

# Excursions

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Foreword: Looking back to look forward

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## Foreword: Looking back to look forward

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Ten years. A decade. *Excursions'* tin anniversary is a major milestone that is certainly worth celebrating. We want to use this momentous occasion to take some time to reflect on where the journal has been, how far it has come, and where we go from here.

'Publish or perish' has been academia's mantra for much longer than *Excursions* has been around. The constant pressure to publish, to create impact, to go *viral* has only become greater in the past decade. PhD students (especially those interested in academic careers) are more and more concerned with not only publishing their own research, but also understanding the process. And, if we say so ourselves, there is no better way to gain a new *in-sight* on academic publishing than actually trying to put a journal together.

Maintaining an academic journal run by post-graduate students is a gratifying task, but it is also very challenging. It takes a lot of learning on the job, adapting as we go, and 'making do' along the way. An extra layer of difficulty comes from the fact that the very Doctoral Researchers who are running the journal are only temporarily based at the institution that houses it – and while you want your issue to be exceptional, you also do not want it to be the last one, so continuity *emerges* as a concern. Editing *Excursions* is,

then, not *purely* an exercise of putting together an academic journal. Beyond thinking about what you are doing, it is of utmost importance to consider those who will come after you.

Every year, a new Editorial Board receives instructions, passwords and lots of digital files, as well as tales of successful experiments and stories of *failures* to be avoided. It is a learning experience that is passed from one board to the next, in a *network* that keeps alive the convictions that have underpinned *Excursions* since its inception: providing a space to publish *boundary*-pushing research that, because of its experimental and/or interdisciplinary characteristics, is not often included in other, more ‘conservative’, outlets; and, just as important, making this available to readers for free, fully committing to Open Access publishing.

Navigating these difficulties and keeping these convictions alive for a decade is an achievement that deserves to be celebrated. One of our first decisions as the newly formed Editorial Board responsible for volume 10 of *Excursions* was to publish a commemorative special issue aimed at honouring, re-examining and reflecting on some of the remarkable pieces that have *occupied* our pages in these ten years.

In order to accomplish this, we invited members of past Editorial Boards to choose one article of the issue they helped to create – the article that best represents the general theme of their issue and the discussions that took place in (and out of) its pages – and write a piece reflecting on its continued relevance. Additionally, we invited the authors of the selected pieces to write about their papers, reflecting on what has changed and what has remained the same in how they approach their particular research and field of study. This, indeed, was also an opportunity to reflect on how the world has changed since their articles were published.

This issue is the product of those invitations. In *Reflections*, we are offering our readers the opportunity to travel through time (*science-fiction* style) and revisit what we hope to be some of the best papers to have graced

the pages of *Excursions* during its first decade. Following *Excursions unfakeable* tradition of thinking outside the box, more than just a re-print of a handful of articles, this issue brings contemplations and musings on each paper, written by a member of the respective Editorial Board and/or the original author, which precede each piece.

This issue is our gift to *Excursions* readers, our thank you to past authors and editors, and our legacy to future board members. It is a celebration of ten years of providing a platform for exceptional, creative and original research conducted by postgraduate students that is exceptional, creative and original in its own right. We hope the discussions and reflections within this issue will inspire you to publish your own innovative research and maybe even join us in ‘learning on the job’ about the *chaotic* world of academic publishing.

We are thankful for this opportunity to conclude a cycle with the right foot, revisiting former issues and ideas (as the italic keywords suggest), and start a new one by *(re)connecting* (spoiler alert!) to our shared convictions. We want to reaffirm *Excursions*’s commitment to growth and hope it continues to celebrate innovative and interdisciplinary knowledge production for many decades to come.

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