

If You Could Just Go Ahead and Make Sure You Do That From Now On That Would Be Great: Editorial, Volume 12, Part 1

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Peter Gibbons: It's not just about me and my dream of doing nothing. It's about all of us. I don't know what happened to me at that hypnotherapist and, I don't know, maybe it was just shock and it's wearing off now, but when I saw that fat man keel over and die. Michael, we don't have a lot of time on this earth! We weren't meant to spend it this way. Human beings were not meant to sit in little cubicles staring at computer screens all day, filling out useless forms and listening to eight different bosses drone on about mission statements. (Office Space, 1999)

Introduction

Welcome to the thirtieth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, and what is also our final issue for 2024. As always if you are a new reader, thanks for joining us and read on to learn a little more about the journal. Naturally, if you're a returning reader welcome back too. In this editorial you will find advice on how you can contribute to the journal in the future through our open calls for manuscripts, alongside an overview of the contents of this issue. There's also an update and overview on our various social media channels, for continuing conversations outside these pages.

Another Issue, Another Milestone

Wow. Thirty issues. Where does the time go? Not so long ago we were celebrating our twenty-fifth edition, and yet here we are again at a 'significant' number. Frankly, it hardly seems much longer since I was introducing my very first issue as Chief Editor, although that was way back in 2018 – a time when jumping onto a Teams call was a rare exception rather than an everyday occurrence. How times and practices change in such a relatively short period of time! That issue, Volume 5.2 (**Exchanges, 2018**) was actually only the tenth issue of *Exchanges* produced since the journal's inception. While moving into double figures was probably worthy of some note then, I believe at the time my head was still figuratively spinning, as the issue publicly arrived a mere six weeks after I had commenced my role as Chief Editor. I am, fair to say, somewhat more seasoned in the role today.

I'll leave you to do the maths yourselves for how many issues I've completed since then – suffice to say I believe my editorial status exceeded legal drinking maturity some time ago. If all goes to plan next year for *Exchanges* – and let's be fair in the world of small-scale scholarly publishing it often does not – we'll be potentially seeing six more issues of *Exchanges* appearing for your education, information and interest by the end of 2025. At that rate, using a back of the envelope calculation, issue 50 will be appearing sometime in Volume 15 in mid-2028.¹

Naturally, such calculations – optimistic or otherwise – assumes that journals like *Exchanges* remain a going concern by that point in history. Given the ongoing disruption to academic publishing, which began with the rise of 'ejournals' in the 1990s and continues today with generative AI and machine learning's impact on the publishing domain, I am not certain I would like to place a bet either way. Incidentally, if readers are interested in an enlightening look at these continuing publication field changes, what they could mean for established esteem markers and career goals of early career researchers, I would strongly advocate listening to my recent conversation with Jonathan Vickery (**Vickery & Johnson, 2024**). It's a longer than normal episode, but I'm pretty sure you'll find it well worth your time.

Exchanges as a journal title is undoubtedly more than a little traditional rather than experimental in its approach to enabling scholarly publishing. I follow with some interest, and a certain marked trepidation, developments in this field, and even my eyebrows sometimes shoot up in considerable surprise. I recall, for example, attending a conference a year or so ago, when every speaker appeared to be working on some sort of experimental or *avant-garde* publishing experimentation. While it is heartening that there is space for such exploration in what externally often looks like a rather moribund environ, I often wonder myself how much appreciation and awareness there is for these 'divergent' publication paradigms across the academy at large. My own research and interactions with scholars around the world concerning their publishing over the years, has always underscored the strong degree of cultural conservatism they embrace as a community. Their *habitus*, if you will, is seemingly adamant to change.

That is unsurprising, given many academics' personal drivers are typically linked to esteem markers like the REF (research excellence framework) and other research assessments. Given these have for many years been linked, for the most part, to traditional publishing routes, the impetus for dramatic change is muted. Yet the REF itself is certainly changing as we move towards its 2029 iteration (**REF, 2024**), so perhaps we will see a greater exploration of novel research dissemination routes than before in

its wake. Then again, I've been saying that for the past two or three REFs, so forgive me if I don't hold my breath on sudden change to emerge from that quarter. Certainly, in my experience, it is mostly where almighty capital leads, that academics and their mortgages and continued need to eat tend to follow.

So, change is perhaps always just around the corner, next bend, funding round or intake of new research fellows. Often from a direction or impetus we least suspect too. Certainly, this is just one reason for editors such as myself continue to keep a watchful eye on the scholarly publishing environment as a whole, lest we suddenly find ourselves overseeing an entirely depreciated or moribund modus of dissemination and ourselves surplus to requirements. Perhaps this is one of the reasons why I was pleased to note in recent weeks that long planned platform upgrades to *Exchanges'* software were being enacted. Maybe this will allow myself and the Board to begin developing some new journal attributes or initiatives. Only time will tell what these might be, and how successfully our contributors might embrace them, so no doubt I'll return to this topic in future editorials too.

