

SPECIAL ISSUE INFORMATION

The journal, *sustainability*, invites submissions for a special issue revealing the **complex forms** of interpersonal **communication** and media use employed in relation to environmental issues. We are looking for transdisciplinary work, whether conceptual in nature or capturing case studies of applied or action research.

The focus is on communication that is not one way but involves **contestation**—or unexpected synergies—among **multiple stakeholders** about particular environmental problems and about related social and economic issues in neighbourhoods, regions, organisations, markets, and societies. For example, provide a case study of interactions among ‘strange bedfellows’ in development of a city’s circular economy or tackling an emerging biosecurity problem.

Papers may address challenges or opportunities, such as literacy and expertise, **different ways of knowing** and social imaginaries, historical marginalisation by gender or social class, and procedural **fairness**, as well as attachment to place. They may address contexts ranging from climate change impacts to population growth, decline or migration, or look at evolving technologies for engagement.

Submissions are welcome from a **mix of fields**—such as social studies of natural resources and the environment, science communication, and impact assessment. They are also welcome from various mixtures of cultural, communication and media studies, social psychology, sociology, cultural anthropology, political economy, and organisational studies.

Manuscripts should be drafted in order to be **accessible** and sensible to people **outside your field** and discipline. **Co-authorship** with partners in other disciplines and outside universities is welcome, and articles are invited that feature ‘multiple voices’.

Please send us an expression of interest following the guidelines on the next page.

Guest Editors

Emeritus Prof. Will Rifkin, U of Newcastle, Australia

Dr. Heather J. Bray, U of Western Australia

Dr. Martin Espig, New Zealand regional government

Dr. Robert Perey, U of Technology Sydney

with

Kimberley Crofts, U of Technology Sydney

Contact the editorial team via: will.rifkin@newcastle.edu.au

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST GUIDELINES

To assess the **relevance** of your idea for a submission to this special issue, we— the guest editors—would like you to respond to a few questions.

It is a bit more work than a 100-word abstract, but we want to see how the issue as a whole might shape up. That will help to tell us to determine whom to encourage, what additional topics to pursue, *etc.* We can also provide **feedback** if you are considering several options within the piece.

Please respond to the **questions** below that seem the **most relevant** to your proposed manuscript. There is no need to respond to all questions unless that helps to describe your focus.

- What aspects of **sustainability** are you addressing? e.g., ... climate change response, reducing material consumption, environmental injustice, procedural injustice
- What is your **main argument** in 1-4 bullet points? e.g., "(1) Situations where X occurs are typically analysed in terms of A, B, and C. (2) Here, we propose to draw from the fields of D, E, and F in order to propose a novel and potentially revealing analysis ... (3) This argument represents a sort of grounded theory given its joint formulation with members of that community serving as co-authors."
- What is the **practical problem**, and how is it currently framed by others?
- What is an important **conceptual aspect** to the problem, and how is that currently framed by others?
- What are those frames of reference missing that **you are seeking to add**? Or, are you offering alternative framing?
- What bodies of literature are you referring to, what fields, and how are you drawing them together? What **transdisciplinary synthesis** are you offering?
- What makes your issue a 'communication' issue, and what types of communication are you analysing? e.g., *face to face, broadcast, social media, target geography, target demographic segments; that is, what makes this focus a 'communication' issue?*
- What **methods** are you using? e.g., *literature review, fieldwork, desktop analysis, interviews or surveys or focus groups, ethnographic, big data analysis, historical, description of unfolding events?*
- What **empirical evidence** are you including, if any? e.g., *your own, case studies that others have assembled, etc.?*
- To what extent are you involving – or intending to involve – non-academics or members of typically **marginalised communities** in authorship? In what other ways are you – in this piece – providing a voice to those who may not typically be heard on these issues?
- Does your proposed effort potentially help to **bridge a divide** between professions or between interest groups outside the academic world? If so, how?
- **Who should care** about your insights and why? That is, who is your audience for the insights (given that an academic journal often just appeals to an academic audience but it may have messages for those outside universities)?

NOTE

The articles published in this journal are **open access**, but there is a fee paid by authors or authors' institutions. However, a small number of **fee waivers** is available; we would like to award those waivers to authors who face the greatest financial challenges in publishing in a journal.

That group would include authors from developing countries, from groups in developed countries who have historically been economically **marginalised**, and from individuals who face particular financial challenges.

If you would benefit significantly from a fee waiver, then suggest why in **a few bullet points**. We might then follow up to ask – in confidence – for specifics. E.g., *"Our three authors would benefit from waiver of much of the publication fee. Two of us are gainfully employed part-time in teaching settings, but our third partner runs a non-profit community organisation without pay, supported by her life partner."*