



Centre for Social
Justice & Inclusion



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Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement

Call for Papers

Opening *Gateways*: Writing research differently
(or, 'Is this going to be just another academic paper?')

We are

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Our shared areas of interest

Community-based research and practice, humanities, linguistics, Indigenous studies, collaboration, governance, place-based change, social work, industrial design, human factors/ergonomics, public administration, literacy, higher education, editing, genre conventions, social justice, sustainability.

Overview

The modern experimental research article has been described as hourglass in shape: the middle 'Methods' section slowly disappearing into specialised, standardised grooves, while the establishment of the research territory, on one side, and claims to 'new' knowledge, on the other, engage in agonistic and incremental gap-spotting (Swales 2004, p. 207).

Many articles in *Gateways* journal, however, present a different silhouette, one that is decidedly thick around the girth (Malone 2023). Here, in these collaborative, transdisciplinary and change-oriented research articles, the Background-Method-Results sections are rendered complex, situated, deeply interconnected, crowded with participants (human and non-human), alive to uneven terrain and resolutely not neat. Messy, even.

This themed volume takes these acts of resistance and rejuvenation on the page seriously, by asking, as Bruno Latour (2004, p. 232) did 20 years ago, if it is 'really impossible ... to write not matter-of-factly but, how should I say it, in a matter-of-concern way?' Arguably, our community–university co-authors have actually been doing just that, loosening their rhetorical belts by more than a few notches to do so. While these efforts might be embryonic, they show us how challenging conventions creates new knowledge pathways. More precisely, they demonstrate that the standard architecture of the research article can be creatively called upon in the effort to make tangible the 'larger vision' that collaborative, partial, situated knowledges (Haraway 1988) and practices strive for.

The questions at the heart of this themed volume, indeed its *cri de cœur*, are thus twofold:

What *social practices* – including writing – are needed to communicate community-based research and practice in a peer-reviewed journal that would avoid undermining the very thing we are trying to share: that is, radical co-presence?

By what *semiotic forms* would we (authors, editors, reviewers and readers) recognise as legitimate, relevant and reusable such a re-imagined research article?

This themed volume – this journal – is centrally concerned with the 'research article' lest it, like the emperor, finally be seen to be wearing not just ill-fitting clothes but none at all, as we hurtle towards profound ecological collapse. Anthropologist Michael Taussig (2015, p. 5) has described 'agribusiness writing' as the sort of writing that 'we find throughout the university, and everyone knows it when they don't see it'. So, what are we seeing instead from the scholarly written contributions on community-based research and practice? What do we wish to see?



A new journal section?

Gateways journal currently has three article sections: peer-reviewed research, practice-based and snapshot (please see [here](#)). This themed volume is an opportunity to establish a new section that brings together in lively, collective discussion what is at present organisationally separated: disciplinary-based expertise, practitioner and community-based expertise and voice, and the creativity of experimental and emergent work.

Starting points

We invite contributors to explore some or all of the following key ideas:

- Critically explore experiences of 'bumping up' against the conventional empirical research article when seeking to share community-based research and practice with a diverse external audience. Why does this matter, and for who?
- How can the research article be done differently? Share examples – discuss alternatives currently available or undertake original work. This may include re-imagining and rewriting an example of your own community-based research to better articulate knowledge plurality.
- How can multimodality (the spoken word, poetry, song, still and moving images, for example) be used to support participation in the research article?
- Critically reflect on how challenging conventions and exploring alternatives can make present new forms and ways of knowing, especially those driven by communities.
- What are the implications for and responsibilities of authorship and peer-review when writing for real world impact?

Proposals

Contributors interested in participating in this special volume are encouraged to submit a short proposal (300–500 words) by 15 January 2024.

Proposals should consider addressing the following:

- Introduce the research partnership.
- Describe the central 'matters of concern' of your collaborative inquiry.
- Briefly indicate how the methodologies being utilised in your collaborative inquiry could give shape to – and be informed by – 'writing research differently'.
- Indicate which question/s you seek to respond to, from the above points.

Please email proposals and any questions directly to Dr Margaret Malone, Executive Editor, *Gateways* journal (Margaret.Malone@uts.edu.au), The Centre for Social Justice & Inclusion, University of Technology Sydney, Australia.



Process and timeline

The journal and its editors are committed to a supportive process. We will hold at least two online workshops that will allow invited contributors to share ideas, provide feedback and invigorate each other's composition. While this may seem particularly helpful to first-time academic authors and contributors, we believe that this supportive approach is beneficial for all, as it opens up the often-lonely writing process to collective thought and practice.

Activity	Date due
Call for papers	3 November 2023
Paper proposals due	15 January 2024
Notification to authors	31 January 2024
Writers' workshops	March through May 2024
Manuscript submission	30 June 2024
Editorial Committee feedback	22 July 2024
Peer review and revisions	July through October 2024
Finalisation of manuscripts	November 2024
Publication	December 2024

About the journal

Gateways: International Journal of Community Research and Engagement is a refereed journal that responds to an emerging global movement of collaborative, critical and change-oriented university-community research initiatives. As a free, open access journal *Gateways'* mission is to increase the timely and inclusive sharing of critical theory, insights and practice with the growing, global movement of community-university partnerships.

References

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- Latour, B (2004)**, 'Why has critique run out of steam? From matters of fact to matters of concern', *Critical Inquiry*, vol. 30, no. 2, p. 232. <https://doi.org/10.1086/421123>
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- Swales, J (2004)**, *Research genres: Exploration and applications*, Cambridge University Press
- Taussig, M (2015)**, *The corn wolf*, The University of Chicago Press