

Years in the Reign: Editorial, Volume 12, Part 3

Gareth J Johnson

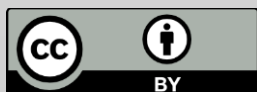
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I've seen things you people wouldn't believe. Attack ships on fire off the shoulder of Orion. I watched C-beams glitter in the dark near the Tannhäuser Gate. All those moments will be lost in time, like tears in rain. Time to die. (Blade Runner, 1982).

Introduction

Welcome to the thirty-second edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, and our first special issue of the year. As always if you are a new reader, thanks for joining us and read on to learn a little more about the journal. Alternatively, if you're a returning reader welcome back too. In this editorial you will find some editorial insight, advice on how you can contribute to future journal issues, alongside an overview of this one's contents. There's also an update on our various social media channels for continuing conversations outside these pages.

Four seasons in one day

To readers who've come here looking for some sage insights into research culture, my apologies and hearty recommendation to skip on to the next section which details papers drawn from the International Research Culture Conference (IRCC) 2024. Instead, if you'll forgive me the timely indulgence, I wanted to share some insights into what it's been like to helm the *Exchanges* journal these past seven and a half years – for reasons which will soon become abundantly clear.ⁱ

I was recently conducting some introductory training with a prospective associate editor, always one of the most enjoyable aspects of my role as a Managing Editor-in-Chief. We'd arrived at the conclusion of a lengthy hour or so's discussion and system demonstration, and as customary I was wrapping things up while checking if my future editor had any final questions to ask. Which as it turns out she did, but not as you might suspect about her future editorial work but rather about my own experiences as an *Exchanges'* Chief!

What's it like being a chief editor? How many issues are you working on? What's day to day life as an editor actually like? (Editor training comments)

I am lightly paraphrasing here, but in essence my associate editor-to-be was genuinely interested in what my life is like. Or rather, what my professional life *was* like as Chief Editor – for dear readers, I regret to announce that this issue of *Exchanges* is my final one. Now, while I let you dry your eyes for a moment, know that my departure is a moment of celebration rather than sadness, at least from my perspective. I do suspect for some of my IAS (Institute of Advanced Study) colleagues and editorial team members it might feel somewhat more daunting to lose me after all this time. Nevertheless, perhaps you'll allow me the small indulgence of looking back over the past seven and a half years of publication and editorial 'fun'.

I started working on *Exchanges* way back in the pre-pandemic days of early 2018, coming to it fairly fresh off having completed my PhD. Although, having been involved in publication and especially open publication since the mid-2000s it was perhaps less of a shock to the system than you might expect. Unlike the editors who proceeded me though, I had neither studied nor been a research student at Warwick before, being very much an 'outside hire'.ⁱⁱ One thing I will always remember from my first day, was having found where to park and the location of my office, and after a morning's general introduction to the IAS and how *Exchanges* related to it, I was taken to lunch by the Institute's Director. Which was where he wrapped up my induction with words to the effect:

There you go, that's all you need to know. The journal's yours now. Make of it what you can. (Pete Scott, 2018)

It was at this moment I was both thrilled and terrified by the realisation that I'd been given the rare and splendid opportunity to run with the *Exchanges* portfolio pretty much however I fancied: or at least in a manner which resonated with the IAS' mission, and which measurably improved the journal's standing with the local and wider community.ⁱⁱⁱ Or if you prefer, I'd been given more than enough rope with which to professionally hang myself if my plans didn't pan out quite as expected. One comfort at least was how the Senior Editor post (as it was originally termed) was a fixed term role for a couple of years or so. Hence, if things hadn't worked out by the end of this time, I could then simply move on to pastures new, place the metaphorical chairs on the tables, close the editorial door behind me as I turned off the lights. I rather hoped it wouldn't come to that, but as was clear to me from day one – this journal needed a *lot* of inspiration and revitalisation, but unlike NASA, failure always *was* an option.

