Twenty is Plenty: Editorial, Volume 9, Part 1

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One day I shall come back. Yes, I shall come back. Until then, there must be no regrets, no tears, no anxieties. Just go forward in all your beliefs and prove to me that I am not mistaken in mine. (William Hartnell in **Flashpoint, 1964**)

Introduction

Welcome to the twentieth edition of *Exchanges: The Interdisciplinary Research Journal*, and our fourth issue of 2021. If this is the first issue of *Exchanges* you have read, then you are most welcome, as it is always a pleasure for us to have new readers. Naturally, you are just as welcome if you are part of our ever-growing community of regular readers.

Twenty (Twenty One) Vision

This is something of a celebratory edition, and not simply because we have reached a round-number of issues. I came aboard to run the journal back in the gloriously pre-pandemic days of early 2018 with the publication of volume 5(2), which also happened in a spooky coincidence to be the journal's tenth issue.

You won't need me to point out how very different the world was those scant few years previously. For our part, *Exchanges* was then based out of Warwick's Millburn House complex in a first-floor corner office overlooking a car park ringed by a magnificent collection of trees. When our host department relocated the following September to be closer to central campus, naturally *Exchanges* followed close behind. There were trees to admire there too, and rather more wildfowl camped outside the front of the building than in our previous residence. Today, I find myself still looking out at trees from desk, but they are the foliage in and around my garden rather than campus ones. To paraphrase Hartnell's character, at some point, hopefully soon, I may return to campus: just not quite yet.

Despite not being on campus for the past couple of years, as chief editor I have still continued to enjoy many and frequent discussions with authors and other contributors to the journal throughout. This very morning I found myself debating the finer points of reviewing protocol with a new



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https://creativecommons .org/licenses/by/4.0/ reviewer for example. Last week, there was more of an author focus answering queries about potential submissions and the challenge of adapting longer works into articles. Certainly the main lesson I have been able to takeaway from my time on the journal to date, is there is no quotidian routine expectation of what each day will throw at me. Doubtless change, challenge and serendipitous delight will continue to frame the journal editorial experience as we move closer to celebrating our tenth anniversary of publication in 2023.

If there is one constant, it is perhaps the ways in which our various contributors and their myriad needs are rarely far from my mind as *Exchanges* editor-in-chief (EIC). In particular, over the past couple of months I have been delighted to contribute to a British Academy (**2021**) funded project which is offering support for early career scholars' authorial skills. *Exchanges*' ongoing participation in this *Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World* project, is helping the principal investigators meet their aims to 'foster knowledge exchange' relating to publishing and academic writing in a 'supportive environment' (**Johnson & Price, 2021**; **Price & Dennis, 2021**). Moreover, my workshop contributions have been squarely focussed on assisting the authors convert their outline abstracts into fully-realised academic articles. Hopefully, once the dust has settled from our busy 2021, I will have the opportunity to share some of the outputs and reflections from my endeavours in that regard.

What has been clear to me throughout participation in this latest authorial outreach, is how these endeavours continue to strengthen and support what I consider are among *Exchanges* most crucial contributions to scholarly communications. That is, alongside the doubtless invaluable provision of a quality-assured publication platform, the reification of our core ideology and dedication to assisting in the development of emerging academic authors. Since my very first issue, this has been underlying element I fervently believe is essential for demarketing the journal's brand alongside raising its value and perceptions across our disparate contributor and reader audiences. If anything, eleven issues into my tenancy as EIC, I feel more passionately about this element of the title today than I did back in those early, non-face-mask wearing days.

Papers

Enough reflections as it is now time to move on to introduce the main content of this journal issue. I am pleased to present a very varied selection of work from across the disciplinary spectrum, which myself and the Board hope will interest our disparate readership communities.

Articles

In our first article, **Catherine Price** seeks to answer the question of improving public engagement in the genetically modified organism debate. Price's article starts by clarifying models relating to public understanding and engagement with science. The piece then moves to look how they can be deployed at creating better relationships between science and members of the public through an educational approach. Finally, it proposes a route to successfully achieving these goals through discourse and the formation of a consortial body (<u>1</u>).

