editorial offers an introduction to this issue's contents, alongside advice for potential authors looking to contribute to future journal editions. There's also a guide to our various social media presences, which form part of our continuing conversation between issues.

## *We're History*

Whenever I talk about *Exchanges*, and by extension scholar-led journals oft-launched in a miasma of collective enthusiasm, I tend to note how such titles can have a precarious existence. From their initial seeds some will more or less thrive, others will bloom spectacularly, while some can wither on the vine after a solitary issue or two. At the outset their future is rarely certain, no matter how initially enthused their instigators are.

*Exchanges* has certainly survived over the past decade, although no matter how much our journal's evolved, I'd be hard pressed to argue we've bloomed beyond all measure. Keeping us hale and hearty requires continual editorial efforts, highlighting how journals like ours are as reliant on those dedicated souls working on them as they from their contributors' inputs. Indeed, over the past ten years there have been a range of actors – from authors to reviewers to special issue collaborators to editors – whose labours contributed to making *Exchanges* what it is today.

It would be Herculean challenge to identify every single worthy being who brought us to this tenth birthday celebration. A risky endeavour too, as the chance of an inadvertent omission is likely quite high. Certainly, not every prior leading editor kept as fastidious records as me as to their interactions over the years! Those of you who *did* help to make us who we are today, know your role. So, allow me to voice a collective, if anonymous, ‘thank you’ to you all on behalf of the current Board.

Nevertheless, I thought it would be worth celebrating our landmark issue by contextualising some of these contributions and developments over the years. So, here’s an annualised potted, if doubtless incomplete, history of *Exchanges’* decade of development.

### 2013

The first issue of *Exchanges* was published on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2013, under the full formal title of *Exchanges: The Warwick Research Journal*. Surprisingly even at this point not every article was from a Warwick scholar, demonstrating the journal’s contributor institutional agnosticism was present from the very start. Naturally preparatory work had started some months prior to October, in terms of coordinating, sourcing, assessing and editing the papers to appear in this inaugural issue. Leading in drawing these threads together was my ultimate predecessor in the leading editorial role was *Senior Editor Hannah Grainger-Clemson*. Hannah led a seven person Editorial Board which itself derived entirely from the journal’s progenitor department – *Warwick’s Institute of Advanced Study (IAS)*: each of the Board being also members of the IAS’ Early Career Fellows (ECF) programme. I am pleased to report this represents a strong association which continues to this day.

Figure 1: Early Exchanges Article Formatting

**Forêt de Guerre: Natural remembrances of the Great War**  
*Orlando Prestidge, Northamptonshire.Archaeology / University of Bristol*

#### Abstract

I will discuss the effect that the Great War had on the medieval woodland landscape of France, and how the cataclysmic destruction of the conflict is now represented, remembered and sometimes even preserved by the presence of post-war woodland. The unparalleled quantities of munitions that tore apart the landscape from 1914-1918 had both physical effects at the time, as well as longer-lasting manifestations that we see today. The first use of chemical weapons, along with the problems posed by their disbursement and disposal, also still affect the soil of the Western Front, as well as the trees and plants that traditionally grew in the region. I will also analyse the deeper and far more ancient significance of forests and trees within French culture, and how this has affected the way that people have interacted with the ‘Forêt de guerre’ landscape that grew up to replace that lost during the hostilities.

#### Keywords

World War I, 1914-18; Archaeology; Anthropology; Folklore; Landscape; Trees; Forests; Zone Rouge; Historic Sites - France

#### Introduction

The landscape of Northern France at the beginning of the Great War was one of rural beauty, punctuated by rolling hills, winding rivers and thousands of acres of lush forest. Within months this idyll had been transformed into the monochrome image of hell that has become so infamous, with shattered trees and the ruins of crumbling buildings barely protruding from an almost endless sea of mud. Today, the forests now cover large amounts of the former Western Front landscape, acting as living memorials and reminders of the horror that unfolded upon the ground they now cover. Under the canopies of these vast swathes of woodland, remains of the Great War landscape are often preserved. The remains of ‘Villages détruits’ are now buried under the tree roots, while trench systems and shell-holes gradually decay, set in ground so full of buried munitions that the growth of woodland is the only safe use for the sites.

Here I will discuss the effect that the Great War had on the medieval woodland landscape of France, and how the cataclysmic destruction of the conflict is now represented, remembered and sometimes even preserved by the presence of post-war woodland. The unparalleled

quantities of munitions that tore apart the landscape from 1914-1918 had both physical effects at the time, as well as longer-lasting manifestations that we see today. The first use of chemical weapons, along with the problems posed by their disbursement and disposal, also still affect the soil of the Western Front, as well as the trees and plants that traditionally grew in the region. It is even a common occurrence today to find material evidence of the conflict within the fabric of trees themselves, in the form of shrapnel from shells fired during the conflict still being imbedded in the trunks (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2005: 121).

I will also analyse the deeper and far more ancient significance of forests and trees within French culture, and how this has affected the way that people have interacted with the ‘Forêt de guerre’ landscape that grew up to replace that lost during the hostilities.

The impact of industrialised war on the landscape of Northern France has not only permanently altered the physical appearance of the region, but has also left deeper, cultural damage to the people and nation itself. The woodland that has reclaimed much of the shattered landscape today, the ‘Forêt de guerre’, represent this physical and cultural change to the French nation, as well as raising questions as to the power and longevity of nature in the face of warfare on a huge scale.