Now, if you have already read my editorial commemorating our 10th anniversary issue (Johnson, 2023) there's a grand accounting of our decade of development to that point. So, I don't think there's any need in these pages to reiterate the highs and lows over this time. You will probably notice though in this piece my allusion to a need to 'reinvent and revitalise' (Ibid: vi) the journal which was stressed from the outset. This was perhaps, if anything, an understatement to *Exchanges'* needs at the time. I had arrived to helm a journal which lacked to my eyes the sufficient systemisation and professionalisation behind the scenes necessary to thrive, and to grow the title in esteem and visibility. Would that I could claim I brought my myriad of talents to bear and succeeded overnight. There were certainly more than a few tears and terse words along the way in those early days, although rarely if ever from myself. I would probably argue I'm still striving towards some of these aspirational goals even today, as while things are much better than they were at the time, there's *always* something more or new to explore, resolve or revise. I would though proudly, and justifiably, point to the enlightened ethos underlying my editorial team's operations as one major triumph. As are *Exchanges'* operations under a far more organised and systematised regime, and one which is redolent with well-documented professionalised policy, procedure and practice than it was when I began.

Case in point, as I think about passing the baton to a new editorial chief; my 'hand over' notes from the preceding editor were a brief half-page email, with key amongst its advice a suggestion to 'fire' one of the editorial Board as my first act.^{iv} How to win friends and influence people on day one! Nevertheless, I will note the advice was not entirely without merit and while I eventually followed it through, it was in a rather more compassionate and discursive mode! Unfortunately, of the work and future issues in preparation, my predecessor offered only a meagre scintilla of information. No notes or email exchanges (hah!) to bring me up to speed with how each paper was developing, or detailed advice on how to best collaborate or inspire each of the small volunteer team of editors who made the journal work. I was in at the proverbial deep end.

Oh, did I mention the next issue was due for publication in three short weeks after I started? Those first few months were challenging. That I continued to come to work rather than running away screaming from this semi-chaotic and information-scarce environment is a testimony either to my personal perspicacity and integrity, or inability to back away from a problem in need of solving. Those of you who know me well, will be aware it is likely a combination of both aspects!

Moreover, added to this informational void was a distinct lack of supporting system documentation, with the only guide to using the Open Journal System (OJS) platform upon which *Exchanges* runs a rather slender and heavily outdated one penned some years earlier. It was also one which lacked any specific reference to the '*Exchanges way*' of publishing and editorial practice or application of policy. Creating the first iteration of an editorial guide which codified how our operations ran, along with insights into using OJS to produce *Exchanges* specifically for me and my editorial team was one of my earliest successes. That, and perhaps rolling out my first issue only 7 weeks later! A later publication than ideal perhaps, but as a part-time employee nothing short of a minor miracle.^v

Fast forwarding to today, 23 issues later and close to 250 articles published – plus easily that number again which I've overseen which failed to make it to publication – and you begin to get an idea of the scale of the challenge. Especially when, for all *Exchanges'* triumphs, I'm the sole directly employed staff member for the journal.^{vi} In terms of minor triumphs I'd also point to the Editors' Handbook which has recently reached its eighth edition, around 100 pages of detailed guidance, policy and procedures to help my editors complete their tasks. I've also mentored, trained and supported over 100 editors and associate editors in this time, so I would hope their experiences on *Exchanges* will continue to pay dividends in their professional lives.

I should like to note how *my* handover notes are already over 5,000 words as I wouldn't want the person succeeding me to have *quite* such a challenging first few months as I experienced. I realise they might wish for a briefer document, but then as a Chief Editor you have to be able to read a lot and swiftly, so it'll be a good way to acclimatise themselves with the role.

However, going back to the original provocations, in an effort to bring me back to the original question: what *has* it been like to run *Exchanges*? Challenging, exciting, frustrating, uplifting and on numerous occasions deeply satisfying...often in equal and wildly contradictory measure. How many issues am I working on? For once, really only the one you hold in your (virtual) hands, although even as I take my coat down off the editorial office peg one final time, there's at least four other special issues and their associated editorial teams I'm working with in various degrees for a few more days at least. Plus, I'm ensuring content is as editorially far along for Volume 13.1's autumn issue as possible even though it won't see publication after my departure, even as I lay the groundwork for the Spring 2026 issue too. Academic publication is after all a slow process, so things need to be in place now for events which won't come to fruition for months if not years in the future.

