

Five Minutes to Midnight: Editorial, Volume 11, Part 2

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There's power in the night. There's terror in the darkness. Despite all our accumulated history, learning, and experience, we remember. We remember times when we were too small to reach the light switch on the wall, and when darkness itself was enough to make us cry out in fear (Butcher, 2009: 260).

Introduction

Welcome to the twenty seventh edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal* and our first issue published in 2024. As always if you are a new reader, thanks for joining us and read on to learn a little more about the journal, alongside advice on how you can contribute to future issues. If you're a returning reader welcome back, and hopefully you'll find this editorial a useful introduction to this issue too. Alongside this, all readers will find advice for authors and an update on our social media channels.

A Brand New You

Last issue in October 2023 we celebrated our tenth anniversary of publication. This marked somewhat of a major milestone for a journal founded by a small and enthusiastic group early career researchers (Johnson, 2023). An achievement worth commemorating we thought (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Do you have your commemorative mug?



Sadly, experience and the literature indicate enthusiasm for such community-led journal projects tends to sag over the years as the original members move on in their careers.ⁱ This is just one of the reasons why the anniversary comprised such a celebration for the team! That we remain viable and active today going into our second decade is a credit to all the contributors and editors of the past ten years who've helped keep *Exchanges* going over such a period. Thank you everyone!

However, since last time's editorial was about looking back over our history, this issue's though is facing towards the future. Regular readers might be aware, and certainly newsletter subscribers will be, that 2024 is shaping up to be the busiest year we've ever had!ⁱⁱ Firstly, the last few months have seen a surge of activity around future special issues with the opening weeks of the year witnessing an absolute wave of manuscript submissions. Which I couldn't be happier about, personally.

Firstly, the MRC (Modern Records Centre) @50 and Research Culture special issues have been projects developed with collaborators at Warwick, almost in parallel. Both stem from events in last September, have shared a submission deadline and are likely to see publication mid-year in quick succession. These issues have also both been spectacularly successful in terms of gaining a sizable range of high-quality content among their submitted manuscripts, making it a busy time for myself and the editorial team. Having read through all the raw submissions I was deeply impressed not only by the quality of the authorship demonstrated, but also the diversity of perspectives, insights and topics displayed for both issues.

Consequently, there's a high probability both special issues – scheduled for a summer publication date – will be especially large and engaging ones.ⁱⁱⁱ I am also pleased to report that as of writing both issues are now well on their way towards being publication ready, and I think it is only a question of which one of them reaches fruition first: I have my personal suspicions which one that will be – but I could be wrong. Naturally, my thanks not only to the authors for their time and efforts, but the wonderful team of associate editors who are working away behind the scenes to make these volumes appear.

If this mass of activity wasn't enough, *Exchanges* has also been initiating a number of other publishing projects which will see publication over the next 6 to 18 months. Firstly, we have the *Queerness as Strength* special issue being developed in collaboration with Monash University colleagues. The call for participation finished in early March, and as of writing we are awaiting the final paper submissions from those scholars lucky enough to be invited to submit their work. As an issue offering the full range of paper format options to authors, this one will take a little longer to reach

publication than the preceding two special issues, so watch out for it from mid-2025 onward.

Then we have a collaboration with one of the Warwick IAS' early-career fellows on the theme of *Resistance*.^{iv} By the time this issue and editorial sees print, the IAS will have hosted an event around this theme and extended an invitation to participants to contribute critical reflections to a specially themed section of the journal. The hope is we will be able to get these to publication for our October 2024 issue – so again, we will be able to share these with you in the autumn.

If that wasn't enough, we have *another* two special issue projects now actively underway. The first of these is linked to events hosted by Warwick, and we are working with colleagues in the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender (CSWG) this time. We are especially delighted to find we have been able to offer a home to work emerging from their highly competitive Graduate Seminar Series. This series of events, with papers given by scholars from across the world, will be running through to the summer this year. As part of this we will be – potentially – producing not one but two special issues containing critical reflections and full articles inspired by and directly adjacent to the seminars' contents. I would expect we'll be seeing the first of these volumes appearing in early 2025, so there's some time to go before we can bring that one to you.