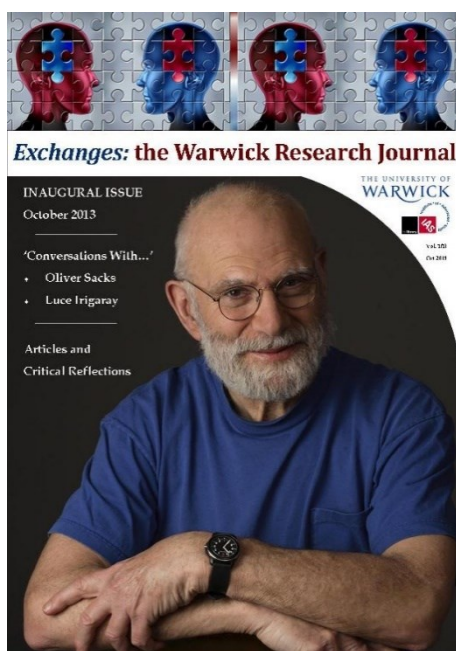
There has yet to be any Anglophone research into this area of Great War conflict archaeology, and whilst the logistical demand upon France’s ancient woodlands is touched upon in Chris Pearson’s *Mobilizing Nature: The Environmental History of War and Militarization in Modern France* (2012), my focus is to look deeper into the symbolic and psychological effects of the mass destruction of the forests that held so much history and so many memories for those involved in the conflict - the same men that contributed towards the destruction of these symbolic and historic landscapes in their role as combatants.

Pearson examines the physical and mental effects of the physical scouring of landscapes during the Second World War in *Scarred Landscapes: War and Nature in Vichy France* (2008), however this article will combine this approach, along with more focus upon landscape and conflict archaeology, and anthropological study of the enormous landscape change that occurred between 1914 and 1918.

My approach will focus on symbolism of, and memory held within, the trees and the forests they form as a collective. The idea of the identity of material culture is heavily influenced by the work of Dr Nick Saunders, in *Crucifix, Calvary, and Cross: materiality and spirituality in*

Admittedly, to an editor's practised eye a modest lack of formatting standardisation across individual articles is recognisable in this first issue (**Figure 1**). Although, it is something I suspect, most readers wouldn't have noticed or been concerned about! Moreover, at launch *Exchanges'* visual appearance is considerably different from what was to come over the years, both in terms of internal and external layout and formatting. For example, the earliest three issues are surmounted with images of key scholars, featured in *Conversation* articles within. Hence, renowned scholar **Oliver Sacks** had the signal honour of being our first featured 'cover star' (**Figure 2** Error! Reference source not found.).

Figure 2: *Exchanges Issue 1(1) Cover*



## 2014

Moving into its second year and publishing that crucial sophomore issue, it is noticeable that *Exchanges* appears to have already lost its leading editor with an editorial collective now providing the core guidance. There was continuity without as both issues this year retained the photographic cover theme too, with **Mona Siddiqui** and **Eric Foner** gracing issues 1(2) and 2(1) respectively. They would be though the final such stars as change lay ahead outside and within.

## 2015

With April's issue 2(2), a new look arrived for *Exchanges*, with a blue cover theme surmounted by a multicoloured image (**Figure 3**). This recurrent polychromatic visual trope was described to me when I joined as Chief Editor as representing a 'rainbow of interdisciplinarity'. Hence, it is an element we continue to deploy to this day.

I still take it as a personal challenge each time to find an image which resonates with this ideal, and where possible the issue's contents too. I can't swear to have always succeeded, but it's a design aesthetic for which I've yet to find a superior option.

Figure 3: Issue 2(2) New Cover Design



Inside the journal's pages change was afoot too. Volume 2(2) saw the introduction of the very first 'themed section', presenting a series of articles grouped under the topic of *Inequality in Education – Innovation in Methods*. Certainly, this would not be the last such thematic collection, as they would be a relatively frequent feature of the journal for years to come. Arguably it may be possible to draw a relationship between the contemporary Board's disciplinary composition and the topics addressed this and future thematic sections, although this has not always a direct correlation. This fourth issue of *Exchanges* also witnessed a major article formatting shakeup as a style, closely analogous with one we use today emerged for the first time (**Figure 4**).

With the seeds now sown for *Exchanges'* look and feel for many years to come, the journal moved confidently into its third volume, with issue 3(1) published in late October 2015. This was also to be the first, and sadly only, issue under *Exchanges'* second titular Senior Editor **Naomi Pullin**.

Figure 4: Article Layout Contrast 2(2) vs 10(3)

**Sample article, issue 2(2)**

Exchanges : the Warwick Research Journal

**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words**

**Examining learners' illustrations to understand Attitudes towards Mathematics**

**Farhat Syeda \***

University of Leicester, UK  
\*Correspondence: fhs3@le.ac.uk

---

**Abstract** This article presents my experience of using pictures/images drawn by children as a form of data in research and discusses the merits and implications of employing this method. It comes from research of a mixed method exploratory case study to investigate the attitudes of 11 and 15 year old secondary school students (in the East Midlands) towards Mathematics. The aim of this research was to gain an insight into the emotions, cognition, beliefs and behaviour of learners regarding Maths and the factors which influence their attitude. Besides using the tried and tested data collection tools such as focus groups and questionnaires, the children were asked to draw pictures illustrating their vision of Maths and its impact on their lives. The idea was to offer them an alternative medium of communication to exhibit their feelings and thoughts. Students used emotions, numerals, figures, characters and mathematical symbols to show their favourable/unfavourable attitudes towards Maths and their understanding of the importance of Maths in future life. The results of visual data in this study conform to the findings of the other forms of data collected and show that boys and higher ability students have a more positive attitude towards Mathematics as compared to girls and low ability students.