Moving to our second article which comes from **Serena Zanzu**, this draws on interviews and theory relating to environmental studies. Zanzu seeks to argue for the significance of thinking 'with rivers' as a counter to the existential challenges of the Anthropocene. Proposing the concept of 'microbial rivers', the article partially draws on the lived experiences of another environmental scientist to help frame the complicated dynamics of fluid communities and the impact from adverse human interventions. In this light, Zanzu concludes by offering ways to reconsider the capacity for environmental renewal in the face of pollution and other humanoriginated impacts on rivers (24).

In our third article Afeez Babatunde Siyanbola and Adedola Olayinka Adeyemi consider the appropriateness of major brands' logos and their resonance within the public sphere. Exploring the logos' visual components, the authors present the summation of their analysis drawn from a cross section of design sector professionals impressions of these images. Through a statistical analysis, they argue ways in which corporations can strengthen their brand image and public impact through following proposed simple design guidelines (45).

For our fourth article this issue, **Monica Mastrantonio** takes a look at *The Question of Time for Norbert Elias*. Initially highlighting Elias' work in drawing attending to applied interdisciplinary work, Mastrantonio moves to explore how 'figurational sociology' can be employed to study human relations in a 'processual way'. Considering how civilisation's underlying processes enforced various activities and social dependencies upon people, the paper exposes and explores the role 'time' as a common, regularity element plays in modulating such relationships. As such the author calls for more work within this framing, in order to develop a more authentic picture of society's human relations and interdependencies (<u>67</u>).

We turn next to an article from Jaime Teixeira da Silva which speaks to Exchanges' core audience, in considering the challenges faced by early career scholars within research and publishing in a time of COVID. In this piece, the author explores these various struggles and considers how the

impacts from the pandemic have exacerbated many of them. The paper argues how the inflexibility of scholarly publishing and its underlying structures continues to offer a particular barrier to new scholars' career development outside of a normative and conservative framing. The piece concludes by extolling the particular role mentoring academics can play in helping to guide and support newly emerging scholars to better overcome some of these challenges within a career development context (77)

Shifting modes entirely, **Arya Aryan**'s paper presents us with is a rich and deeply contextualised exploration of agency and authorship within on Samuel Beckett's seminal work *The Unnamable*. Within this context, Aryan explores the resonances of Beckett's writing with the breakdown of the 'Cartesian Cogito' within a weary post-war world. Through its narrative, the paper argues how The Unnamable substantiates a myriad of voices, with the book's discourse seemingly teetering between playing an intermediary role and giving a greater specific agency to those self-same-voices (<u>107</u>).

Our final peer-reviewed paper this issue tackles a method dear to my own heart in an eye-opening and revelatory way. **Kamal Nasrollahi** and colleagues deploy a collaborative autoethnography method through which they aim to better understand their own lived experience as educators. Hence, in their paper they explore how teachers' lifelong experiences shape and influence their perceptions of education itself. In turn these perceptions they suggest reframes how trainee teachers engage with their own pedagogical training. Through offering insightful and deeply personal revelations, a significance is derived which they argue could be employed in reshaping teacher educational training to be more effective (<u>124</u>).

Critical Reflections

Our final work this issue is a critical reflective piece. In *A Tasty Encounter* with Routine Dynamics Ideas **Huayi Huang** reflects on the Routine Dynamics conference hosted earlier in 2021. Alongside exploring what the conference was about, the author especially considers the imperative and inspiration the encounter conferred on their research and thinking. Moreover, they conclude by proposing how embracing such reflexive self-analysis could benefit fellow scholars professional and career development (<u>145</u>).

Plurality of Translation: Call for Abstracts

Currently we have a call for abstracts open for a future special issue (Exchanges, 2021a). For this special issue we are seeking contributions from students at master's and doctoral level as well as from early career academics, who prioritise an interdisciplinary perspective in their research projects. With the desire to make space for reflections on plurilingual diversity and the challenges arising therefrom for translation, this special issue is intended to constitute a collection of articles in which knowledge and ideas are shared for the purpose of improving practices of reading, writing, teaching, and translating.

