Research Culture Readiness: Editorial, Volume 11, Part 3

Gareth J Johnson

Institute of Advanced Study, University of Warwick, UK
Correspondence: gareth.johnson@warwick.ac.uk
Bluesky: @LegionOfLlama
ORCID: 0000-0003-3953-6155

The first deliberate attempt to foster a non-monastic culture, was made by King Alfred (840-899). He tried to civilise his ealdormen, reeves and thanes, hoping to fashion not only more enlightened executants of his rule of law, but active preservers of a culture that hitherto has been claustral and monkish. (**Armytage, 1955: 20**)

Introduction

Welcome to the twenty eighth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, our second issue of 2024 and seventh special issue to reach publication. 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 content, readers will also find advice for potential authors and an update on our social media channels.

Something Cultured

Unless you've been under a rock[i] in recent years, you can't have failed to notice research culture is presently a hot, exciting and deeply relevant topic within higher education. Here at Warwick, where *Exchanges* is currently hosted, we had the *National Centre for Research Culture* (NCRC) established last year specifically to 'improve research culture across the UK Higher Education sector, and beyond'. (**NCRC, 2024; Gidley, 2023**). Naturally, we must also mention the importance research culture is set play within the forthcoming REF (research excellence framework) 2029's assessment schedule (**Corner, 2023**). We have certainly come a long way from Alfred's efforts to broaden his own contemporary research cultural imperatives!

What is research culture exactly and why has everyone gotten so excited about it? Doubtless readers will be readily able to locate a myriad of definitions for it out in the wilds, but also in the pieces within this issue. Warwick itself takes a steer from the Royal Society expressing the concept as something which 'encompasses the behaviours, values, expectations, attitudes and norms of our research communities. It influences

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researchers' career paths and determines the way that research is conducted and communicated' (**Warwick, 2024**). Interestingly, the NCRC has taken a neutral position and has specifically avoided providing its own definition, to avoid restricting a healthy and vigorous debate among the wider academic community.

Now part of establishing, nurturing and propagating this debate was the establishment of an annual conference on research culture. In 2023 we saw the hosting of first International Research Culture Conference (IRCC '23) at Warwick, which was very well attended. I was fortunate last year to be approached by Sotaro Kita and colleagues to explore if *Exchanges* could become part of these ongoing debates, specifically by hosting and publishing papers drawn from speakers' sessions at the event. I am pleased to say we were able to rapidly accept this idea, and since then have been working with one of our larger teams of associate editors in creating this volume. We opted early on to aim for critical reflection articles, to both increase the turnaround to publication speed and flexibility of narrative approach for authors. In this way, rather than insisting on a longer, peer-reviewed article approach, we hoped to capture as much of the essence of each speaker's presentation without needlessly enforcing a more 'didactic' written framing which may have created an obstacle for some authors in expressing their thoughts.

The call for involvement in this issue was therefore quite broad, in that we not only invited every presenter to consider submitting a paper, but also to the delegates who attended as well (**Exchanges, 2023**). Given that much of any conference's value comes from the discourse it engenders in its delegates, as much as the 'sage on the stage' holding forth, this was a crucial step in seeking to offer as inclusive a platform as possible in our pages. As it turns out, the finally tally of papers this issue is primarily drawn from the speakers themselves, which is a shame but perhaps something we can rectify in future volumes. Nevertheless, following our call for expressions of interest we received 39 submissions from potential contributors – the highest ever received for any special issue. Following a brief review, we warmly invited all of these authors to submit their full papers, with 32 managing to submit by or close to our late January deadlines.[ii] At time of writing by early June we already had in excess of 20 articles publication ready, and doubtless more to come in the next few weeks, which means this issue of the journal in undoubtably the largest we have ever produced in terms of page length and article number alike.[iii] A milestone achievement indeed!