And the last question: what's my day-to-day life been like – what is the quotidian editorial experience? Well, that's the hardest part to answer because while on most days I'll find myself talking with, supporting or advising editors, authors and reviewers, this is by no means everything I get up to. There's always policy and webpages in need of review and revisions. There's meetings and training to organise and plan for alongside marketing and awareness raising activities needed: ensuring in an arguably saturated 'publication market' *Exchanges* has a sufficient visibility for authors to find us and be persuaded that we're a worthy candidate journal for them. Then there's all the regular social media posts and podcast episodes to plan, write, edit, publish and promote. Plus, unplanned and ad hoc interactions with fellow IAS and Warwick staff and students to enjoy as well as dealing with the occasional crisis, or problem, or contributor challenge. Some of which have, on occasion, necessitated seeking legal advice! Then there's the wider world of occasional meetings, conferences and symposia to attend, as I try to keep myself abreast of what and how the world of academic publishing is evolving, and how we can/should/could evolve *Exchanges* to embrace it. Oh, and did I forget there's that pleasure in stepping atop my editorial soapbox to draft (and revise...and revise again) the editorial for each new issue, and trying to find a topic of interest to write on which might resonate with our readers.

So, does that answer the question of what my daily editorial life *has* been like? Perhaps, suggesting it has been 'varied' is an understatement, although as I type these words I find I can't help but think of paraphrasing the splendid series *Supernatural* to describe it all as: *good times, bad times, end times*. And for me those end times are rapidly approaching, as while there are a few more days left to see out, I will be, suitably, taking my final bow as Chief Editor at the IRCC '25 conference in mid-September. After that, well you'll need to seek me out at the heart of Warwick's publishing ambitions as I head up a year's development of our University Press: a role I can imagine will be no less as challenging, fascinating, frustrating and mind-boggling as this one once was to me.

Ah well, no tears dear readers, for this moment has been (hopefully) prepared for - or at least as much as I could. So, vale one and all, and perhaps we'll meet again in my next incarnation.

Papers

Enough musing on what has past, it is time to look to the future with our special issue's articles. This time we bring you a handful of detailed peer-reviewed pieces, and a longer selection of shorter but no less insightful critical reflections, each drawing on various aspects of the IRCC '24's debate and discussions.

Articles

Our bumper issue begins by airing some clean laundry as **Harriet Richmond**, explores ideas around being *The Creative Researcher*. In her paper, Richmond takes a perspective that research culture is actively constituted within research practices which draws on work from The Public Laundry Project. The author explores how researchers experience and navigate the cultural dimensions of their research praxis, investigated through collage enquiry within professional development workshops. Through these insights Richmond argues how research cultural change cannot be engendered entirely through regulation or frameworks, but requires an 'attractive' component if it is to authentically engage researchers in emerging practices ([1](#)).

Samantha Broadhead and **Henry Gonnet** then reflect on the *Creative Dilemmas* they face, focusing their article on how research enabling practitioners can facilitate in making creative art research outputs more openly available to others. The authors highlight the extant tensions in pursuing such endeavours though which can create a range of unique ethical challenges around issues including consent, rights and reuse for such 'non-traditional' research outputs. The authors conclude how greater licence training and awareness for researchers is crucial in achieving desirable outcomes, as too are transparent, effective routes through which authors can achieve 'justice' for their works have been reused in illicit or unethical manners ([31](#)).

Explorations into Enabling an Inclusive Research Culture for Higher Education Professional Services Researchers are the central text of **Charlotte Verney** and **Helen Curtis'** article. Acknowledging the expanding and ongoing efforts to enhance research culture, and especially the many ways through which professional services staff enable researchers' efforts, the authors highlight a lack of research into the research endeavours of such individuals. As such, drawing on empirical social research methods, the authors expose how poorly understood and recognised such individuals can be within their institutions, and as such offer routes to redress these inequities ([50](#)).

