

Editorial, Volume 13, Issue 2

'Ch-ch-ch-ch-changes'

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'Turn and face the strange.'

– David Bowie, 'Changes'

Introduction

Welcome to the thirty-fourth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. I began the editorial of my inaugural issue of *Exchanges*, published this past March, with an epigraph from a film—a quotation from Wes Anderson's animated classic *Fantastic Mr Fox*—a practice I had intended to continue indefinitely during my tenure as editor-in-chief. As it turns out, with this follow-up issue, *Exchanges*' first 'regular' issue with me at the helm, I'm already breaking my rule. But I couldn't think of a better way to kick off this issue than with a quote from Ziggy Stardust himself, David Bowie (although pedants might want to point out that the song is actually on the album *Hunky Dory*, not *Ziggy*). That's mainly because *Exchanges* is going through the proverbial changes soon, and big ones at that, if not necessarily 'strange'.

If you are a journal subscriber, you will likely already be aware of this, but for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the journal or for more casual readers, I should reiterate the news. We recently announced that *Exchanges* will soon be radically altering its production model. In the interest of staying truer to our interdisciplinary mandate, we have decided to discontinue publication of regular issues and move to a specifically themed-issue publication model.

This means our popular 'special' issues, which highlight research on specific topics, practices, and themes, will now become our 'regular' issues. In other words, moving forward they will be all we publish. As with our special issues, themed issues will approach one topic from the standpoint of a variety of disciplines—including those from the arts and humanities, STEM, and the social sciences—encouraging, we hope, the exchange of ideas and



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leading to new avenues for collaboration and exploration in the way only a truly interdisciplinary approach can.

Each issue will be produced in partnership with guest editors and have its own separate call for papers. We aim to publish two to three themed issues a year in the first instance, with the potential for more depending on demand and resources. If you are interested in pitching a proposal for an upcoming issue, email me at Michelle.Devereaux@warwick.ac.uk for more information or simply to have an informal chat about your idea.

So, what does this mean for our regular issues? Well, these aren't going away just yet—this one you are currently reading will not be our last. Our goal is to publish as many current submissions that pass the review process as possible. That means one more regular issue this year and potentially up to two more for spring/autumn 2027. That means *if you have a general-issue submission currently under consideration at Exchanges, don't worry*. We are also actively accepting unsolicited submissions for the time being, although not for too much longer. If you are interested in having your work appear in one of these final regular issues, you have until **29 June 2026** to submit. After that, our submissions portal will only be open when we are soliciting responses to a specific call for papers.

You might be wondering why we are doing this. Well, there are several reasons. Since its inception thirteen years ago, *Exchanges* has gone through several momentous changes. Originally our full title was *Exchanges: The Warwick Research Journal*, a reference to our home at the University of Warwick's Institute of Advanced Study. In 2018, we dropped 'Warwick' from our masthead to emphasise our new outwardly focused approach, becoming *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, the journal you know (and love!) today. While we continued to champion the professional development of early-career researchers (a primary mandate for the IAS), we now strove to consider interdisciplinary research from a global point of view, one committed to fostering collaboration between international researchers at all career stages while taking on diverse subject matter. Collaboration—whether it be between disciplines, departments, institutions, or whole cultures—is really our *thing*, as is continuing to evolve the journal in tandem with the evolution of the research-culture landscape.

This brings us to the major reason for the switch: interdisciplinary collaboration. In the recent past, it's become clear that too often regular issues, by dint of necessity, end up being more *multi-disciplinary* than *inter-disciplinary*—that is, they are comprised of articles that don't complement each other, or inform each other, or *cohere*, so much as form a heterogeneous group of unrelated research. And that's simply not good enough. To be truly interdisciplinary, we need to be able to explore a

subject at the *intersection* of disciplinary inquiry. For instance, how does one disciplinary approach inform the other? How does this multi-pronged approach illuminate the subject as a whole? What happens when one disciplinary approach contradicts another? Themed issues allow us to explore these questions. From interdisciplinary approaches to solving urgent issues like climate change and environmental degradation ([‘The Anthropocene and the More-than-Human World’](#); [Sustainability Culture](#)) to exploring current research culture and the state of HE (our popular annual [Research Culture](#) issue) to examining more idiosyncratic contemporary trends or even outré artistic and cultural subjects ([‘The Lonely Nerd’](#); [‘Cannibalism’](#)), these special issues tackle challenging subject matter from a variety of angles. Moving forward, we will do only this.

