

Quality, Resistance & Community: Editorial, Volume 6, Part 1

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The philosophers have only interpreted the world, in various ways. The point, however, is to change it. (Marx, Eleven Theses on Feuerbach)

Introduction

Welcome to the eleventh edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*. This issue is a little thinner than earlier issues, perhaps reflecting the fact that our last issue was only published back at the start of what became a the long hot summer. I'm happy to report we've lots of articles currently undergoing peer review and copyediting, which means I'm hopefully Vol 6(2) should be a bumper issue in the New Year. Nevertheless, I think you'll agree that quality trumps quantity on this occasion. My grateful thanks to all authors whose work appears in this issue.

During this summer I've been much concerned on the subject of peer review [1], not least of which has seem me wrestling with the challenges around keeping reviewers engaged with completing their assignments [2]. Nevertheless, here at Exchanges we've always been keen to embrace as high a level of quality assurance as possible for our title, in keeping with our longer term aspirations. It's the major reason why we've moved to expose all submissions to peer review. This will help ensure the continued quality bar for the work we publish, alongside allowing us to meet our mission to develop the scholarly voice of emerging or new authors who choose publish with us.

One way in which readers of Exchanges can help us maintain this quality, is by registering as one of our peer reviewing community [3]. The Editorial Board are keen to develop the range of peer reviewers we have registered with us, drawn as per our editorial policy from both established researchers and early career researchers. As an interdisciplinary journal we receive articles on a wide variety of themes and broad disciplinary spread, which means it is crucial that we have a diverse range of potential reviewers available. So, if you'd like to register or have colleagues who might be willing, then please do consider it. You'd be a great assistance in Exchanges' mission to further the impact and visibility of high quality early career interdisciplinary research.

In the meantime, don't forget to stop by the [editorial blog](#) or follow our [Twitter account](#) for the latest news, developments and insights about Exchanges. Please do come and join in the conversation.

Conversations

Speaking of conversations, we open with two more of our highly popular series of interviews with key figures in various disciplinary fields. Firstly **Ruben Kremers** has the opportunity to speak with acclaimed social scientist *Professor Wendy Larner*. Originally from New Zealand, Larner gained her doctorate in Canada and currently works as Victoria, University of Wellington's Provost. An outspoken, as well as insightful and charismatic figure, Larner talks about the social sciences and her own research journey within them. In a particularly timely intervention, Kremers explores with Larner her current work which centres around the changing dynamics within around the university, especially with respect to their future configuration ([1](#)).

The second conversation in this issue is between **Jennifer Philippa Eggert** and *Professor Louse Richardson*. A political scientist, with an academic career encompassing St Andrews and Harvard, Richardson is currently the Vice-Chancellor at the University of Oxford. Eggert's interview stems from a visit to the University of Warwick to deliver a talk as part of the institution's 'Inspiring Women' series of lectures. The interview explores her thoughts around terrorism, political violence and contrasts between approaches to terrorism studies in America and Europe. In particular, she highlights the role interdisciplinary approaches play in this field, alongside her thoughts on delivering effective higher education ([11](#)).

Featured Section: Narrating, Nation, Sovereignty and Territory

Nation shall speak peace unto nation. (**British Broadcasting Corporation motto**)

Our featured section this issue brings together a pair of articles stemming from a symposium held at the Durham University's Institute of Advanced Study. This event drew authors from disparate disciplines together to critically reflect on key-socio-spatial narratives and the roles they have played in shaping global politics.

The first article, *Interdisciplinary Research on Space and Power*, from **Michael Laiho** and **Thomas Spray** provides a powerful and coherent critical overview of the event, alongside postulating a number of crucial questions. Significantly, the authors examine the social constructions of space through a deconstruction of 'hegemonic narratives'. In particular, this article considers the manners in which research and scholars have

‘historicised cultural, political and geographical spaces’, and the role this has played in spatial interpretations. The article also provides an invaluable introduction to a number of the papers delivered at the symposium, alongside providing the authors’ unique analysis of the findings, insights and conclusions presented ([17](#)).

Note: Laiho and Spray’s article references a number of pieces which are, regrettably at time of going to press, still undergoing authorial modifications and enhancements. The Editorial Board hopes to bring the remainder of these articles to you in a later edition of *Exchanges*. We hope this doesn’t diminish from your scholarly enjoyment.

Nevertheless, one of the papers which Laiho and Spray refer to is **Jack Coopey’s** *The Ethics of Resistance*. This deeply fascinating piece draws on Foucault’s work around governmentality and biopolitics, and especially their role he saw they played in influencing sovereign states and modernity in the 18th Century. Coopey examines Foucault’s efforts to ‘practice a new form of ethics’ to subvert sovereignty, and what this can teach us today in terms of configuring resistance to the neoliberalised bureaucratic regimes within which most of us toil ([29](#)).

Articles

Our final article this issue is a highly illustrated piece from **Alice Anne Eden** entitled *Enchanted Community*. In this article, Eden reflects on a collaborative art project which sought to engage the public in the UK’s West-Midlands with art scholarship. This was attempted through a combination of methods including practical workshops, alongside educational interventions and collaborative efforts. The article provides an overview of the methods and methodological approaches, alongside crucially examining the outcomes of this work, especially with regards to developing further such public engagement endeavours ([44](#)).

Acknowledgements

As always, many thanks to our authors and reviewers for the vital and continued contribution of their intellectual labour in the creation of this latest issue. Without you, the ability to produce a quality, peer-reviewed, scholar-led publication such as this would, quite simply, not be possible. Thanks also to our reader community, who play a key role in developing the debates and insights raised in each issue. I hope you find this issue as stimulating, thought-provoking and perhaps challenging as previous volumes.

Particular thanks to James Amor, Andrew Taylor and Catherine Lester, outgoing members of the Editorial Board, for their input to this and preceding volumes, and support for *Exchanges* over the years.

Thanks also to Yvonne Budden and Rob Talbot from the University of Warwick's Library, for their continued advice, guidance and technological support for Exchanges.

Finally, my thanks to my Editorial Board, especially the newest members Kyung Hye Kim, Giannis Moutsinas, Andrew Stones, Magda Zajackowska, Marie Murphy and Jane Connory for their input and comments, along with their dedication, focus and commitment they each bring to producing a quality-assured, interdisciplinary research organ.

Next Issue

The theme for the Spring 2019 issue of Exchanges will be around the timely topics of Unification or Division, alongside our regular collection of articles. I also hope to be able to announce some exciting news concerning the increasing internationalisation of Exchanges.

Call for Papers

Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal accepts submissions from researchers in any discipline, globally, 365 days a year. While we make periodic themed calls, we welcome direct submissions from scholars, especially from those who are currently early career researchers. We are happy to receive traditional research and review articles, but we also strongly support submissions of interviews with key scholars or critical reflections on important scholarly events, conferences or crucial new texts. Prospective authors are especially encouraged to consider how their work can address a broader, interdisciplinary audience or theme.

Exchanges is a Diamond Open Access [4], scholar-led journal, which means there are no author fees or subscription charges for readers. For more information about submitting to Exchanges, either contact a member of the Editorial Board or see our online guidelines.

<https://exchanges.warwick.ac.uk/about/submissions>

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