As with any special issue there's a thin line between waiting for every paper to be ready and making the issue publicly available. This is often a topic of hot discussion between myself and the special issue leads, trying

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to balance the ambition to have the issue published against a desire to be as complete as possible in its pages. There's an unofficial rule-of-thumb for *Exchanges*, that once we pass 80% of articles reaching publication-ready status, we normally move towards a publication date soon afterwards.[iv] We started approaching this tipping point in May, and hence our plans for a July publication date, rather neatly tying into the IRCC '24's delegate bookings, were laid (**IRCC, 2024**). I mention this next iteration of the research culture conference not just to give it some much deserved further publicity, but also to publicly note how *Exchanges* has been invited once more to be the official publication partner – a proposition we willingly accepted! Hence, readers can look forward to more engaging, intriguing and above all varied articles in a key of research culture in a year's time: perhaps even from inspired delegates this time. *Exchanges* will once again have a physical presence at the conference, so please come along to our stand or seek me out to chat about our plans for the next issue.[v] Or naturally, to talk about any other aspect of our activities of course. Not least of which the (hopefully) positive research culture we embrace within *Exchanges* and our associate editor programme – without whom we wouldn't have this issue in front of you today!

Anyway, enough about *Exchanges'* journey, let us turn now to the core of this exciting issue and consider the many articles appearing within it.

Papers

This issue is of course full of critical reflections derived from IRCC 2023, and like the conference itself varied, exciting and insightful in equal measure. Below are a brief description of each paper, its authors and a link for reading access convenience.

Critical Reflections

We begin appropriately enough by asking *Why do we need an International Research Culture Conference?* In their paper **Rika Nair** and **Sotaro Kita** consider the lessons derived from the conference and what future directions the discussions, presentations and experiences from it suggest. Crucially for readers of this special issue, Nair and Kita's paper provides both a contextualisation of the conference, alongside offering a holistic guide to all of the contributing speakers and discourse who presented at it ([1](1)).

In *Reimagining Peer Review Needs Publishers and Institutions to Collaborate More*, **Stuart R F King** considers the importance of collaboration within peer-review reform. Highlighting steps which many publishers have taken, especially within the domain of preprints, King

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argues how academic institutions should take a greater partnership role. In this way research assessment and related cultural aspects would both see benefits (**13**).

Ammon Hāwea Apiata, **Melanie Chivers** and colleagues present the findings of an interview series conducted with their academics. As they explore within *Reduced to a Number: Exploring the relationship between research culture and metrics*, the authors consider the researchers' perceptions and insights relating to assessment, metrics and impact. The authors clarify how this study highlights the structural factors and decision-making processes which serve to shape how scholars work in various enlightening ways (**23**).

Next, **Elizabeth Hidson** presents us with a consideration concerning *Developing a Research Culture with Trainee Teachers on International Initial Teacher Training Programmes*. In the paper, the author explores how such students conduct research during their studies, yet rarely adopt these practices within their future careers or teaching. Hidson proceeds to highlight how the Sunderland Reflective Action in Education project (SunRAE) was created as a counter to this trend, aiming to better enable and promote an active researching culture within the students' future teaching practice (**30**).

Rachel Norman and **Claire Bradley** proudly introduce Stirling's Research Culture Awards, created to celebrate those positively contributing towards enhancing their research environment. Their paper, *Key Features of a Positive Research Culture* inspects the traits, actions and activities of past success stories through a qualitative analysis of the award nominations and nominees. The paper highlights common factors among these champions, such as demonstrating a strong collegiality, good listening skills and an aptitude to share their experience: indicating key typifiers of those advancing a healthy research cultural environment (**39**).

Then **Anne-Marie Craig** and **Julie M Harris** take further strides towards *Foregrounding Positive Research Culture*, by looking at the emerging theme of excessive competition and its deleterious effects. Drawing on discourse across IRCC 2023 itself, the authors illustrate steps towards combating such competition which in turn helps to produce a more collaborative and collegiate research environment. As such, Craig and Harris advocate prioritising and exploring such positive anti-competition factors for further discussion at future research culture conferences (**48**).