Now you might think, given our modest staffing resource this would be enough to be getting on with.^v You would be incorrect in that assumption, because the second project has seen us agreeing to collaborate with colleagues in Taiwan on a special issue concerning *Sustainability Culture*. This issue has been inspired by papers at two International Conferences on Sustainability Culture (ICSC) presented by NCHU (National Chung Hsing University) in '22 and '23, and is being developed alongside the 2024 iteration of this event. The call for participation went live a week or so ago, so if you are interested in participating, visit *Exchanges'* homepage to find out a whole lot more. I would argue this is an especially exciting development for the journal, as it should help us to showcase more authors from outside the UK and European scholarly worlds. Something which I think you can agree will be to the benefit of you the readers, and the rich diversity of thought in our pages too.

I think though, for now at least, this represents the full gamut of fully reified projects and publication activities for *Exchanges* for the next 12 months. That said, I am acutely aware of at least three more projects – pending funding and agreement – which we may well be kicking off in the latter months of 2024. So, it very much appears that things aren't set to quieten down any time soon on the journal! Naturally, as, when and if they

are confirmed, I'll look forward to sharing their details with you all in a future editorial.

For now, let's turn to the heart of the issue and the new articles published in this spring issue.

Papers

This issue we have a selection of articles, some of which you will note are tied to a thematic call we made for a prospective special issue. For various reasons, the special issue never quite coalesced, despite two years of work by myself, the authors and editorial team. However, I am certainly delighted to offer these intriguing pieces prominence within this issue as a themed section, alongside our regular papers.

Articles

We open the issue with a richly illustrated paper from **Mark Pope** and colleagues entitled *Pushing the Boundaries of Reflection: The Answer's on a postcard*. In this paper Pope reports on a project engaging undergraduates in reflective practices through a visual and graphical lens utilised postcards. This illustrative approach allowed the authors to explore the students' learning experiences in a more holistic and authentic manner, and to better understand how they critically engaged with their educational world ([1](#)).

For our next article **Rita Augestad Knudsen** explores *Mental Health Exemptions to Criminal Responsibility*. The author first notes how poor mental health can often be used to exempt individuals from criminal responsibility. Augestad Knudsen further explores how such exemptions are clinically assessed and awarded, highlighting the particular complexity surrounding such endeavours. To illustrate their argument, the author focusses on the differences between Norway and UK's frameworks and implementations of such assessments, especially in terms of burden, proof and causality ([29](#)).

We follow this with a piece from **Lisa M Thomas** and colleagues considering dance and virtuality. In *Assembling with VR: Dancing in a more than human world* the authors consider questions of immersion, presence and empathy relating to virtual reality (VR) in the performing arts. The paper especially examines a case study of how young dancers attending a series of immersive technology workshops made use of VR to co-create immersive environments. Thomas and colleagues particularly note how through this technology their students were able to explore new modes of engagement, alongside disrupting boundaries between spectators and participants ([55](#)).

Special Theme: The Effect of Plurality of Translation

Shifting to our special themed contributions on the *Effect of Plurality of Translation*. We invited contributions which incorporated addressed the possible effects of plurality in linguistic, conceptual, and cultural translation. Firstly, **Cristina Peligra** offers *Voices and/of Places*. In this article Peligra looks at Helga Ruebsamen's 1997 novel 'The Song and the Truth' (*Het lied en de waarheid*) and considers how linguistic identity is represented in Dutch literature of repatriation. The author argues this novel, alongside exploring plurality in literature and translation, takes steps to move beyond this framing. Utilising a comparative textual analysis. Peligra highlights how lessons from this text can also help illuminate issues of cultural and linguistic hybridity within other translated works, beyond those in Dutch or English alone ([1](#)).

Next **Natalia Rodriguez-Blanco** explores the multilingual news coverage concerned with the nation of Bolivia. In *Plurilingual Perspectives, Pluricultural Contexts*, Rodriguez-Blanco presents a case study focussed on *Agence-France Presse's* (AFP) news coverage, especially as it related to the country's 2020 general election. The author's ultimate aim through this piece is to examine translation in plurilingual news settings, exposing a domain wherein the role of translators often goes unacknowledged within standard journalistic practices ([107](#)).