Our final peer-reviewed piece this issue comes from **Giulia Lorenzi** and colleagues who are *Breaking Bad Barriers to Pursuing Research*. In exploring intersectional issues relating to pursuing a research career the article situates its analysis within a framework of the many personal and professional challenges faced by such individuals. Thorough seeking to identify real, alongside potential and perceived barriers to research participation, the authors engaged in survey and focus group work. As a result the authors were able to test the veracity of their own understanding of this realm while drawing some broad conclusions about the direction of travel necessary to overcome or minimise such career obstacles for future scholars ([72](#)).

Critical Reflections

Moving to our critical reflective section in our first **Marie Sams, Rika Nair** and **Sotaro Kita** offer insights, perceptions and reflections drawing on the experiences of IRCC '24, *One Year On*. The authors note an increased discourse around and advocacy for research culture initiatives, alongside celebrating some of the significant developments in and around the conference. The piece concludes by offering insights into the future of the event, alongside its perceived learning and evolutionary outcomes ([98](#)). Readers may find the final article in this issue to be a suitable complementary piece.

Kate Duffy, Elizabeth Hidson and **Lesley Deacon** then take us on an engaging and agile exploration of *Facilitating Practice-Led Research Culture in Initial Teacher Training*. The authors draw on debates around research excellence and practitioner-researcher identity, which led to an agile and structured collaboration approach meshing these professional aspects together. This work subsequently led to a successful series of outcomes and insights, whereby facilitated, practice-led initiatives can be seen to benefit both individuals and the institution in terms of development opportunities while establishing a healthy and effective research culture ([113](#)).

In our next paper, **Kerry A Bloom** and a host of insightful colleagues offer some fascinating insights into *Coproducing an Academic Career Development Programme to Train Future Leaders in Environment* across multiple institutions. Their multi-institutional experiences have led the authors to perceptions that for such programmes to be successful they require holistically embracing a deliberate, purposeful and focused collaborative and co-productive approach. Bloom et al., spotlight the positive impacts and outcomes on institutional research culture adopting this approach has achieved, and consequently offer lessons to other institutions looking to create collaborative developmental endeavours ([133](#)).

Taking as their core text *The Precision Mentorship Programme for Inclusive Researcher Development*, **Elizabeth Morrow** and **Meg Jenson** consider some of the extant challenges and barriers to achieving effective mentoring. Exploring a particular initiative, one which ought to build confidence, enhance research skills alongside supporting robust developmental and funding acquisition ambitions, the authors reflect on the programme's successes, challenges and evaluation. Drawing on the lessons and conclusions from this work they extrapolate as to how this particular framework might be applied on a wider level at other institutions ([149](#)).

How a myriad of joint statements and concordats are embraced and offer functional impacts on an institution's research culture journey, forms the core theme of **Megan English** and **Stuart RF King's** article. In *Mapping Institutional Commitments to External Concordats to Support Meaningful Research Culture Change* the authors consider both the benefits, and administrative burdens embracing such commitments practically creates. The authors explore the practice of embracing the ideals of multiple concordats as well as the impact this had across their institution, especially in how this resonated with their unique local research culture ambitions. As a result, the article offers further reflections on the lessons learned and how they are potentially applicable to other research institution ([163](#)).

Victoria Strudwick and **Sotaro Kita** explore the *Warwick PATHWAY Programme* in their joint article, which considers how a positive action preprogramme has helped better facilitate Black researchers' careers. The authors explain how through supporting aspiring researchers from undergraduate through to postdoctoral levels in their professional development aspirations, the programme has created an effective career 'pipeline'. In this way there are longer terms hopes that the programme would also engender a positive multi-level community network wherein members could continue to offer career advice, encouragement and insights to each other over time ([175](#)).