In his commentary to Walter Benjamin's seminal text 'The Task of the Translator', Jacques Derrida comments on the limits of translation theories and philosophies, declaring that they too often remain committed to a bilingual conceptualisation of interlingual translation. Derrida asks how the 'effect of plurality' in translation may be fruitfully accounted for, especially in texts using more than two languages:

...Let us note one of the limits of theories of translation: all too often they treat the passing from one language to another and do not sufficiently consider the possibility for languages to be implicated more than two in a text. How is a text written in several languages at a time to be translated? How is the effect of plurality to be 'rendered'? (**Derrida, 1992**)

In the original French of this passage, Derrida formulates this question using the verb rendre, which may be translated into English as 'to render', meaning 'to provide/give a service', 'to represent', 'to perform', and even 'to translate'. However, the French language reveals another important meaning: rendre also means to return something that is duly expected or owed. This type of critical reflection and research on translation, therefore, is understood as a work of righteous restoration, accounting for the plurilingual reality in which we live. In scholarship, the concept of multilingualism has been beneficial to describe and explain cultural products and phenomena of language in more than one language. Yet Derrida's notion of plurality affirms the multiple, going beyond the binary. Derrida's plurilingual approach to translation favours a position of (political) responsibility, eager to mediate between the languages of writers, translators, and readers. This endeavour honours the inclusion of works of more than two languages.

For this special issue we aim to incorporate thought-provoking contributions addressing the possible effects of plurality in linguistic, conceptual, and cultural translation. Suggested areas of focus might include, but not be limited to, the following aspects:

- Choices and strategies to translate plurilingual texts
- Philosophical and theoretical approaches for translating the effects of more than two languages
- Plurilingual writers, thinkers, and translators, their histories and identities
- Teaching bilingual texts in a plurilingual classroom
- Teaching plurilingual text in a bilingual classroom
- Translating one concept into multiple languages

Deadline

To be considered as a contributor for this issue, please submit a 300-word abstract, accompanied by your name and institutional affiliation via email to Melissa Pawelski (melissa.pawelski@warwick.ac.uk) by **Monday 1st November 2021**. Should your contribution be accepted, you will be asked to submit your full paper, by Monday, 14th March 2022.

While the abstract deadline is close at hand, Melissa and myself are open to discussions with anyone who might need a few extra days to for their submission to be ready.

Open Calls for Paper

Additionally, if this issue has whetted your appetite to consider contributing to *Exchanges* then you will be pleased to know the journal welcomes submissions throughout the year on any subject, with no deadline. Articles which pass our review processes and are accepted for publication will subsequently appear in the next available issue of the journal. In all cases, the EIC welcomes discussions with authors ahead of submission to discuss their manuscripts' suitability for consideration, although this is not a mandatory requriement.

As *Exchanges* has a mission to support the development and dissemination of research by early career and post-graduate researchers, we are especially pleased to receive manuscripts from emerging scholars or first-time authors.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Exchanges is delighted to welcome submissions of research or review articles to be considered for peer-reviewed publication. Articles can be submitted on any topic, ideally written for a multi and interdisciplinary audience. We are especially pleased to consider work which incorporates elements of interdisciplinary methods, methodology or thinking. Peer-reviewed pieces should normally be between 4,000-6,000 words in length at submission.ⁱ

Critical Reflections & Conversations

Additionally, *Exchanges* also welcomes submissions of interviews with key scholars or critical reflections on important scholarly events, conferences or crucial new texts. These works undergo a briefer internal, editorial review, scrutiny only, but should still be written to the highest standard. Along with their briefer wordcounts, this generally allows for a shorter lead time to publication than the peer-reviewed submissions.

Both critical reflections and conversation pieces are popular articles with our broader readership both within and beyond the academy, due to their innate wider accessibility. They are also an excellent format to consider especially for first-time authors, looking to get a piece into publication in the near future. Both conversations and critical reflection pieces should typically be between 1,000-3,000 words in length.