After this, **Fiona Evangeline** and **Esther Kiruba Jebakumar Clifford** invite us to take a more granular examination in considering *The Burden of Research in Architecture*. Offering an overview of the field, the authors specifically examine status perceptions for architecture researchers

contrasted with practitioners, finding the professional recognition of the former is lacking. Consequently, the paper argues for the significant professional value researchers contribute in this field, underlining the necessity for giving architectural researchers appropriate respect and recognition (**56**).

Meanwhile, **Sarah Callaghan** and colleagues share with us their experiences in *Developing Fundamental Research Practice Training at the University of Oxford*. The authors note the challenge for researchers seeking to piece together a fragmented and increasingly vast array of guidance on current research best practices. To this end, they explore Oxford's evolution of an impactful training programme to better enable their researchers to situate, contextualise and update their research practices. (**66**)

We then consider the intriguing suggestion that *The More the Merrier*, with **Taryn Bell**, **Francina Clayton** and **Megan McLoughlin**. Their paper questions whether it is healthier to create inclusive researcher development provision or tailor it for specific academic communities. In sharing their own experiences, the authors conclude how offering a breadth of opportunities has been for them a most successful approach (**80**)

Elsewhere in their paper *Enhancing Research Culture at Warwick Medical School (WMS)*, **Kirstie L Haywood** and colleagues explore how research culture is perceived across their diverse WMS community. In seeking to quantify these perceptions their work was informed by a series semi-structured 'café-style' conversational events attended by researchers and students. The authors unpack how these engagements aided WMS in building a community-driven five-year plan and road map with an aim to enhance identified positive research culture aspects (**92**).

Lesley Uttley's article takes as its central theme *Research Culture's Role in Contributing to Research Waste*. Drawing on a research integrity project entitled 'Systematic Reviewlution' – no that's not a typo – Uttley considers the challenge arising from the overwhelming volume of rapidly published systematic reviews literature. In particular, the author considers how institutional factors are driving the publication of substandard quality reviews, presenting further problems to medical scholars and practitioners seeking a robust evidence base (**114**).

Next, **Jessica Howie**, **Michelle Blake** and **Tom Morley** consider *Global Perspectives on Open Research Culture* in their paper, through twin academic library-based case studies. Examining the attitudes and practices at sites in New Zealand and the UK, the authors contrast the maturity and engagement with research culture in both locales. The authors take pains

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to stress the key role libraries and their staff often play as academic partners in facilitating positive institutional cultural change ([126](#)).

In *Engaging Academics with Outreach*, **Phil Jemmett**, **Caroline Cannon** and **Margaret Low** discuss the development and outcomes of the STEM Connections training project. The paper firstly considers the literature of outreach, subsequently asking questions of why institutions seek to engage with the populace beyond their walls. Underscoring the benefits such activities offer, the authors proceed to explore the STEM Connections programme's delivery, highlighting the tangible benefits proffered to participating researchers' aptitudes and skill-base ([139](#)).

Aidan P Thompson seeks to justify *The Moral Dimension to Developing Research Culture* within their paper. Drawing on synergies and comparisons with work on character education, and examined through a moral lens, the author argues how it is possible to view research culture's development as a more holistic process. Within these perceptions and morally focussed approaches, Thompson offers three framework approaches in developing a positive, attractive and beneficial research culture environment ([161](#)).

Mollie Etheridge, Kate Murray and **Katherine Dawson** meanwhile ask us to consider *Disrupting Academia's Care-Free Narrative*. In their paper they consider the narrative CV which has been growing in popularity in contrast with a more traditional academic CV. However, they identify such newer approaches can still serve to obfuscate 'care inequalities', and perhaps should be embraced with a modicum of caution ([175](#)).