Our next paper comes from **Ayten Alibaba**, **Richard Smith** and **Yvette Yitong Wang** who offer perspectives around *Creating an Inclusive Space for Research Conversations*. Taking as their starting point the lacuna between disparate research discourses inside institutions, the authors offer insight into perceptions of an increased conversational 'siloeing' within the post-pandemic academy. As such, their project aimed to foster more inclusive research conversations across faculty, professional services, students and other interested parties. Through this effort they conclude they were able to reduce some of the 'structural barriers' to a more inclusive, effective and respectful research culture ([186](#)).

These themes also strongly resonate in *From Research to Reach*, where author **Yanyan Li** reflects on her personal experiences in organising an international public engagement festival, achieved during her doctoral studentship. Alongside offering insights into accessible academic-public communications, Li expounds on how creating and facilitating this event altered perspectives related to the societal relevance of her research endeavours. This led the author to conclusions about the importance of a more inclusive and participatory research culture, one where ensuring research is communicated in ways which are valued and can be utilised beyond the walls of academia (203).

Rosie Wadman and **Jess Macpherson** arrive next with their article which will likely find a warm reception among their fellow authors! The authors explore how finding *Time to Write* is not a luxury, but a functional necessity for researchers and other staff alike. Drawing on the 'Power Hour of Writing' approach, Wadman and Macpherson sought to create space and time within a semi-structured writing environment for any staff members with writing tasks to complete. As such, they reveal how their titular project progressed with insights and an overview of its practical arrangements. They also demarcate the potential benefits to researcher skill development such a programme can offer (218).

Next, **Maryam Masood** and colleagues consider *Enhancing Inter-Cultural Awareness Among International Postgraduate Researchers and their Research Supervisors at Warwick*, drawing on reflections from their project team. With a sizeable proportion of PGR (doctoral) students studying in the UK being international ones, Masood et al., explore the myriad of cultural, language, financial and other pressures which challenge their personal research learning experiences. The author offers insights into work examining how intercultural awareness shapes relationships and experiences for such international PGRs as well as the impacts and responses from their supervisors. Masood and colleagues also reveal their planned expansion of this exploratory work across multiple institutions (229).

From an international focus, **Craig Carnegie** and colleagues consider a youth demographic as they bring a multiplicity of voices in exploring *Employability Schemes for Young People in STEM*. The authors explore the development of a successful project, and how the findings from it were cascaded throughout their institution. Crucially, the piece includes personal reflections from individually identified members of staff and the impact such initiatives have had on their own perceptions of employability schemes. The article concludes by considering not only the future avenues for exploration but also how such lessons might be adapted or applied to other institutional contexts (243).

Finally, we close the issue perhaps most appropriately with a look at *The National Centre for Research Culture at the University of Warwick*, from **Sotaro Kita, Victoria Strudwick and Marie Sams**. In this piece the authors provide a snapshot of the Centre, its aims, ambitions and a sense of its achievements during its first 18 months of operation ([260](#)). Readers might find it illuminating to read this piece in tandem with that on page 98 earlier.

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

As always, *Exchanges* would like to remind all readers and potential authors of our various other open calls for papers. You 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.

Open calls for papers

Exchanges continues to invite manuscript submissions throughout the year on any subject, especially those which can either (a) demonstrate a degree of interdisciplinary thinking or research or (b) are written for a wide-academic audience from within a singular discipline. Hence, while pieces which draw directly or indirectly on interdisciplinary methods, methodologies, praxis and thinking are especially welcome, this is *not* a pre-requisite to be accepted for consideration in our pages.

Additionally, *Exchanges* accepts submissions from researchers, practitioners and independent scholars globally. Manuscripts will be considered from authors at any scholastic level, especially early career researchers, but all pieces must meet the same minimum academic standard to go forward to publication.

See our [Selection Policy](#) for more information.

Deadlines: 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.