So, on that, relatively, cheerful note, let's move on from my own ruminations and turn to the core of this issue, with the exciting articles provided for us by our contributing authors.

Papers

After the recent special issues, this time we're back to our regular collection of topics and papers from across the disciplines. However, astute readers may note some strong resonances with certain articles here with others in issues we've published over the past year.

Articles

Firstly, we begin with **Lúcia Collischonn's** paper, entitled *Translanguaging, Literary Multilingualism and Exophony in Translation*. The paper looks at 'translanguaging', offering both an overview and an interrogation of the theory. **Collischonn** goes on to apply the theory in exploring the work of two Brazilian authors and their deployment of the various languages in their writings.

Readers should note this paper was submitted as part of our Pluralities of Translation special issue call, and is hence a companion piece to the others which appeared in our April issue (Vol 11.2) earlier this year ([1](#)).

Critical Reflections

We then move to **Giulia Lorenzi**'s practical take on setting up and enabling a public engagement event. In *'Musical Reflections': An experience with public engagement*, the author considers their motivations and observations in running such an event. In particular, Lorenzi details the positivity and inspiration which emerged from the public engagement which served to shape and even instigate future research work for the author (17).

Another form of engagement forms the heart of **Arthur William Fodouop Kouam**'s article *Navigating the Publication Imperative*. In this, Kouam considers some of the effective tactics which exist to achieve 'success' within the field of academic publishing, from an early career scholar perspective. Contextualised by the challenges such authors face, as well as routes to achieving publication success, the piece considers how emerging technologies can and will likely continue to play an increasing part in this sphere (27).

We harken back to Vol 11.3, as **Ann Campbell, Victoria Simms** and **Maria Prince** offer us *Data-Driven Insights for a Holistic Understanding of Research Culture*. In their paper the trio explore the data 'treasury' of metrics and information held by institutions which can be 'unlocked' to reveal much about their research culture. In this way, the authors argue institutions can potentially achieve a greater 'real-time' appreciation and transparency of their local research ecosystem (41).

From institutional insights we move to the more personal as in *Once a Nurse, Always a Nurse?*, **Kate Montague-Hellen** considers questions of professional self-identity in the medical field. Counterpointing the author's experiences and identity as a 'nurse academic', the paper problematises the issue when looking at the trainee-nurse experience more holistically. To this end, Montague-Hellen argues strongly for student nurses to be better supported within their workplaces to become productive academics as well as practicing medics. This, the author expounds, will help to diminish the cultural barriers which exist between practitioners and scholars (60).

There is some continuing resonance in the next paper, as **Mia-Marie Hammarlin** looks at concepts and emotional impacts arising from engaging in *Interdisciplinary Labor*. The author explores the 'anxieties' and challenges some scholars face in navigating interdisciplinary research. Drawing on personal experiences, Hammarlin highlights how lack of shared languages and knowledge can present particular barriers. The author calls for honest, productive dialogues which address issues of

emotion and affect, as well as practical obstacles, to help more scholars be able to work in a greater interdisciplinary mode ([67](#)).

We continue considering interdisciplinarity and new researcher training as **Sarah Elizabeth Golding** offers us *An Early Career Perspective on the Value of Interdisciplinary Training Networks*. Arguing that complex, global problems need interdisciplinary perspectives, the author explores personal interactions with training in this realm and its impact on their career. Golding underscores the importance of enabling neophyte researchers to cross disciplinary boundaries early in their professional lives, if they are to have effective and impactful interdisciplinary research careers ([73](#)).

Our next paper from **Catherine Price, Min Burdett and Tom Bott** looks towards *Opening up Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)*. With RRI strongly encouraged by UK research funders, this timely exploration asks questions concerning the anthropocentric nature of this policy. As such it reports on a workshop wherein various knowledge and stakeholders were challenged to contribute their perspectives to achieve a greater clarity on this topic. In particular, the authors are concerned with ideas of game theory and how it might be deployed within RRI to researchers' advantage ([91](#)).

Our penultimate paper contains a forceful note, as **Simon Gansinger** considers *Max Horkheimer on Law's Force of Resistance*. Looking at one of Horkheimer's lesser-known essays, the author considers how legal process can become 'disjointed' from the 'rationale of power'. In particular, Gansinger looks at ideas around the 'force of resistance' within the essay, drawing parallels to Adorno's thinking on the dialectic of enlightenment, and especially federal abortion rights in the United States ([102](#)).