Craig Carnegie and **Naomi Ogunkola** examine *Employability Schemes for Young People in STEM*, through a diversity, inclusion and career development framing. The authors explore their preparations, implementation and outcomes arising from a project designed to inspire young people to develop a career in the sciences. As such they share the experiences, successes and lessons learned which can be deployed elsewhere for hopeful similar degrees of engagement ([193](#)).

Drawing on survey work at their respective institutions, **Karin Wahl-Jorgensen** and **Candy Rowe** examine the challenge posed from *Time Poverty and its Impact on Research Culture*. The authors argue that tackling such time poverty is essential to enable positive research cultural change. They stress how a systematic, rather than fragmented, approach is required though, as without it, efforts towards positive research culture changes will be stifled with researchers unable to find sufficient time to engage with the programme ([205](#)).

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By contrast, in *An (Research) Enabler* **Stefanie Thorne** offers some autobiographical reflections as a research administrator framed within a developing research culture context. Clarifying the wide range of actors outside of academics who can 'enable' research, Thorne moves to problematise the term 'enabler' as possessing negative connotations. Through this paper the author hopes to draw attention to the challenges of unknowingly utilising terminology possessing dualistic interpretations in the research culture space (**218**).

Next **Colleen Thomas** and colleagues tackle a topic close to *Exchanges*' heart, as they explore *Research Culture Challenges among Early Career Researchers*. Such challenges, the authors argue, differ from those encountered by more seasoned and established scholars. Through a qualitative study using various sampling methods and working with local ECRs, Thomas and colleagues highlight how precarity, mentoring, and acknowledgement represent particular barriers to these nascent researchers (**225**).

Taking a wider view, **Amanda Chukwudozie** and **Chris Sims** ask us to consider *A Decolonising Approach to Policy Impact in the Global South*. The paper especially highlights extant challenges around postcolonial power structures and the potentially inequitable partnerships which can potentially arise. Highlighting the University of Nottingham's experiences in exploring this domain within a policy impact framework, the authors offer some invaluable practical suggestions for other institutions to embrace (**239**).

Offering a resonance through a more granular view of enhancing research culture practice, **Rola Saad**, **Ya He** and **Ziyang Hu** discuss how they have been *Breaking Barriers: Promoting inclusive research culture among PGR engineering students*. The authors discuss how they better conveyed concepts of an inclusive research culture to engineering research students, through a developmental event. In particular they discuss the use of an accompanying boardgame which offered an enhanced learning experience, encouraging teamwork and creative problem solving (**252**).

Taking us in a different direction, **Syed Mustafa Ali** and colleagues address a timely and important issue in *Addressing Ethnic Health Inequities by Improving the Inclusiveness of Digital Health Research for South Asians*. The authors look at how digital health apps must address existing health inequities if they are to be truly effective. In this respect, the paper continues by making recommendations to technology developers in better understanding the cultural context and behaviours of the South Asian community (**284**).

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We turn next to **Anna Fancett**'s article – *Developing Researchers' Writing Skills* – wherein the author considers a modern paradigm for evolving academics' communication skills. Based on a series of workshops, Fancett reflects on the challenges, lessons and outcomes from these sessions. Through this exploration, the author hope to provide insight for other researcher developers considering developing their own researcher writing skills programme (**304**)

Definitions of research culture abound in many of the papers this issue, and in *Five Adjectives to Convey What Good Research Culture Looks Like*, **Sotaro Kita** brings insights into the particular approach adopted at Warwick. The author argues that through outlining the characteristics of 'good culture' it is possible to engender deeper, strategic discussions. Moreover, Kita stresses the importance of adaptability within the rapidly evolving domain and perceptions existing around research culture (**315**).

Resonating with Thomas and Saad's papers, **Fiona L Fisher** looks into *Unleashing the Power of Postdocs* through improving their research culture experiences. The author stresses the value to the academy and society postdoctoral researchers offer, which can be better enabled through offering a diverse range of development programmes. Fisher argues research funders have key roles to play in facilitating effective change too. Consequently, broader career opportunities can be showcased to the benefit of postdocs, institutions and wider society alike (**321**).