Our online metrics tell us you are likely on board with this change, as the holistic approach of our special issues has continually proven popular. Since the introduction of special issues in 2020, they have dominated our list of most-downloaded issues, steadily growing our readership. For example, our latest special issue on Sustainability Culture, our most popular issue to date, has been downloaded 2.5 times more than our most popular regular issue.

Themed issues also provide the opportunity for collaboration. Produced in conjunction with other departments at Warwick and/or other HE institutions—from UK-based universities such as Oxford University, Buckinghamshire New University, and the University of Nottingham to universities in the Netherlands, Australia, and Taiwan—the journal’s interdisciplinarity benefits from a more global outlook, especially when it comes to addressing wide-reaching, important issues like climate change and the changing academic landscape, challenges that will remain at the forefront of the work we publish, with the hope of driving real-world change through collaborative, interdisciplinary innovation.

Not many journals do what we do, and I believe what we do is important, with the potential to become even more so. Our goal is to transform *Exchanges* into the premier academic journal for interdisciplinary inquiry while still providing an invaluable publishing and professional development resource for ECRs. I hope you decide to join us for this next evolution of *Exchanges*, either as a reader, a contributor, or both.

In This Issue

Just because we are winding down our regular issues doesn't mean we don't have plenty of interesting, innovative work left to publish, including the articles you will find in this edition. There are also several thematic and theoretical connections weaving their way through the research published here, including (auto)ethnography, identity, and socio-cultural privilege. James Cleverley's expert formal and narrative analysis of recent Spanish TV series *Veneno*, itself an exploration of transgender 1990s television sensation Cristina Ortiz (a.k.a. '*la Veneno*', or 'the Poison'), coins the apt term 'trans bio-epic' (p. 1) to describe the series' affective dimensions, at once sweeping and personal, relating to questions of stardom and exposure, on the one hand, and intimacy and identity on the other. Smith Joseph takes a very different approach to socio-cultural analysis via a detailed, empirical study of the naming practices of Telugu-speaking Indian Catholics (p. 25) but offers a similarly compelling glimpse into an underexplored (sub)culture.

Continuing in the vein of ethnography but shifting emphasis to personal experience, two Critical Reflections pieces draw on the emerging practice of auto-ethnography (AE). Beekeeper and academic Tony Murphy charts his discovery of AE and how it has informed his research journey on beekeeping and sustainability (p. 73), while Devika Bahadur gives an auto-ethnographic account of her PhD research on migration and masculinity in India, in which she draws on 'feminist and sensory methodologies' in order to examine 'how the researcher's lived experiences of childhood mobility, linguistic fragmentation and cultural fluidity shaped her approach to fieldwork and interpretation' (p. 86).

We return to sustainability culture (a popular theme at *Exchanges*), with an article that serves as a follow-up, or potential rebuttal, to one on carbon capture recently published in our Sustainability Issue. While that article was written by industry representatives, the one in this issue was authored by two academics from the University of Nottingham, Catherine Price and Carol Morris, whose own research suggests land-based greenhouse gas removal technologies (in this case, biochar) might not be the magic bullet some industry reps are claiming them to be (p. 48). Finally, Reece Sodhi provides a decolonial framework for higher education through an exploration of what he terms the four 'Pillars of Privilege', 'interlocking structures—capitalism, patriarchy, racism, and ableism—that shape (un)belonging within HE', suggesting ways to combat them (p. 105).

Call for Papers

Our call for Expressions of Interest regarding our upcoming special issue, *A Woman's Labour: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Work, Health, and Care*, is still open, but will be closing on **8 June**. Please get in touch with the editor-in-chief if you have any related questions. You can read more about the issue and submit your abstract [here](#).

Open calls for papers

We are still accepting unsolicited manuscript submissions until **29 June 2026**. These can be on any subject and should either (a) demonstrate a degree of interdisciplinary thinking or research or (b) be written for a wide-reaching 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 prerequisite for consideration in our pages.