**Keywords:** visual data, images/drawings, case study, attitudes, affect, cognition

---

**Introduction**

This article is a part of a larger study to understand learners' attitudes towards Mathematics and to investigate whether attitudes are related to

**Sample article, issue 10(3)**

Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal

**An Aesthetic Portrayal of Republican-era Shanghai: The exciting and discordant beauty of the metropolis in Zhang Ruogu's Urban Symphony**

**Amra Minoli**

School of Modern Languages and Cultures, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK  
Correspondence: amra.minoli@warwick.ac.uk  
Twitter: @amra\_minoli

---

**Abstract**

This article examines the aesthetic representation of Republican-era Shanghai in Zhang Ruogu's 繁华都市交响曲 都市交响曲 ('Urban Symphony'). Guiding the construction of the city are Zhang's aesthetic principles of *cijimei* and *podaoemei*, two concepts taken from Japanese modernism, which convey a unique vision of Shanghai modernity. On the one hand, *cijimei* refers to a kind of 'exciting beauty', which, according to Zhang Ruogu, is the apex of modern aesthetics. Zhang Ruogu locates *cijimei* within modern Shanghai in places such as the city's cafes, dance halls, and cinemas. On the other hand, *podaoemei* can be translated as 'discordant beauty'. This kind of beauty differs from the traditional concept of harmonic beauty, as it originates in more modern surroundings that emphasise simplicity and excitement. Zhang Ruogu characterises *podaoemei* as 'simplification' and 'excitement'. When reading Zhang Ruogu's works, it is possible to identify these aesthetic elements in relation to his depiction of Shanghai. Thus, these concepts enhance our understanding of Zhang Ruogu's representation of urban culture in Republican-era Shanghai.

**Keywords:** Zhang Ruogu; Shanghai; Twentieth-century China; Shanghai modernity; Shanghai's urban culture; aesthetics

Peer review: This article has been subject to a double blind peer review process.

Copyright notice: This article is issued under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use and redistribution of the work provided that the original author and source are credited.

You must give appropriate credit (author attribution), provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Peer review: This article has been subject to a double blind peer review process.

Copyright notice: This article is issued under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License, which permits use and redistribution of the work provided that the original author and source are credited.

You must give appropriate credit (author attribution), provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits.

<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

Syeda, Exchanges 2015 2(2), pp. 234-248

234

Minoli, Exchanges 2023 10(3), pp. 48-61

48

## 2016

With its early years having been marked by fairly regular changes in lead editor, or relying on collective leadership, issue 3(2) in April, welcomed the third Senior Editor aboard. Thankfully, Yuexi Liu would become the longest serving person in this role yet and introduced a desirable period of stability for the title, its direction and development.

## 2017

As *Exchanges* entered its fifth calendar year of production, it could be argued that it entered into a transitional period. It was no longer a 'new initiative' but rather one which had managed to secure its ongoing existence with considerable success. This is always a risky period for any ongoing endeavour, as the possibility of no longer being the *cause célèbre* can lead to an effective deprioritisation or reduction in overt attention. Nevertheless, behind the scenes Yuexi Liu diligently continued her work, overseeing the journal and its evolving Board membership.

Notably this was the year during which the Editorial Board's *Warwickcentricity* finally changed, with the first international editors joining from Monash University, Australia. I spoke recently with **Roy Rozario**, one of the two Monash based editors who joined, about how this came about. He explained how he and fellow new editor **Natasha Abrahams'** involvement originated from their desires to forge links between the two universities. *Exchanges* was warmly receptive of the idea to broaden the Board's geographic base, and hence by mid-2017 we could



finally boast an international Board for the first time. That Roy continues on the Board today – as its most veteran editor – represents a remarkable longevity of service.

There were some significant changes behind the scenes for the journal too, as the latter half of this year saw *Exchanges'* operations fall under the purview of a newly appointed IAS Director. Reportedly they possessed a greater curiosity about how the journal might evolve and relate to the IAS and institution's ambitions. Curiously, their arrival is coterminous but likely coincidental, to subtle alterations introduced to the journal's cover design (**Figure 5**). Consequently, issue 5(1) saw a shift to adopt a larger central image than before, surmounted with very slight darkening over the background colour tones.

Figure 5: Subtle Changes in Vol 5(1) Cover Appearance



## 2018

Having been responsible for four published issues, Yuexi's departure from *Exchanges* early in 2018 left the role of Senior Editor vacant. With the anticipated publication time of issue 5(2) rapidly approaching, and considerable work yet to be done on finalising its contents, this was the moment when I first entered the picture. Appointed as *Exchanges'* fourth Senior Editor, my outline remit was to consider what the journal had been and consider how it might be somewhat reinvented and revitalised. The earliest such changes I was responsible for enacting were a revision to the journal's full title. Thus, since April 2018's issue 5(2) we have been published under the formal title of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. This change sought to offer a conscious decoupling from

the Warwick nomenclature, alongside a statement to *Exchanges'* contributor inclusivity and hopeful greater appeal to global contributors.