Craig and Harris' paper (**48**) finds a companion in *Research Culture: People, process, impact... and knowledge too?* Here, **Robert Pilling** explores some of the personal research culture resonances which arose from the IRCC '23 presentations and discourse. The author highlights in particular the perceptible dominance of problem-based thinking across the conference. Pilling therefore proposes various frameworks to take forward further productive discussions around research culture, within a subjective, objective, practical or institutional framing (**333**).

Then, in *From 'Whiteness' to the Privilege Continuum*, **Carola Boehm**, **Arinola Adefila** and **Thushari Welikala** bring us back to questions of EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) and research careers. Their paper showcases a 'different approach' to EDI interventions, which help enable an 'affirmative approach' in achieving diversity targets or aspirations. The authors argue a greater focus on adapting processes and working cultures are more effective in enabling successful change, than addressing a 'deficit model' approach (**344**).

Offering us another institutional snapshot, finds **Shareefa Fadhel** and colleagues concerned about *Identifying Metrics for Measuring Research*

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Culture at the University of Leeds. In exploring their metric-journey the authors offer insights into various approaches and considerations which were valuable in creating an effective toolset. In particular, they examine the SCOPE framework, their reasons for adopting it as a method and how it has been deployed to measure research culture within their institution (**362**).

In contrast, across the Pennies, at the University of Manchester, **Rachel L Cowen** and colleagues are *Working Towards an Inclusive Research Culture Through EDI Education, Engagement and Empowerment of the Research Community*. The authors illustrate how Manchester's Inclusive Research Transformation Programme has shaped future leaders' perceptions and mindsets into a more inclusive modality. As a result, Cowen and colleagues' paper shares their learning journey, outcomes and direction of travel with respect to strategic alignment of EDI and research activities (**383**).

Finally, we close with another institutional case study as **Jemina Napier**, **Fiona Armstrong** and **Catalina Bastidas** explore the steps Heriot-Watt University has taken in *Empowering a Global Community Through Co-Production of a Connected University Research Culture*. They explore the ways in which the community were consulted and engaged in a co-design process to produce a 'global action plan'. Furthermore, the authors stress their hopes in how this approach will serve to foster a positive research culture across their diverse geographic institutional locations (**400**).

We hope our readers both enjoy these articles, and find they stimulate their own research culture thinking. Please do reach out to the authors, as I am sure they, like we, would love to continue the conversations this issue has recorded.[vi]

Calls for Papers

While the call for papers around IRCC '24 will appear following the conference this September, we would like to remind all readers and potential authors of our various other open calls for papers. Readers and potential authors alike might also wish to register for our email newsletter or engage with following our social media to keep up with our very latest announcements and opportunities. You will find the links for these towards the end of this editorial.

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Open Calls for Paper

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. While *Exchanges* is an interdisciplinary journal, we define this as presenting a cross-disciplinary range of published works. Hence, while articles which draw directly or indirectly on interdisciplinary methods, methodologies, praxis and thinking are warmly welcome, this is *not* a pre-requisite. Hence, any topic, written in a manner suitable for a broad, scholarly, academic audience is likely to be accepted for consideration in our pages. Likewise, articles from researchers, practitioners and independent scholars are all equally welcome.

Manuscripts can be submitted for consideration as traditional peer-reviewed research or review article formats, which will undergo a rigorous, double-anonymised external review process. Alternatively, manuscripts may be submitted as one of our editorially reviewed formats - briefer formats which often are able to transit to publication faster.[vii] The editorially reviewed formats can be especially suitable for first-time authors, or those looking to embrace reflexivity, posit an opinion or share professional insights. It is notable that all article formats receive extensive reader attention and downloads.[viii]

Word counts and requirements for all content formats vary slightly, and prospective authors are strongly encouraged to review our author guidance and advice ahead of submission.[ix] Where an exception to the norm is required, authors should discuss their anticipated manuscript with the Chief Editor *before* submission. Manuscripts passing our review processes and accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available regular issue, which are normally published in late April and October.