- Formats:** 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, they may be submitted under our **detailed editorially review** formats – briefer works which often are able to transit to publication faster.^{vii} 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}
- Requirements:** Word counts and requirements for all content formats vary and prospective authors are strongly encouraged to review our Author Guidance ahead of submission.^{ix} Where an exception to these standards is required, authors should discuss their anticipated manuscript with the Chief Editor ahead of submission. Manuscripts passing our review processes and accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available regular issue, normally published in spring and autumn.
- Review:** All submitted manuscripts undergo initial scoping (suitability and initial quality) and originality checks by the Chief Editor before being accepted for further editorial review consideration. Manuscripts seeking publication as research articles additionally will undergo one or more rounds formal peer-review by two or more suitable anonymised 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.
- Authors:** Notably, *Exchanges* has a mission to support the development and dissemination of research by early career and post-graduate researchers (IAS, 2025). Consequently, we are especially pleased to receive manuscripts from emerging scholars or first-time authors, although contributions from established and senior scholars are also welcomed.

Further details of our open call requirements can be found online (Exchanges, 2024a). Or to begin your submission journey visit:

- exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/submission

Informal approaches

Exchanges, normally via conversations with its Editor-in-Chief, has always welcomed approaches from potential authors to discuss prospective article ideas or concepts. 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.^x During the submission process authors are encouraged to include a *Note to Editor* outlining the article format or call under which their manuscript is to be considered or any other considerations they wish to bring to my attention.^{xi} *Exchanges* regrets we cannot offer extensive feedback, advice or critique on outline manuscripts or text ahead of formal submission and review.

While this is my final issue as Editor-in-Chief of *Exchanges*, I have no doubt that my successor will continue to welcome such approaches – so authors may wish to direct their questions to our general email address. But have no fear, I shall forward on any errant approaches that still come my way!

Author fees

Exchanges is a diamond (or platinum) open-access, scholar-led journal, meaning there are **no fees or charges** for readers and author alike. All published content is made freely available online to readers globally (**Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013; Bosman et al, 2021**). Furthermore, authors retain all rights over their work, granting *Exchanges* first publication rights during submission as a pre-requisite for publication consideration. *Exchanges* is also 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 consult *Exchanges'* journal policies for further information on how we handle author contributions (**Exchanges, 2024b**).

Further advice for prospective authors can be found throughout the *Exchanges* and IAS websites (**Exchanges, 2024c, IAS, 2025**), as well as in our editorials, podcast episodes and blog entries.

Forthcoming Issues

The next issue coming from *Exchanges* will be its first under new management – so treat them kindly! I would expect this will be our autumnal issue (V13.1) scheduled for late October, but possibly slipping a little later this year as my successor gets used to our processes.

This issue, I would hope, will be swiftly followed by publication of one of our longer gestating special issues – Sustainability Cultures feels likely from my current perspectives, but, naturally, I could be as surprised as you will be by what actually appears! As always, watch our social media channels or subscribe to our newsletter for more about our future publishing plans for 2025 and beyond.

Acknowledgements

Naturally, as I head for the exit door, I would like to offer a range of thanks to everyone who has contributed positively to making my time on *Exchanges* a productive and successful one. To every editor and associate editor who laboured behind the scenes, through to colleagues in the [Institute of Advanced Study](#) and across Warwick for insights and input and of course to all the authors and reviewers – without whom...

It would feel ungracious to run a lengthy list of names here, as I am sure to forget to mention some vital personage, but I would like to single out Abbie Pritchard her invaluable editorial assistance over the past year, and Dr Fiona Fisher for her gracious managerial style throughout my tenure which gave me every opportunity to make something of the journal. A tip of the hat also to Prof Peter Scott for recruiting me in the first place, and Prof Alison Cooley, for her publishing insights as our (relatively) recently appointed IAS Director.

For the purposes of this special issue, I'd like to offer particular thanks to all those associated with the *National Centre for Research Culture* and *International Research Culture Conference* team for their continued collaborations with *Exchanges*.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge the love and support of my good lady wife, Dr Sarah Johnson, who doubtless spotted the original job advert in the first place (she has a keener eye than myself for such things). My thanks too for Sarah in putting up with my many enthusiastic, loquacious and lengthy diatribes on editorial practices with a grace and good humour that remains amazing after all these years!