More changes were to follow with the leading editor role rapidly rebranded as the *Managing Editor-in-Chief*, serving to better reflect the post's broadening remit and ambitions: it looks better on business cards too. Desires towards continued greater internationalisation and global visibility of the title were soon also met the first editors from Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China were welcomed onto the Board ahead of issue 6(1). Alongside this, an increased push to educate, inform and engage saw *Exchanges'* social media presence develop with a twitter account and editorial blog being launched.

I even found time this year on behalf of *Exchanges* to make multiple contributions at Warwick's to the *PLOTINA/PAIS* Summer School<sup>i</sup> on peer review practice, which in turn led to the publication of a very well received handbook on peer review.

### 2019

From this solid base, early in 2019 discussions commenced concerning another new initiative – publishing additional, themed, special issues. With the collaborative support of academics at Warwick and Monash University the first steps towards publishing the *Cannibalism* and *Climate Fiction* (cli-fi) special issues began. My thanks here to **Giulia Champion** for initiating these highly productive discussions. Additionally, towards the year's end discussions concerning what would eventually become the *Lonely Nerd* special issue also commenced between the journal and the universities of Oxford and SOAS. With three special issues under now development *Exchanges* editorial labour efforts looked set to considerably increase. As a result, and to answer this demand, 2019 also saw the origination of our associate editor programme. This programme brings in additional post-graduate and early career researchers who specifically support the production of one or more special issues, gaining in editorial skill and professional confidence as they do. Undoubtedly our experiences in developing these first three issues helped shape much of how we prepare and deliver future such collaborative editions too.

Figure 6: Issue 7(1) New Look Cover



More broadly on the journal there was a publication policy update. From issue 6(2) onward each article's Creative Commons reuse licence shifted to a more open *CC-BY* (attribution) one. This was in line with the publication policy steer from major research funders and the open publishing community, and as such the change was warmly welcomed by our author community. There was also another aesthetic change, with an update to the cover style, image layout, logo and underlying colour scheme (**Figure 6**) – to be fair, I always thought the prior blue background was too gloomy. Alongside these cosmetic changes, the Board's internationalisation continued with membership now expanded to include staff from Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium.

## 2020

While behind the scenes discussions and work towards yet more special issue collaborations continued, the year began with the momentous publication of the first completed one. Issue 7(2) was dedicated to cannibalism research and study. It was also one of the largest single issues of the journal ever published in terms of page count and article number, and hence a marked success for all involved. Consequently, this also meant that for the first time ever more than two issues of *Exchanges* were published in a year. Meanwhile, the Editorial Board continued to evolve with staff from the Université de Cergy-Pontoise, France joining to lend their support for the journal's activities.

2020 was also for *Exchanges*, and the world, the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the pandemic's many deleterious impacts was the unprecedented enforced physical separation of contributors and editors.



The informal conversations we had often enjoyed at events or on campus were for some considerable time simply not permitted. So, it was in part to address this relative stifling of informal scholarly debate, that this year saw the launch of *The Exchanges Discourse* podcast. While early episodes were focused on the journal itself, it would soon evolve as a platform for discussion and debate with past contributing authors. Certainly today, this latter element is very much at the core of the Discourse brand.

## 2021

With the pandemic still raging, 2021 saw the highest number of *Exchanges* issues we've published in a single year yet, with two special and two regular issues achieving publication. In February saw the special issue dedicated to papers deriving from the *20th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society* focussing on climate-fiction arrive, and in August it was the *Then & Now: Arts at Warwick* special issue. Behind the scenes, this was also a year where the journal was actively participating in more events. Firstly, March saw a successful two-day online workshop co-hosted by *Exchanges* which drew together scholars as part of the preparations for the *Cultural Representations of Nerds* special issue, delayed a year by COVID's impact. Later, in September, the Editor-in-Chief contributed to a *British Academy* funded series of online international workshops on academic writing, as part of the *Anthropocene and More-than-Human World* special issue preparations. Naturally each of these developing issues too involved their own set of associate editors contributing to the production of their respective issues. Not content to rest on our laurels, October saw the call for contributions to our sixth special issue project around *Translation and Plurality*.

Figure 7: The New Look from Issue 9(1) Onward



Notably, October's issue 9(1), our twentieth published overall and specifically this year's regular autumnal edition, saw the latest rebranding of the journal's cover layout (**Figure 7**). This time the underlying colour shifted to a green base-colour alongside a subtle reflection effect being introduced to the cover image too. The journal's logo was also refined, returning to a simpler format to help increase contrast and clarity.

## 2022

A slightly quieter year for publication followed, with only three issues appearing, although improvements to the journal's hosting platform were introduced in January. These were principally the addition of *altmetrics* for every article, providing a measure of the audience engagement each piece enjoys in the social media sphere. Special issues were not forgotten though as August though saw issue 9(3) published, our long-awaited *Lonely Nerd* collection. This bumper issue was met with strong acclaim in the social media sphere and marked a successful end to a three-year multi-institutional collaboration.

Behind the scenes though, Editorial Board membership had over the past year or so somewhat waxed and waned, with the departure of a number of longstanding members impacting on our knowledge base. Moreover, a many remaining longstanding Board members had also been with us so long that the potential risk of their own departure was increasing. Not wanting to be suddenly faced with a major loss of editorial talent, it agreed to be the perfect time to expand our Board membership and seek some new blood through an open call across Warwick's international partnership networks. As a result of this seven new editors from four different universities around the world joined *Exchanges*. This represented the largest single intake since the journal was founded. They also brought an exciting range of new perspectives aboard as collectively these new editors represented a significant broadening of the Board's fields of expertise, especially in the STEM disciplines. Naturally, it also helped to ensure we had sufficient editorial labour capacity available to handle submitted manuscripts. Consequently, Board membership now numbered almost twenty scholars located around the globe – the largest it had ever been to date.