Notably, *Exchanges* has a core mission to support the development and dissemination of research by early career and post-graduate researchers (**IAS, 2024**), 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, 2024a**).

Informal Approaches

As Editor-in-Chief I welcome approaches from potential authors to discuss prospective article ideas or concepts for *Exchanges*. However, abstract submission or formal editorial discussions ahead of a submission are *not* normally a prerequisite, and authors may submit complete manuscripts

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for consideration without any prior communication.[x] Authors are always encouraged to include a *note to editor* outlining the [article format](#) or call under which their manuscript is to be considered along with any other considerations 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

We will not be resting on our laurels for the summer – chance would be a fine thing – as there is another special issue rapidly heading towards publication readiness. The long-awaited celebration of Warwick's *Modern Record Centre* (MRC) and its 50th anniversary is currently on track for an August publication. So, you can look forward to another issue of *Exchanges* to enjoy while resting on a tropical beach somewhere. After that, I would expect our regular *Exchanges'* autumn issue would follow in late October, giving me at least a month or so to catch my breath. Beyond that we move into the realm of our other developing special issues: *Gender & Intersectionality*, *Sustainability Culture*, and *Queerness as Strength*. I'd hope we'd get to see all of these in 2025. Oh, and of course, the IRCC '24 special issue should be coming out around the same time as this one, a year from now.

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Acknowledgements

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.

Bluesky:	@ExchangesJournal
Twitter/X:	@ExchangesIAS[xii]
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

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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. We will hope to be welcoming many of the authors appearing in this issue onto the podcast in the coming months, so please do subscribe to our feed – it's completely free! There's also 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.

Alongside a doctorate in cultural academic publishing practices, Gareth also possesses various degrees in biomedical technology, information management and research practice. His varied career includes running regional and national professional bodies, managing academic libraries alongside various applied research roles. Based at the University of Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study (IAS), he has been the interdisciplinary *Exchanges* journal's Editor-in-Chief since 2018. Today, he retains professional interests on power-relationships 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, and remains a vocal proponent for academic agency through scholar-led publishing. A longtime fellow of the Higher Education Academy, he regularly contributes to a various podcasts and is also a Director of a property management company.

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Endnotes

[i] And with due deference to King Alfred, let us hope that this wasn't a rock *cake*.

[ii] We actually had a 33rd submission in late April, which while we couldn't consider it for the special issue, will be appearing in our October 2024 volume of the regular journal.

[iii] For the record, prior to this issue – the most articles we had appearing in a single issue were 15 back in 2020 (vol 7.2) in our first special issue (*Cannibalism*). It holds the record for the most article pages too at 248, closely followed by vol 9.3 (*The Lonely Nerd*) weighing in at 225 pages.

[iv] This is true for this issue, although some special issues, notably the earlier *Lonely Nerd* one (vol 9.3), waited until all possible papers were ready.

[v] If you are planning on attending the conference online, then drop me an email and I'll be more than happy to arrange a video conference conversation to talk about the issue and the journal too.

[vi] I feel after that little lot, I might have to produce an update to Exchanges irregularly published index articles!

[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] **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.

[ix] **Word counts**: For the purposes of considering a submissions' word count, we do not typically include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendences. 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.

[x] **Expressions of Interest**: We do on occasion solicit 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.

[xi] For anyone interested in becoming involved as an associate editor for the next special research culture issue, get in touch (gareth.johnson@warwick.ac.uk) – it doesn't preclude you contributing as an author, and I'd love to have a geographically diverse team to work with on the issue once again!

[xii] Yes, we too would like to jump off Twitter/X given its current owner's recent political lurches, but for now we're still there given most academics seem to have retained their accounts. But we're increasingly favouring Bluesky.social as a strong alternative.

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