Then **Alka Vishwakarma** takes us on an exciting multilingual journal in *Translating Ramayana: Plurilingual to pluricultural*. Vishwakarma explores the classic Indian literature and poetical forms of *Ramayana* through their historical presentations to more modern translations and representations. In doing so, they consider their relationship and resonance *Ramayana* has today with questions of regional nationalism and cultural identity. Illustrating their arguments with extracts from these poems in multiple languages, the author also examines how achieving or working from a 'genuine translation' can present a challenge for scholars and national cultural alike ([133](#)).

Finally for this section **Luis Damián Moreno García** examines issues around English and Spanish subtitles for Hongkonese audiovisual works. In their article, *Subtitling Hong Kong Code-Mixing and Code-Switching*, Moreno Garcia considers how the proliferation of plurilingual content represents a globalised intermingling of language. The article particularly contrasts how dialogue in Netflix shows are translated into official Chinese, English and Spanish language subtitles. In particular, the author highlights the loss of diversity and nuance from the original works and languages within the subtitles presented to viewers ([161](#)).

Critical Reflections

Just the one critical reflection this issue, from **Jonathan Vickery**, on a topic close to *Exchanges'* heart. In *Critical Reflections on Universities, Publishing, and the Early Career Experience*, Vickery looks at the changing relationships between institutions, publishing and young researchers, emerging from work at Warwick.^{vi} Inspired in part by seminars hosted at the local Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), the paper provides critical commentary into the current academic publishing field and knowledge production. It also offers insights into a current project centred on university journal publishing endeavours, alongside highlighting related issues for early career scholars to consider ([188](#)).

Books Reviews

Finally, we are able to share a book review by **Liam Greenacre**, entitled *Postdisciplinary Knowledge, Edited by Tomas Pernecky*. In the paper Greenacre considers how Pernecky's book theorises postdisciplinarity as a 'rebellious and subversive' movement. In response, the author interrogates Pernecky's text to isolate what elements make postdisciplinarity unique, postulating a question concerning if there is even a need for it. However, Greenacre concludes in the lens of considering the nature of the academy, a necessary contribution from this field does offer considerable benefits ([203](#)).

Calls for Papers

As always, we would like to remind all readers and potential authors of our open calls for papers. Authors are also encouraged to register for our email newsletter along with following our social media feeds for announcements and opportunities: see the links towards the end of this editorial.

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.^{vii} There latter, briefer formats are often able to transit to publication faster.^{viii} 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.^{ix}

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, 2022**).

Special Issue Sustainability Culture: Call for Participation

We recently launched our latest collaborative special issue call for participation, as noted above. This time the special issue seeks to further the debate on how culture defines our drive and thrust toward sustainability from an interdisciplinary approach. It aims to advance the dialogue on what sustainability culture exactly means in the 21st century. Additionally, we hope the issue and papers within it will be able to further explore the issues which hinder the achievement of the Great (Agro)Ecological Transition, and what cultural change is needed to advance this in general. This call is particularly interested in exploring our relation to food and the concept of sustenance, as well as to the process of how we produce and consume food, as a pathway towards this a 'Great Transition' in living more ecologically.

Suggested manuscript themes may include, but are not limited to:

- Agricultural TEK and evolving beyond the post-colonial discussion
- Agroecology as a new climate action approach
- Building ethical and sustainable connections with our direct environment and living communities
- How do we overcome 'business-as-usual' and anti-social morals in our (agri)culture?
- New climate ethics and agriculture, a necessary tandem?
- New morality education for sustainable living and agriculture
- Sustainability, a matter of green care?
- What are new climate ethics and can they be universal?

- What is sustainability culture exactly, its definition and aspects?