## 2023

This brings us almost up to date, with 2023 witnessing the publication of the spring issue, *Anthropocene and More-than-Human World* special and the edition you're reading right now. This would have been perhaps a sufficient degree of activity under the journal's base remit, but as always *Exchanges* looks to explore new opportunities. Hence, we launched a monthly email newsletter, highlighting the key developments and news from the journal, in an effort to reach new readers. We also instigated new

policy developments too with the Board supporting the introduction of regulations pertaining to AI and authorship, alongside contributor conduct. The journal also became more actively involved in Warwick's exciting work on research culture, collaborating on the first of potentially a series of special issues now in preproduction. Behind the scenes we've also been talking more regularly with our fellow Warwick University Press journal leading editors. As a result, we're looking to a future where we individual journals can collaborate and exchange knowledge more readily and perhaps in a more coordinated footing than ever before.

Figure 8: IAS' Exchanges Webpages



Alongside this, following popular demand, we introduced a new book reviews submission format for future submissions, and brought our Board membership up to a round twenty with our newest Monash and Warwick based editors joining us. Furthermore, a series of new IAS webpages featuring information on the journal were created, offering readers and contributors an alternative route to finding out more about the journal and its opportunities (Figure 8). Finally, and I'd be remiss in not mentioning it, the *Exchanges Discourse* podcast celebrated a small milestone, with the release of its 50<sup>th</sup> episode over the summer. The podcast had also played host to its first panel discussion episode earlier in the year too, a lively discussing centring on perceptions around interdisciplinary publishing endeavours.

I think you will agree, it's been an interesting and varied decade of life for *Exchanges*. While I was drawing this information together for this editorial, I noticed how currently there are only two Board members with an even greater longevity than myself on the title. The rest have all been recruited and trained by myself during my own, somewhat, lengthy tenure as Chief Editor. Given our mission to 'develop' editorial skills within researchers, a modestly rapid team turnover has always been an anticipated artifact of

our operation ethos – indeed one of my first tasks as Editor-in-Chief was to sunset one of the previous Board members! Certainly, we rarely have many problems finding new recruits: compare and contrast the current Board of late '23 with that of just 18 months ago for example to see how many names have changed.

This aside though, I thought it appropriate in this valedictory issue to conclude by offering a special tip of the editorial hat to my pair of longest standing and most well-seasoned, veteran editors: **Roy Rozario** and **Marcus Estrada**. Between us three we have seen a lot of scholarly water pass under the *Exchanges'* bridge. Will any of the present Board be around to help celebrate our twentieth anniversary? That, I am afraid is a question for the ages!

I do hope you dear reader at least are still with us then.

---

## Papers

That's the past, and naturally it is only right and proper to move to consider the present – that is, the articles in this issue. As this is our tenth birthday edition a suitable challenge had been posed to our authors some months ago, and I am pleased to note two of the papers represent a response on a theme of *authentic interdisciplinarity*. My thanks to them, and of course, all the authors whose work appears in this issue. I hope as always our readers once more find something valuable, intriguing or inspiring in the articles detailed below.

### Articles

We open the issue with *Placing ChatGPT in the Context of Disruptive Technology in Academic Publishing* by **Beth Montague-Hellen**. In this timely and insightful article, the author considers a myriad of issues around the deployment of generative AI tools in the research communications sphere. Taking an academic librarian framing, a contrast and contextualisation is drawn between these tools and impacts from other 'disruptive' technologies. Montague-Hellen argues that in time even such seemingly transformational developments will be successfully assimilated within scholarly publishing activities ([1](#)).

With delightful resonance, our next article by **Constance de Silva** offers us a measured consideration around the historic adaption and adoption of emerging technology and methodologies within consumer advertising. In *The Rise of Conceptual Association and Linguistic Register as Advertiser Persuasive Instruments* de Silva focus on the persuasive language utilised across a century and a half of Australian advertising. Following an insightful introduction to the core linguistic concepts, the article

contextualises this through an exploration of historic advertising artefacts and written copy. Interestingly, de Silva's piece continues with considerations of how such phrasings impacted on their readers, in terms of persuading and encouraging the purchase of the goods and services detailed in the advertisements. (17).

From adaption, we move to *Sustainability: Getting everyone involved*, from author **Jean Marshall**. In this article, Marshall considers the reality of achieving sustainability, contrasting public awareness of the problem's multifactorial nature with the potentially effective personal actions which can be taken. However, the author argues given the complexity of the situation, understanding the sheer scale of the problem faced by the planet and its population presents a staggering challenge. As natural resource use continues increasing and populations rise, Marshall argues how therefore achieving an effective solution goes beyond the individual and into the broader social-economic and politic spheres, where authentic interdisciplinarity and multinational collaboration must be deployed (48).

### *Critical Reflections*

Moving on, in this issue we have two critical reflections. The first, by **Amanda Kowalczyk**, is entitled *Emerging from the COVID-19 Cocoon* and offers a critical reflection on pedagogical changes in Higher Education in the pandemic's wake. Kowalczyk considers from an educator's perspective the inherent changes and societal impacts to emerge from extended periods of lockdowns and remote learning have had on teaching praxis. Despite the emergence of a greater facility and availability of online or hybrid delivery systems, the author notes student demands for traditional, in-person delivery remain strong. Consequently, the article considers if education should return to the pre-pandemic delivery paradigms, or if an inalienable evolutionary tipping point in educational practices has now been achieved? (66).