Continuing the Conversation

Exchanges has a range of routes, groups and opportunities for keeping abreast of our latest news, developments and calls for papers. As many of these socials are interactive, please do make use of them to engage us in conversation!

Bluesky: [@ExchangesJournal](#)

Editorial Blog: exchangesdiscourse.wordpress.com

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

LinkTree: linktr.ee/exchangesjournal

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

The Exchanges Discourse Podcast

The new year has brought a new focus to the podcast. In 2025, alongside inviting on past authors to talk about their papers and work, we've been reaching out to various people doing interesting things in scholarly communications. Hence, we've episodes looking at academic podcasting, early career monographs and the national open monographs scene too. We also have some excellent conversations with authors on there too, and at time of going to press our 75th episode is shaping up to be a little bit different – and celebratory to boot – and should be out in the next few days.

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.

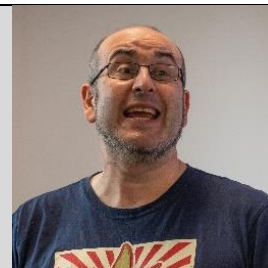
exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/podcast

Contacting

Exchanges' Editor-in-Chief has a long tradition of being ready, willing and able to discuss any publication related matters concerning the journal, our community of practice or potential submissions. To contact them it is best to use our general editorial email available at:

exchanges-journal@warwick.ac.uk

Alongside a doctorate in cultural academic publishing practices, Gareth also possesses 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. He was the interdisciplinary *Exchanges* journal's Editor-in-Chief (Warwick, 2018-2025) and will shortly be taking up a new role leading on development on the University of Warwick Press (UWP). He retains professional interests on power-relationships and evolution of scholarly academic publication practice, within social theory and political economic frameworks and remains a vocal proponent for academic agency through scholar-led publishing. Gareth is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy and also a director of a property management company.



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Endnotes

ⁱ For a more personal discussion on this, I'd direct your attention to our 75th podcast episode featuring an interview with myself reflecting further on my years in office.

ⁱⁱ Full disclosure, I did work in an academic library research role back in the mid-2000s for Warwick, but I'm pretty sure this was immaterial in terms of my appointment to the role.

ⁱⁱⁱ I'd argue I've smashed this ambition out of the park, but I'll let others and posterity judge me on this one. 23 issues and in excess of 200 articles published in 89 months, in case anyone (except me) is counting. And that's before we include 75 podcast episodes and numerous associated lectures, workshops and symposia delivered!

^{iv} I will carry this secret name to the grave. Feel free to speculate though.

^v I glanced back at that issue in writing this reflection, and was amused to note how perfunctory my editorial content was, by way of contrast to the grandiloquent style I've adopted in later issues. I'm trying not to acknowledge the numerous formatting non-standardisations which are glaringly apparent to me. There's a reason I have an extensive style guide to aid me today!

^{vi} Although, having a few hours a week of administrator time since late 2024 has slightly eased my burdens in some areas, and freed my time to focus on neglected strategic and operational concerns. Thank you Abbie!

^{vii} **Editorially Reviewed Formats:** e.g., Critical Reflections, Conversations (interviews) or Book Reviews. As these do not undergo external peer review, but a detailed editorial review and revision process, they are also usually able to be more swiftly published in the journal. While the acceptance rate is higher for these types of material, those which fail to meet our required standards in any respect will be declined and returned to their authors.

^{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 usually in January of each year.

^{ix} **Word counts:** For the purposes of considering a submissions' word count, we do not typically include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendices. Submissions slightly over/under our required word count limits will, at the Chief Editor's discretion, still be initially considered for review. However, any significantly in excess will normally be declined and returned with revision guidance to their authors.

^x **Expressions of Interest:** We do on occasion solicit expressions of interest ahead of submissions for special issues, as promoted on our Announcements page, blog and other social media channels. For regular (open or themed) issue submissions though, authors may submit their manuscripts without any prior contact.

^{xi} **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>