Finally, **Gulia Lorenzi** offers us *A Reconsideration of Imaginative Points of Resistance*. The author considers how the limits of imagination can still play a role as 'points of resistance' and carriers of crucial information. Taking as their core a look at an analysis of 9/11 and the plausibility of statements by Donald Rumsfeld, Lorenzi asks what role a failure of imagination played in the attacks' success ([113](#)).

These last two papers were submitted as part of an internal call at Warwick for work on the theme of *Resistance!*, facilitated by a seminar hosted in May 2024 at the Institute of Advanced Study.

As always, we hope our readers find something of interest or stimulation in this varied and interesting collection of work. Our thanks as always to all authors for their contributions.

Calls for Papers

While this issue is now live, 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.

Call for Expressions of Interest: Research Culture '24

While this closes in a few days (**Thu 7th November 2024**), there is still a chance for delegates, speakers and presenters to the International Research Culture Conference 2024 (**IRCC, 2024**) to submit an expression of interest. Following this year's highly popular issue drawn from the 2023 conference (**Exchanges, 2024a**), this is a great opportunity to be part of the ongoing and active conversation around effective research culture. Delegates will have had some information about this via email, there is also some further details about this call on our webpages too.

exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/announcement/view/65

Open Calls for Paper

Exchanges also 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.ⁱⁱ 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.ⁱⁱⁱ

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.^{iv} 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, 2024b).

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 for consideration without any prior communication.^v Authors are always encouraged to include a *note to editor* outlining the article format^{vi} 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, 2024c).

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, 2024d](#), [IAS, 2024](#)), as well as in our editorials, podcast episodes and blog entries.

Forthcoming Issues

This is our final issue of the year, and the third we've published in as many months – so I am pleased to report we're taking a break from the somewhat relentless publication activities since the earlier summer. Not that we will be resting on our laurels, by any means! Behind the scenes work is already advancing on three out of four of our special issues under development - *Gender & Intersectionality*, *Sustainability Culture*, and *Queerness as Strength*. These are all tentatively scheduled for appearance during 2025. On top of this as well we are developing a second volume of papers relating to research culture for summer 2025, drawing on and derived from this September's International Research Culture Conference (IRCC '24). The call for contributions went out as noted above, and we're in the process of both encouraging authors and recruiting associate editors to make that issue another successful one.

Naturally, 2025 should also see our regular issues, the next scheduled for April. There is certainly plenty of time for people to contribute to both this and the October issues through our open call, and naturally I'd strongly encourage authors to get those submissions to us as soon as possible!

There may yet too be other special issues, as I've had various outline discussions with people about them, although currently none of them have been confirmed. Certainly, we'll need to get some of the other issues out the door before I can turn my time and attention to these potentially exciting projects! Nevertheless, it's good to talk through the ideas all the same. As always, watch this editorial space or subscribe to our newsletter for more about that as we move into 2025.

Acknowledgements

As always, I would like to offer my thanks to all those people who helped make this issue a reality. A special tip of the editorial hat to former Board member Martín Solórzano who has moved on to new and exciting things, and we wish them every success in that.

My thanks too to all our authors for their vital intellectual contributions towards this particular edition as well. Likewise, my thanks to our Editorial Board for their continued support and efforts on behalf of *Exchanges*, and

Associate IAS Director **Fiona Fisher** and the [Institute of Advanced Study](#) for their continued support of *Exchanges'* diversifying mission.

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^{vii}](#)

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

We have had a real glut of podcast episodes in recent weeks, many linked to issues of the journal published earlier this year. As always, the episodes contain a mix of conversation exploring the key themes of the authors' articles, a discussion of their life and work along with advice for new or relatively inexperienced academic authors.

New episodes have included:

- [Outreach, Reaching Across the Divide & Engaging the Public \(Phil Jemmett\)](#)
- [Being an Effective Academic Citizen in the Republic of Knowledge \(Jonathan Vickery\)](#)
- [International Teacher Practitioners as Researchers \(Elizabeth Hidson\)](#)

All episodes are free to listen on [Spotify for Podcasting](#), and many other podcasting platforms. You can also find a full listing of past episodes from this year, and all previous ones, on the *Exchanges* website.

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

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 Actually, I'm modestly sceptical that we'll be able to maintain our publication volume with our current staffing configuration – 2025 is probably going to be an aberrant high. I suspect a more realistic/conservative estimate will place volume 50 around the early 2030s. Although naturally, I'll be delighted when the Chief Editor at that point – whoever is serving in that post by then – gets to celebrate that particular milestone, even if I'm likely to be long gone from these pages.

ⁱⁱ **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.

ⁱⁱⁱ **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.

^{iv} **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.

^v **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.

^{vi} **Formats:** For more on the formats, word counts and other requirements for any prospective submissions, see: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/guidance#formats>

^{vii} 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.