Our second reflective piece by **Raad Khair Allah** resonates with some of these themes too. In *Reflections on AI in Humanities: Amplifying marginalised voices of Women*, Khair Allah offers a personal consideration of the risks from perpetuating inherent bias within the deployment of AI tools. In particular, the author considers how such tools' configuration might impact on the representation and study of traditionally excluded or disenfranchised narratives or peoples. As such, while acknowledging the benefits AI tools proffer within automated data analysis, Khair Allah stresses the risks in how they may replicate rather than challenge extant inequities –contrary to the intent of many researchers. As such they call for multidisciplinary dialogues to ensure AI tools development and usage serves to amplify rather than exclude marginalised voices (77).

### *Books Reviews*

Finally, we bring you our latest book review which is also by **Raad Khair Allah**. In this article Khair Allah offers us their take on Fassih Keiso's book *The Body in Twilight: Representation of the Human Body, Sexuality and Struggle in Contemporary Arab Art*. The author focuses on a consideration of this text's exploration of art's relationship with illustrating broader societal changes, especially including issues of struggle, resistance and representation. While highlighting the lack of illustrative content within the book, Khair Allah argues it still offers a compelling and engaging piece on comparative gender and feminist art. As such they conclude it is a text worthy of greater exploration by scholars and students alike whose interests are aligned with this fascinating domain (84).

---

### **Calls for Papers**

That was the present, now to the future, where a journal editor must always be looking towards for new content! Hence, I would like to remind all readers and potential authors of our general (open) call for papers on any theme, along with a new thematic call – details of which both follow. Authors are also advised to register for our newsletter and follow our social media feeds for announcements in between editorials: see the links towards the end of this editorial.

#### *Themed Call for Papers: Becoming a Productive Publishing Scholar*

A recurring theme in the *Exchanges Discourse* podcast and in the workshops the journal has hosted in recent years, are questions around the effective steps scholars can take towards becoming more productive publishing scholars. Books and articles remain the *lingua franca* of our disciplinary domains, with career and professional esteem enmeshed in their production. New and early career scholars, like many who publish with and read *Exchanges*, keenly desire to establish themselves in their disciplinary field. Yet they often feel they face a Sisyphean task in publishing sufficiently, or via their desired channels or even identifying where their focus should be in terms of their written output. That they are also expected to be achieving a myriad of other 'career critical' goals alongside publishing – from gaining secure employment, conducting research, obtaining income and establishing impact generation activities – creates further tensions and problematics.

Nevertheless, establishing and maintaining an academic careers remains – arguably – intrinsically linked with embracing a seemingly inescapable 'publication imperative'.



However, in the discussions around this theme within *Exchanges'* workshops a recurrent message has been the lack of any singular route to achieving publication success. Moreover, alternative digital and social dissemination routes mean formal publishing is no longer the only route through which recognition for ideas, thinking and research can be established. Despite this, seemingly much of every academic's career trajectory, personal worth and disciplinary status remains enmeshed in a seemingly inescapable tango with research publication.

Without 'one true way' to approach writing, publishing and communicating research: *how* then does an any researcher set about becoming an effective publishing scholar, while balancing a successful work/life existence?

Therefore, for the *Exchanges* issue to be published October 2024, we invite submissions of papers around the theme of *becoming a productive publishing scholar*. Topics for the issue could include but are not limited to:

- Balancing pragmatism and production with healthy self-care
- Creating a greater strategic approach publication outputs
- Embracing interdisciplinary audiences, research or practices
- Emerging scholarly communication and alternatives to 'traditional' publication routes or platforms
- Personal reflections, insights or advice on achieving effective publishing techniques
- Use, abuse or opportunity from emerging digital and AI tools to enhance publication effectiveness

Manuscripts may be submitted in any of our papers formats, and should include a note to the editor at submission that they are to be considered for this particular call. Authors should also include a note to the editor as part of their submission that they are responding to this call.

#### *Deadline*

The closing date for submissions varies by manuscript format:

Peer-reviewed papers or review articles      **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

Critical reflections, Conversations or Book Reviews      **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Manuscripts should be submitted via our online submission portal on or before the above dates.

[exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/about/submissions](https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/about/submissions)

As with all calls, the Editor-in-Chief welcomes but does not require conversations with authors ahead of submission. For more online and style guidance see our submission pages.

#### *Open Calls for Paper*

Thematic call aside, *Exchanges* continues to invite and welcome submissions throughout the year on any subject. There are **no manuscript submission deadlines** on our open call and submissions will be considered throughout the year. Manuscripts therefore may be submitted for consideration via our online submission portal at any point.

Articles passing our review processes and accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available issue, normally published in late 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.

Manuscripts can be submitted for consideration as a peer-reviewed research or review article formats or alternatively submitted for consideration as one of our editorially reviewed formats.<sup>ii</sup> There latter, briefer formats are often able to transit to publication faster.<sup>iii</sup> They can also be for authors who with limited publication experience or who are those looking to embrace reflexivity, posit an opinion or share professional insights. All article formats receive extensive reader attention and downloads.<sup>iv</sup>

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, 2022a**).