You can read the full background of the call, along with details of how to get involved on the *Exchanges'* website (**Exchanges, 2024a**). However, key deadline dates are:

Expressions of Interest: Sunday 16th June 2024

Manuscript Submissions: Sunday 15th September 2024

All correspondence should be directed to the Editor-in-Chief, with contact details at the start of this editorial. Good luck, and we look forward to reading your article proposals and outlines!

Informal Approaches

As Editor-in-Chief I welcome approaches from potential authors to discuss prospective articles or article ideas for *Exchanges*. 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.^x 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 2024b**).

All submitted manuscripts undergo initial scoping and originality checks before being accepted for editorial review consideration. 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, 2024c, IAS, 2024**), as well as in our editorials, podcast episodes and blog entries.

Forthcoming Issues

Our next issues as outlined in the editorial above should be the twin special issues for the MRC@50 and Research Culture over the summer months. Then it would most likely be the regular October issue (vol 12.1) – for which there’s still time to contribute a critical reflection or conversation piece. Then as we move towards and into 2025, we should hopefully be bringing you our various special issues currently under development, as discussed above – although the exact dates for each of these will be decided closer to publication.

Acknowledgements

As noted earlier, my particular thanks to everyone who has contributed to this issue. I would like to especially celebrate those associate editors who worked diligently over the past two years on the prospective *Pluralities of Translations* special issue. Hence, I would like to highlight the contributions of **Katy Humberstone, Mantra Mukim, Marion Coumel** and **Raghad Melfi** as associate editors, along with **Melissa Pawelski** as special issue lead. I hope you all gained some valuable experience and development through your involvement.

My thanks as always 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. Likewise, my thanks to the members of our Editorial Board for their continued support and efforts on behalf of *Exchanges*. A special acknowledgement to long time Board, and former special issue lead and associate editor, **Nora Castle**, who has moved on to exciting new challenges in her life and has consequently stood down from the team. Having worked with Nora in various capacities since 2019, I can honestly say her insight, good humour and scholarship will be much missed on the title.

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. Our newest being a channel on the microblogging platform Bluesky.

Bluesky: [@ExchangesJournal](https://bsky.app/profile/exchangesjournal.com)

Mastodon: [@ExchangesIAS](https://mastodon.social/@ExchangesIAS)

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

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

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

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

The Exchanges Discourse Podcast

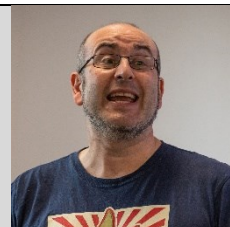
exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/podcast

This year is our fifth season of the podcast, and with over 50 episodes there's plenty to dive into in our back-catalogue as you wait for new episodes to drop. There's a handy list of [past episodes](#) available or you can stream the content from most popular podcasting platforms – and specifically our host at [Spotify for Podcasting](#).

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.

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Endnotes

ⁱ There are some exceptions, *Exchanges* being one example naturally, as is one of my own favourite titles, *tripleC* – another even more venerable and long-lived community originated title.

ⁱⁱ Subscribe to or access our monthly newsletter to keep up-to-date on all the exciting developments here at *Exchanges*. www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A0=EXCHANGES-ANNOUNCE

ⁱⁱⁱ It is perhaps too early to tell for sure for sure how many of the papers will emerge from review consideration to be accepted for publication. I do have a good feeling about the vast majority of manuscripts based on initial impressions. We shall have to see though.

^{iv} **IAS:** [The Institute of Advanced Study](#) – *Exchanges'* host department, publisher and sponsor on behalf of the University of Warwick. We have even been known to be found in person around their offices from time to time!

^v Officially, *Exchanges'* only staff resource is a 0.6FTE Chief Editor, with all other contributions from editors and associate editors given on a voluntary basis. Although, we have high hopes we can review this level at some point as our publishing commitment has more than doubled in the last couple of years.

^{vi} In the interests of transparency and full disclosure while *Exchanges* has been involved in this work, the paper was assessed and considered for publication by one of our non-Warwick Board members. In this way it was possible to arrive at an impartial publication acceptance decision, independent of the Chief Editor's views..

^{vii} **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.

^{viii} **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.

^{ix} **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.

^x **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.