

Evidence & Policy special issue call for expressions of interest.

Special issue topic: Creativity, Co-production (and healthy societies...)

We are inviting 1-page abstract proposals to be submitted by the 5th December 2020 to j.langley@shu.ac.uk. Full details of the process along with key dates can be found in this document.

The Journal

Evidence & Policy (E&P) is a peer-reviewed journal exploring the relationship between researchers, the evidence they produce and the concerns of policy makers and practitioners.

It is international in scope and interdisciplinary in focus, addressing the needs of those who develop public policies, provide public services, or provide the research base for evaluation and development across a wide range of social and public policy issues, and those working to connect the two (such as knowledge brokers).

As well as more traditional research articles, the journal includes contemporary debate pieces and articles from practice and book reviews.

The Background

E&P Volume 15, Number 3, August 2019 was a special issue focused on “Co-creative approaches to knowledge production and implementation.” It aimed to address three questions:

1. What is co-creation and why is it used?
2. Does co-creation produce added value and contribute to desired outcomes?
3. What frameworks and tools can facilitate co-creation?

The editorial for this issue acknowledges that the collection of papers “...frames both the representation and practice of co-creation in technocratic or traditional knowledge management terms...” whilst emerging models of co-creation in other areas, frame such activity as “...creative endeavours, with strong links to design and the human imagination.” They go on to identify two ‘gaps’; (a) a specific focus on creativity and how this might be applied to ‘evidence into practise’ debates and (b) an examination of the historical roots of co-creation and co-production to understand the differences between them and their potential contribution to evidence-informed policy and practise.

In response, the team behind this call for papers, submitted a special issue proposal to E&P; exploring **Creativity and Co-production** in the context of ‘evidence into policy and practise’. Within this broad subject area are issues of knowledge, power, culture, change, state-of-being and much more.

Taking the terms ‘creative’ and ‘production’ opens up issues of ‘making stuff’; the values embodied and represented in the things we make; the affordance and agency these things give to human actors; individual expression, synthetic reasoning, materiality and material agency, construction of experiences. Impacting all these themes, is perhaps an issue with what we understand by the word ‘evidence’, who gets to decide what evidence is, which evidence is valid, who produces it, how it was produced and the process by which ‘evidence’ can be interrogated by others, made sense of and acted upon.

This final point about acting on evidence is commonly described as the ‘evidence gap’. An idea we have been playing with is in breaking this gap down into a series of ‘micro’ gaps between Evidence and Knowledge, Knowledge and Knowing, Knowing and Action; and the role that *through* creative practices, tangible objects and visual language play, constructed cultural experiences can bridge these micro gaps.

Examples of ideas the articles might address through the Evidence & Policy lens include:

1. What is Creativity?
2. Knowledge, Power and Creativity
3. Creativity, Culture and Power
4. Co-production, Creativity and Cultural Change
5. Creativity as expressions of indigenous knowledge cultures
6. Public engagement in creative research
7. Creativity, material agency and research outputs
8. Designing for co-production

The Format

Contributors are free to approach these or other relevant topics in any way appropriate. E&P encourages a mixture of research articles, contemporary debate pieces and articles from practice. We might expect roughly to publish five research, one or two debate and one or two practice articles.

Those abstracts that are invited to submit full papers will be expected to follow the journal guidance full details of which can be found [here](#). Word limits are typically 5000 although up to 8000 can be considered in exceptional circumstances.

We would strongly encourage contributors and potential contributors to get in touch with the editorial team to talk their ideas through. We can offer support as papers are developed. Full papers that are submitted will be blind peer-reviewed.

In order to ensure high quality and rigour in the process as well as a cohesive narrative across the collection of articles in this special issue, we will be inviting more papers than we can publish in the one issue. However, we have additional outlets for publications. For those that successfully pass peer review but don't make it to the final selection for this special issue, E&P also release 'Themed' issues and have agreed that additional material can be published in this way. We may also be able to direct some articles to the [Design for Health Journal](#) and [The Design Journal](#). The process of working with authors to develop full papers should minimise the risks of not being published.

The Editorial Team

The fields of Health, Design and Creativity have very different perspectives on what knowledge and evidence are and how they are created. It is important to reflect this in the editors and reviewers.

[Lab4Living](#) is an interdisciplinary group of researchers based in Sheffield Hallam University's Art and Design Research Centre. Our focus is on the application of creative design methods to societal challenges in the area of health and wellbeing. We have recently been awarded an 'Expanding Excellence in Research' award from Research England of £4.3 million (matched by our University) to expand the quality, quantity and reach of our work. We have combined with friends from across the globe through our [Design4Health](#) network, to bring a range of perspective to this special issue.

- Dr Joe Langley – Principal Researcher, Lab4Living, Sheffield Hallam University. Design engineer with interests in co-production and knowledge mobilisation in health and wellbeing.
- Prof Claire Craig – Prof in Design and Creative Practice for health, Lab4Living, Sheffield Hallam University; Editor of Design for Health Journal, Editor of Design4Health conference proceedings. Historian and Occupational Therapist.
- Prof Ian Gwilt – Professor of Design and Visual Communication, University of South Australia.
- Associate Prof Nicola Kayes – Associate Professor of Rehabilitation, Director, Centre for Person Centred Research, Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand; Guest editor for Special Issue of Disability and Rehabilitation, past-Associate Editor and expert qualitative reviewer Postgraduate Medical Journal, expert review Rehabilitation Research Review.
- Prof Erna Snell-Grove Clarke - Vice Dean, Health Sciences & Director, School of Nursing at Queen's University
- Sarah Smith – Artist, Radiotherapist PhD student in Lab4Living using drawing to explore and Enhance the Experience of Therapeutic Radiotherapy

The Timeline

5 th November 2020	Open call for abstracts
5 th December 2020	*1-page abstract submission deadline from open call
18 th December 2020	Open call responders notified.
31 st May 2021	Submission of first draft to our editorial panel for blind review
28 th June 2021	Authors notified of decision, review feedback and opportunity to make amendments
26 th July 2021	Re-submission of amended articles for final editorial review
6 th September 2021	Submission of special issue collection to E&P editorial board
Late 2021	Publication online
Early 2022	Publication in print

*1-page propositions outlining:

- whether your article is likely to be research, practice or debate
- broad background of other work relating to the focus of your article
- the aim of the article or work to be published
- approaches or methods of the work to be published
- suggestions about what the findings, insights or understandings might be
- suggestions about the potential impact on practice