#### *Special Issue Calls*

Astute readers will note we have two special issue calls on the journal site (**Exchanges, 2023a**). These are, regrettably, semi-closed calls, relating to papers and discussions at two recent major conferences. Hence, they are only open for submissions from a select group of contributors.

### *Informal Approaches*

As Editor-in-Chief I welcome approaches from potential authors to discuss prospective articles or article ideas for *Exchanges*.<sup>v</sup> However, abstract submission or formal editorial discussions ahead of a submission are *not* a prerequisite, and authors may submit complete manuscripts for consideration without any prior communication.<sup>vi</sup> Authors are always encouraged to include a note to editor indicating the [article format](#) or call under which their manuscript is to be considered along with any other matters they wish to bring to my attention.

*Exchanges* is a diamond open-access, scholar-led journal, meaning there are no author fees or reader subscription charges and all content is made freely available online (Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013; Bosman et al, 2021). Furthermore, authors retain copyright over their work but grant the journal first publication rights as a submission requirement. *Exchanges* is happy to support translations of our published articles subsequently appearing in other suitable journals, and requests only that a link back to the original piece is incorporated for completeness. Authors may wish to familiarise themselves with *Exchanges*' journal policies for further information on how we handle author contributions (Exchanges 2023b).

Briefly though, all submitted manuscripts will undergo initial scoping and originality checks before normally progressing to editorial review. Manuscripts seeking publication as research articles additionally will undergo one or more rounds formal peer-review by suitable external assessors. Editorial decisions on manuscript acceptance are final, although unsuccessful authors are normally encouraged to consider revising their work for later reconsideration by the journal.

Further advice for prospective authors can be found throughout the *Exchanges* and IAS websites (Exchanges, 2023c, IAS, 2023a), as well as in our editorials, podcast episodes and blog entries.

---

### **Forthcoming Issues**

I am hopeful we *might* have one last issue to share with you in 2023, that being the long gestating *Pluralities of Translation* special issue. My thanks to the authors and associate editors especially working on bringing this one into the clear light of day.

After that our next scheduled issue will be Volume 11.3, the regular spring issue. There are a number of papers which I had hoped we would have ready for the issue you're currently reading which I suspect may grace that edition's pages instead. Naturally, there is ample time to submit one of

highly popular editorially reviewed format pieces in time to appear in that issue. See details above and online for more on how to contribute these.

Beyond this, well, I am currently juggling numerous intriguing expressions of interest for two special issues, both of which look set to be expansive editions. The first revolves around Warwick's fabled and wondrous archive the *Modern Records Centre* (MRC), currently celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The papers draw on talks delivered at their celebratory symposium this September (**MRC, 2023**). For the other, we have partnered with Warwick's *National Centre for Research Culture* (NCRC) as part of their 2023 international conference (**IRCC, 2023**) to bring your papers inspired by discussions there. This may, we hope, form the first of a regular annual issue: an exciting long-term prospect for *Exchanges*.

Figure 9: Chief Editor promoting *Exchanges* at the recent International Research Cultures Conference 2023



Naturally, I was in attendance at both events, though thankfully photographed only the once (**Figure 9**), or at least only once of which I was aware. We have tentatively scheduled both issues for publication in summer 2024, which should make for a rich vein of content for our lovely readers.

If all this wasn't enough, we'll be launching another call for papers for a further special issue early in 2024, this time partnering with Australia's Monash University. Not to mention I am already deep in discussions about a further, and potentially recurring, special issue call on the horizon for 2024. However, that is one I'll save as a topic for a future update!

## Acknowledgements

As noted earlier, my particular thanks to everyone who has contributed to the life of *Exchanges* over the past decade. This issue of course my thanks goes out to all our authors and reviewers for their vital and often timely intellectual contributions towards this particular edition. Without these people, producing a quality-assured, peer-reviewed, scholar-led publication would not be possible.

My continued thanks as well goes to the members of our Editorial Board past and present for their work over the years keeping the *Exchanges'* flame burning. Special acknowledgement here to departing editors **Magda Zajackowska** and **Guilherme Sampaio** for their contributions to the journal over recent years, and with every best wish for their future success. I'd also like to formally welcome aboard our four new Editorial Board members who joined over the summer, with **Ute Oswald**, **Bing Lu** and **Louise Morgan** hailing from Warwick and **Jacob Thomas** from Monash University. You can read all about their interests and careers, and indeed that of all our editors, over on *Exchanges'* main site.

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

---

## Continuing the Conversation

*Exchanges* has a range of routes, groups and opportunities for keeping abreast of our latest news, developments and calls for papers. Some of these are interactive, and we welcome comments from our readership and contributors alike. Some of these include:

- Editorial Blog: [blogs.warwick.ac.uk/exchangesias/](https://blogs.warwick.ac.uk/exchangesias/)
- Linked.In Group: [www.linkedin.com/groups/12162247/](https://www.linkedin.com/groups/12162247/)
- Twitter:<sup>vii</sup> [@ExchangesIAS](https://twitter.com/ExchangesIAS)
- Mastodon: [@ExchangesIAS](https://mastodon.social/@ExchangesIAS)

As well as these, our regular email newsletter appears monthly, encapsulating all our latest news in one place. You can register to receive future messages, along with accessing all previous ones, via the link below.