Deadlines

Unlike our special issue and themed calls, there are no deadlines for these submissions. However, authors should be mindful of our spring/autumn publication schedule in terms of considering when their final publication may be likely to appear.

Advice for Prospective Authors

As an interdisciplinary journal with a wide scholarly readership, authors should seek to write their manuscripts to be suitable for a general academic audience. Wherever possible, consideration should be given to unpack, delineate and expand on any potentially 'disciplinary niche' language, terms or acronyms used. Ideally, authors' manuscripts should seek to incorporate some elements of interdisciplinary thinking or perspective, or outline the broader scholarly relevance of their work.

Exchanges has an expressly multidisciplinary, global and largely academic readership which have strong interests in work encompassing or straddling disciplinary boundaries. Manuscripts providing an introduction, overview or useful entry point to key disciplinary trends, discovery and discourse are often among the most frequently accessed publications in the journal.

Therefore, prospective authors are strongly encouraged to consider tailoring their narrative, thought and analysis in a mode which addresses this broad audience's interests. For interviews and critical reflections, authors are advised to highlight the importance of disciplinary discourse or interviewees' scholarly contributions to the global academy, society and public at large.

The EIC welcomes approaches from authors via email, or video-call, to discuss prospective submissions. However, abstract submission or

editorial discussions ahead of a submission are not a requirement, and authors are welcome to formally submit their full manuscript without prior communication. Wherever possible, authors should include a note to editor indicating the format of their work (e.g. article, critical reflection etc.).

All submitted manuscripts will undergo editorial review, with those seeking publication as research articles additionally undergoing formal peer-review by external assessors. Editorial decisions on manuscript acceptance are final, although unsuccessful authors are normally encouraged to consider revising their work for reconsideration at a later date.

More information on article formats, wordcounts and other submission requirements are detailed in our author guidelines (<u>Exchanges, 2021b</u>). All manuscript submissions must be made by their lead author via our online submission portal. *Exchanges* is a diamond open access, scholar-led journal, meaning there are no author fees or reader subscription charges (**Fuchs & Sandoval, 2013; Bosman, et al, 2021**). Authors retain copyright over their work but grant the journal first publication rights as a submission requirement.

Forthcoming Issues

After four issues this year, I am glad things will be quieting down for a little while – if only to allow me to catch up on some much neglected behind the scenes work! That said for 2022 we are looking at potentially another four, or possibly five, issues being published.

Our regular issues are scheduled for spring and autumn 2022, roughly late April and October respectively, although this is always subject to slight variance. These issues will host articles, reflections and conversations submitted outside our special issues and themed calls. See the open call for publications above, on the website, or contact myself to discuss ways in which your work might be featured in them.

In terms of special issues, there are now three of these under active development, of which I would hope at least two will see publication next year (Exchanges, 2021c). The most well developed is the *Cultural Representations of Nerds* issue, for which the constituent papers are now all under review or revision. The second special issue of 2022 will ideally comprise the outputs of the *Anthropocene and More-Than-Human World* workshops, although as these are not expected to be submitted until late 2021/early 2022, it is far too early to suggest when the issue might appear.

Finally, as you will have seen above, our call for *The Effect of Plurality in Translation* is currently live, with a prospective submission deadline for final articles early in 2022. Whether this or the Anthropocene special appears first is, for now, very much in the lap of the gods. Or perhaps more accurately, in the lap of the contributing authors.

I should note, there are two further special issues currently under very preliminary discussion too.ⁱⁱ However, under our current arrangements, I would not envisage these would be making an appearance until 2023 unless our operations significantly change. I do however always welcome further approaches and exploratory discussions for further special issues from our contributor community.

Consequently, *for Exchanges* 2022 and beyond continues to be filled with developments and prospective publications aplenty. I do hope you will be continuing to join us for each issue!

Acknowledgements

My thanks as always to all our authors and reviewers for their vital intellectual contributions towards this issue. Without you, producing a quality-assured, peer-reviewed, scholar-led publication would not be possible. Thanks to our reader community and attendees at the recent Accolade session on Exchanges too for helping develop the debates and insights around the journal and its contents.

