

cultural science



Cultural Science Journal

culturalscience.org

Call for Papers

Cultural Science Journal (is delighted to announce its successful migration to the Ubiquity Press platform. We are now ready to receive submissions and look forward to publishing our first volume with Ubiquity Press (volume 10) in 2018.

We invite all interested scholars and thought-activists to submit articles to *Cultural Science Journal*. If you are working on cultural groups or technologies, data or stories, conflicts or systems, models or histories, using any existing or experimental method, in order to understand causes, processes, technologies, achievements, changes and connections, across any aspect of communication, media, culture or creative practice, then we would like to consider your work.

Aims

What does it mean to be human? This is not simply an individual or behavioural question. It arises where collective-connective human immersion in language, story, technology, knowledge, sociality and power-relations shape the possible answers, even as communication begins to be understood as a defining feature of life, from the simplest proteins and cells to the most complex ecological systems and the most elaborate cultural forms.

How humans make sense of themselves and the world is not confined to individual expression (artistic or commonplace), but relies on population-wide systems which themselves change over time, co-evolving with technologies and with changes in the external environment. How then can 'culture' be understood as a useful analytic field of study when – like the atmosphere – it is a planetary system of turbulent dynamics and at the same time the very air each one of us breathes? Let's find out!

The aims of *Cultural Science Journal* are to put culture on a more secure analytical footing, taking advantage of and synthesising work in evolutionary theory and systems sciences as these apply to culture, using existing natural and social sciences, the humanities and 'new humanities' (including media, communication, cultural studies, creative industries), to facilitate interdisciplinary 'translation' and consilience.

Cultural Science Journal aims to bring these fields together in productive dialogue and mutual critique, to develop new conjectures, methods and questions for understanding cultural functions, uses and conflicts:

- To explore the intersections of culture, groups and knowledge, and to investigate how meaning-systems emerge, interact and are sustained under uncertain conditions, especially changes in technologies of communication (oral, written, print, broadcast, computational, digital, internet).
- To publish work that contributes to systematic models and methods, to trace causation through cultural processes and groups, as well as more detailed work on applied topics.
- To look beyond the academy, to advocacy, activism and policy, to advance ‘public thought’ about culture and how to understand it in a world of globalised conflict and cooperation.
- To delineate the functions and uses of culture in forming groups or ‘demes’:
 - making identities, meaningfulness, sociality, and thence knowledge,
 - at different scales – micro-agent, meso-institution, macro-network,
 - by ‘meaningful fabrication’ – fiction, law, gods, ‘the economy’, firms, nations (etc.).
- To compare human culture with non-human cultures and their interactions with humanity, individually and at species level:
 - looking back to pre-human evolution,
 - looking sideways at animal and biotic culture,
 - looking forward to artificial intelligence (AI) and robotic culture.
- To investigate how culture-made groups form, change, and interact with others to produce ‘newness’ (innovation) in any context, from ethno-territorial and language-based cultures to groups based on affinity (e.g. fans), purpose (firms, ‘knowledge clubs’) or adversarial conflict (‘tribes’).
 - What policies best facilitate sustainable innovation?
 - Is culture an industry or social network market? Is Intellectual Property the appropriate basis for a cultural economy, or is it giving way to decentralised governance protocols, such as those that are being explored via blockchain technologies?
 - What role does collective action play in innovation?

Cultural Science Journal aims to encourage cross-disciplinary colloquy on certain questions, for instance:

- Is it possible to reconfigure communication from a behavioural to a cultural science?
- Can there be a ‘science that studies the life of *lies* in society’?
- Given accelerating geo-strategic shifts from Euro-American to Asian drivers, what are the prospects for global culture, open knowledge and economic-political cooperation across difference in human affairs?

Be part of the open conversation: [send us your paper!](#)

History

Cultural Science Journal published 14 issues between 2008 and 2016. You can explore them all in our archive on this site. Some of them are specifically about the development of the cultural science approach, but others simply get on with their job. Most were collected from research workshops and events that sought to advance interdisciplinary approaches to the cultural and creative industries.

'Cultural Science' was a program of research in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries and Innovation (2005-13), especially John Hartley's ARC Federation Fellowship program (2005-10). Initially located at Queensland University of Technology, the cultural science program relocated in 2012 to be hosted by the Centre for Culture and Technology (CCAT) at Curtin University, Western Australia, which now supports the journal.

Cultural Science: A Natural History of Stories, Demes, Knowledge and Innovation, by John Hartley and Jason Potts, is published by Bloomsbury, London (2014): available Open Access, via Bloomsbury Collections:
<https://www.bloomsburycollections.com/book/cultural-science-a-natural-history-of-stories-demes-knowledge-and-innovation/>.

Plans

During 2017, *Cultural Science Journal* pupated from a self-managed project in a particular research program to emerge as a fully Open Access journal, published on behalf of the new, international Cultural Science Society by Ubiquity Press, UK, with a new editorial board and website. It is open to all submissions, not just from members of the Cultural Science Society, which you are indeed welcome to join.

Each volume of *Cultural Science Journal* will be cumulative over the year, so that your work will be published in a timely manner once it is reviewed, revised and accepted, without having to wait in a queue. We are planning for 12 articles per annum to begin with, and are also open to reviews and commentary as well as research.

Initially, the costs of publishing Open Access are borne by the Cultural Science Society, supported by CCAT, Curtin University. In later years, we will encourage authors to seek funding from their own institutions to support publication of their articles. We hope to support the journal through events such as research workshops and conferences.

Cultural Science Journal is interested in any new approach to the study of culture, and is aware of other centres of energy and exploration which are opening up the field to new ideas. These range from new journals such as *Evolutionary Studies in Imaginative Culture* and *Cliodynamics: The Journal of Quantitative History and Cultural Evolution*, through to social-media initiatives like *Economics*, numerous research centres around the world, and individual scholarly publications from people within and beyond our current intellectual horizons, to say nothing of those working outside the Anglosphere.

We would like to publish work associated with any such centre. We are not claiming definitional or disciplinary exclusivity (quite the reverse), but we do think that cultural science is distinguished by an interest in the culture-creativity-knowledge nexus, in its long-standing dialogue between evolutionary economics and cultural studies, and in a grounding in humanities traditions of textual-discursive analysis. How these might be conjoined with mathematical, evolutionary and complexity approaches is what *Cultural Science Journal* plans to discover – with your participation. [Submit a paper!](#)