[www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A0=EXCHANGES-ANNOUNCE](http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A0=EXCHANGES-ANNOUNCE)

*The Exchanges Discourse Podcast*

[exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/podcast](https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/podcast)

Over the summer we released our 50<sup>th</sup> episode of our podcast series, featuring an interview with academic scholar and acclaimed fiction author **Professor Intissar Haddiya**. We will be following this with new episodes in the coming weeks as we talk with a number of the authors whose articles appear in this issue. Past episodes are free to download or stream via the [Spotify for Podcasting site](#), and they can also be found on [Apple](#) and [Google](#) podcasts too. There's also a handy list of [past broadcast episodes](#) available too.

*Contacting*

As Editor-in-Chief I am always pleased to discuss any matters relating to *Exchanges*, our community, contributions or potential collaborations. My contact details appear at the start of this editorial.

---

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 various podcasts and vodcasts. He is also the Director of a property development company.





## References

Bosman, J., Frantsvåg, J.E., Kramer, B., Langlais, P.C., & Proudman, V., 2021. *The OA Diamond Journals Study: Exploring collaborative community-driven publishing models for Open Access, Part 1: Findings*. Science Europe/cOAlition S, March 2021. DOI: [10.5281/zenodo.4558704](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.4558704) [Accessed: 23 March 2023].

Exchanges, 2022a. *Open Call for Papers*. Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal. Available at: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/announcement/view/35> [Accessed: 2 May 2023].

Exchanges, 2023a. *Announcements & Calls for Papers*. Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal. Available at: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/announcement> [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

Exchanges, 2023b. *Journal Policies*. Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal. Available at: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/journal-policies> [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

Exchanges, 2023c. *Article Submissions*. Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal. Available at: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/about/submissions> [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

Fuchs, C., & Sandoval, M., 2013. The Diamond Model of Open Access Publishing: Why Policy Makers, Scholars, Universities, Libraries, Labour Unions and the Publishing World Need to Take Non-Commercial, Non-Profit Open Access Serious. *tripleC*, 11(2). Profit Open Access Serious. *tripleC*, 11(2). DOI: [10.31269/triplec.v11i2.502](https://doi.org/10.31269/triplec.v11i2.502) [Accessed: 23 March 2023].

IAS, 2023a. *Exchanges Journal*. IAS Website. Available at: [https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross\\_fac/ias/exchanges/](https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/ias/exchanges/) [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

IRCC, 2023. *International Research Culture Conference 2023*. National Centre for Research Culture, University of Warwick, UK. Available at: <https://warwick.ac.uk/research/ncrc/ircc> [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

MRC, 2023. *The MRC at 50: Research Informed and Inspired by the Modern Records Centre*. Modern Records Centre, University of Warwick, UK. Available at: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/library/mrc/mrc50/symposium/> [Accessed: 19 October 2023].

## **Editorial Board Members**

**Dr Gareth J Johnson**, Managing Editor-in-Chief, Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick

**Dr Vanja Baltić**, Department of the Arts, University of Bologna, Italy

**Dr Nora Castle**, English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Michelle Devereaux**, Film & Television Studies, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Marcos Estrada**, Department of Global & Social Studies, King Fahd University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM), Dhahran, Saudi Arabia

**Dr Changpeng Huan**, School of Foreign Languages, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, China

**Dr Ignaas Jimidar**, CHIS (Chemical Engineering), Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**Pallavi Joshi**, French Studies, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Sven Van Kerckhoven**, Business & Economics, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**Dr Kyung-Hye Kim**, Shanghai International Studies University, China

**Dr Bing Lu**, Faculty of Arts, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Salvatore Monteleone**, Niccolò Cusano University, Rome, Italy

**Dr Louise Morgan**, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Ute Oswald**, Centre for the History of Medicine, University of Warwick, UK

**Shilpi Pandey**, Faculty of Law, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

**Anna Rivers**, English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick, UK

**Dr Roy Rozario**, Education, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

**Dr Martín Solórzano**, Epidemiology and Evaluation, Barcelona Hospital del Mar Medical Research Institute and University Pompeu Fabra of Barcelona, Spain

**Jacob Thomas**, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University, Melbourne, Australia

Dr Sun Yee Yip, Faculty of Education, Monash University, Australia

**To cite this article:**

Johnson, G.J., 2023. Coming Back to Where You Started is Not the Same as Never Leaving: Editorial, Volume 11, Part 1. *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, 11(1), i-xxii. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.31273/eirj.v11i1.1457>.

---

## Endnotes

<sup>i</sup> **Acronyms:** That would be the Promoting Gender Balance and Inclusion in Research, Innovation and Training project hosted by Warwick's Politics & International Studies Department. You can find the pee-review booklet and other materials here: <https://www.plotina.eu/plotina-documents/>.

<sup>ii</sup> **Editorially Reviewed Formats:** e.g., Critical Reflections, Conversations (interviews) or Book Reviews. As these do not undergo external peer review, they are also usually able to be more swiftly published in the journal – provided they pass our editorial scrutiny.

<sup>iii</sup> **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.

<sup>iv</sup> **Top Articles:** This diversity of format interest is frequently reflected in our annual Top Articles list, which appears in the IAS annual report, and on our blog pages early in the new year.

<sup>v</sup> **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>

<sup>vi</sup> **Expressions of Interest:** We do on occasion operate expressions of interest ahead of submissions for special issues. For regular (open or themed) issue submissions though, authors may submit their manuscripts without any prior contact.

<sup>vii</sup> **Twitter/X:** We remain on Twitter/X for now, although given the changes that have come to this site in recent months, we may migrate elsewhere in the near future. That is, assuming we can gain a Bluesky invite!