My continued thanks to the members of our **Editorial Board** and associate editor community for their insights on matters of publishing policy, operations and ethics. Naturally, I am especially indebted to them for all their editorial labour contributions, particularly in maintaining an ongoing interaction with authors and reviewers alike.

My gratitude too goes to **Rob Talbot** at the Warwick University Library for his continued technical support. My thanks as well to the IAS' **Dr John Burden** for his perennial role as a sounding board and advisor on related journal developments, and occasional cross-country hiking companion!

Finally, my grateful thanks as always to our publisher, the <u>Institute of</u> <u>Advanced Study</u> at the University of Warwick for their unceasing financial and strategic backing for *Exchanges* and our related activities.

Continuing the Conversation

Exchanges has a range of routes for keeping abreast of our latest news, developments and calls for papers. In-between issues you may wish to listen to our growing range of podcasts or read our blog posts, to continue the interdisciplinary exchange of experience underlying our operations. Please do contribute or amplify the conversation whenever and wherever you can, as we always value hearing the thoughts of our author and readership communities.

Editorial Blog:	blogs.warwick.ac.uk/exchangesias/
Linked.In:	www.linkedin.com/groups/12162247/
Twitter:	@ExchangesIAS

As Editor-in-Chief I am also pleased to discuss potential publications, collaborative opportunities or invites to talk further about *Exchanges* and our activities. Contact me via the email or via the social media platforms if you would like to arrange a video-consultation.

The Exchanges Discourse

More new episodes of the companion podcast series, *The Exchanges Discourse*, have been published over the summer and autumn months. As always, a focus on advice for new academic authors continues to play a key part of these episodes. With the publication of this issue, I am will be inviting a few of the authors whose work has appeared in recent issues of the journal to appear over the next few months.

I heartily encourage all readers of the journal, and especially first-time authors, to seek out past and future episodes: available on all major podcast platforms, and specifically hosted on the *Anchor.fm* site.ⁱⁱⁱ All episodes are free to stream or download and listen to at your leisure. Naturally, we also welcome approaches from potential future guests or suggestions for topics we could address as part of future episodes too. Contact me as above.

Podcast:

anchor.fm/exchangesias

Gareth has been the Editor-in-Chief of Exchanges since 2018. Along with a doctorate in cultural academic publishing practices (Nottingham Trent), he also possesses various other degrees in biomedical technology (Sheffield Hallam), information management (Sheffield) and research practice (NTU). His varied career includes extensive in academic experience libraries. project management and applied research roles. Currently, he is also the Chief Operating Officer of the Mercian Collaboration academic library consortium, and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. His professional and research interests focus on powerrelationships within and evolution of scholarly academic publication practice, viewed from within social theory and political economic frameworks. He is an outspoken proponent for greater academic agency through scholar-led publishing, and an expert in distributed team management and effective communication practices. He is also the creator and host of a number of podcasts, including The Exchanges Discourse.



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Endnotes

ⁱ **Word counts**: We do not include abstracts, references, endnotes or appendences for the purposes of establishing a submissions word count. While submissions just over or under their word count will still be initially considered for review, those significantly in excess of these numbers will be declined and returned to their authors with advice for revision.

^{II} **Initiating Special Issues:** If you are an established or early career academic, seeking a suitable home for a dedicated volume of the journal we do welcome outline discussions for the ways in which *Exchanges* could become your publication partner. While our facilities are modest, we have been excited to work with various scholars on special issues past and future (**Exchanges, 2021**). We are open to approaches to consider potential new special issue developments, and you are warmly invited to contact myself as Editor-in-Chief to discuss the prospect. You may also wish to listen to a past episode of *The Exchanges Discourse* (**Exchanges, 2020**) wherein I discuss the thinking and pragmatic concerns around initiating a special issue collaboration with our journal.

ⁱⁱⁱ The podcast is also streamed on Spotify, Apple and Google Podcasts and other podcasting platforms. Search for it by name.