Additionally, *Exchanges* accepts submissions from researchers, practitioners, and independent scholars globally. We consider manuscripts from authors at any scholastic level and especially encourage submissions from early-career researchers, but all submissions must meet the same minimum academic standards to be published. See our [Selection Policy](#) for more information.

Deadlines: Manuscripts therefore may be submitted for consideration via our online submission portal by **29 June 2026**.

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 **editorially reviewed formats** for briefer works (up to 4,000 words), which often are able to transit to publication faster.ⁱ 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.ⁱⁱ

Requirements: Word counts and requirements for all content formats vary, so prospective authors are strongly encouraged to review our Author Guidance.ⁱⁱⁱ Where an exception to these standards is required, authors should discuss this 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, which are 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. Manuscripts seeking publication as research articles additionally will undergo one or more rounds of 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). To submit, go to:

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

Informal approaches

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

Author fees

Exchanges is a 'diamond' (a.k.a. 'platinum') open-access, scholar-led journal, meaning there are **no fees or charges** for readers or authors. All published content is made freely available online 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. Authors may wish to consult *Exchanges'* journal policies for further information on how we handle author contributions (Exchanges, 2024b). Further advice can be found on the *Exchanges* and IAS websites (Exchanges, 2024c, IAS, 2025).

Forthcoming Issues and Continuing the Conversation

We will be announcing the Call for Papers for a new special issue very soon. I am particularly excited about this one. Please keep an eye on our social media channels and subscribe to our newsletter for updates. You can find us via the following links:

- Bluesky: [@ExchangesJournal](#)
- Editorial Blog: exchangesdiscourse.wordpress.com
- LinkedIn: 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 Exchanges podcast has been dormant since Gaz's departure in late 2025, but the hope is it will be resurrected soon. It will likely continue the tradition of inviting journal authors to talk about their papers and work and offer publishing advice for early-career scholars. The journal archive includes episodes looking at academic podcasting, early career monographs and the emerging practice of 'open' monographs, as well as Gaz's valedictory episode, in which he discusses his lengthy tenure as *Exchanges'* editor-in-chief.

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 here:

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

Contacting

For general inquiries (for instance, to discuss a potential submission), contact us at: exchanges-journal@warwick.ac.uk.

Acknowledgements

Once again, I would like to thank my predecessor, Dr Gaz Johnson, who continues to provide me with invaluable counsel. I would also especially like to thank Dr Fiona Fisher, who is sadly leaving the Institute of Advanced Study at the end of the month (sad for us, not for her!). Fiona's continued commitment to people-centred values and empathy is unfortunately increasingly rare in the neoliberal workplace, and her strong moral stance and general allyship are hugely appreciated and will be greatly missed. I am sorry we didn't get to work together longer, Fi, but I wish you all the best on your upcoming adventures in Italy and beyond.

Finally, welcome to the world, Nicolas Alex—you don't know it yet, but you lucked out in the parent department, Nicky!

Dr Michelle Devereaux is the managing editor-in-chief of *Exchanges*. She is a former Leverhulme Trust Early Career Fellow in film and television studies at the University of Warwick, where she also teaches screen studies. Her research interests include romantic and post-romantic philosophy, contemporary screen culture, gender and feminist theory, film aesthetics, critical neurodiversity studies, and genre studies. She served on the *Exchanges* editorial board between 2022 and 2025 and has worked as an editor for various print and web publications in North America and the UK.



References

Exchanges, 2024a. 'Call for Papers (Open, No Deadline, All Topics)'. *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. Available at: <https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/index.php/exchanges/announcement/view/62> (last accessed 5 March 2026).

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Endnotes

ⁱ **Editorially Reviewed Formats:** i.e., Critical Reflections, Conversations (interviews) or Book Reviews, which do not undergo external peer review and are thus usually able to be more swiftly published. While the acceptance rate is higher for these types of material, those which fail to meet our required editorial standards in any respect will be declined and returned to their authors.

ⁱⁱ **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.

ⁱⁱⁱ **Word counts:** We do not typically include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendices when considering word count. Submissions slightly over/under our required word count limits will be considered for review at the chief editor's discretion. However, significant excess will normally be automatically declined.

^{iv} **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, authors may submit their manuscripts without any prior contact.

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