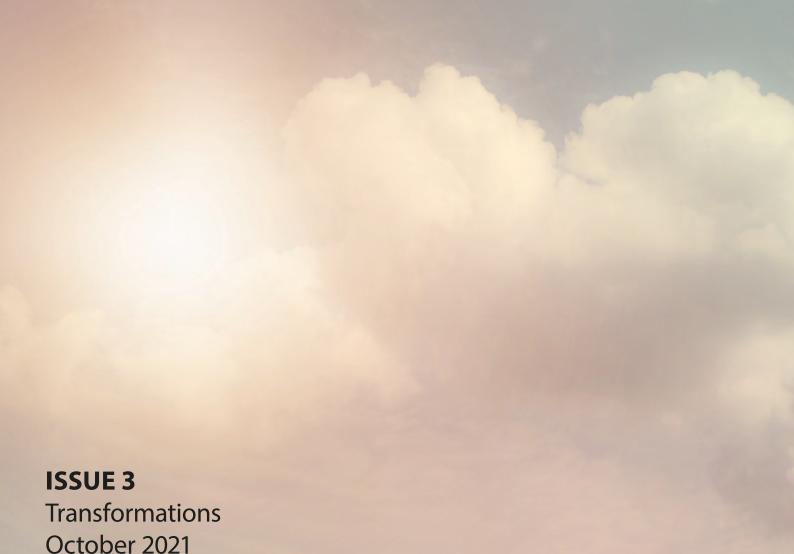# SENTIO

an interdisciplinary social science journal

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Edited by

Harriet Dudley, Alexandra Grolimund,
Samuel Hales, Sofia Loizou, James Rowlands.

Editors' letter

Dear Readers,

We are delighted to present Issue 3 of Sentio on the theme of 'Transformations'. *Sentio* is an online interdisciplinary journal led by doctoral researchers that are part of the ESRC-funded South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS) Doctoral Training Partnership. The journal was launched in 2018 and is published annually online. *Sentio* – or 'I sense' – aims to bring together interdisciplinary perspectives on a topical issue or interest. To that end each Issue is comprised of three sections, namely Articles, Features, and Reflections. First, the Articles section provides doctoral researchers a space to publish early-stage ideas, theories or emergent findings from empirical research, or summaries of doctoral thesis chapters. Second, the Features section contains interviews, reviews of recent publications, and commentaries on current debates in relation to the Issue's theme. Finally, the third section, Reflections, attends to personal insights derived from all stages of the research process as well as the life and work of a doctoral researcher.

Now, to the Issue's theme. The past year has been defined by transformation of our working practices, our priorities, and our sense of global community. Whilst COVID-19 is the most recent example of transformation it comes in a long line of transformations that have happened at different times, scales and levels of visibility. In response, the *Sentio* editorial team invited authors to submit publications on the theme of 'Transformation'. We welcomed broad interpretations of the theme, recognising that 'Transformation' can have both positive and negative dimensions and, as a concept, can have various uses, meanings, and mobilisations within and across academic discipline sand empirical as well as theoretical research. Examining transformation, including associated changes and impacts on diverse communities, is a key focus of scholarly interest. Whether detrimental, restorative, or one and the same, this Issue offers researchers the opportunity to reflect, explore and analyse a transformation that has particular resonance to them or their research. We hope this Issue of Sentio can serve as a record of diverse interdisciplinary interpretations of transformation and document the positive and negative ramifications that can occur from any transformation.

Articles

In the opening Article of Issue 3, Tragantzopoulou discusses eating habits in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and foresees an associated transformation in mental health practice. In the second Article, Walker draws on risk theory and his preliminary observations in Iceland to explore what non-invasive prenatal testing means for personal identities. In the third Article Lakeridou and Karpasitis discuss the various transformations in graphic signage that have occurred since the start of 2020 and how these transformations are encouraging behavioral change during the pandemic the beyond. In the fourth Article, C. Place offers an informal deliberation and introspection on his personal experiences with Integral and mixed methods and reflects on how synchronicities have shaped his research path and life choices. In the fifth Article Kirabira and Uche draw on qualitative research to look at the interface between the International Criminal Court and justice processes within the context of Northern Uganda.

In the sixth Article Fadel presents the results from semi-structured interviews to investigate the transformation of the destroyed heritage of the Old City of Aleppo. In the seventh and final Article Griffani offers a critique of 'identitarian' studies of class and presents an alternative multidimensional approach.

Features

In the opening Feature Alba Prados interviews Dr Iokiñe Rodriguez and discusses different approaches to achieve transformations of sustainability, particularly considering environmental justice and key issues on just and sustainable transformations. In the second Feature Pomerand Petzoldt considers how the COVID-19 pandemic has transformed how we move and understand our bodies. Finally, in the third Feature Alexander presents a critical, socio-cultural commentary on how COVID-19 has transformed the process of self-consumption through the introduction of measures such as face masks and social distancing.

Reflections

In the opening Reflection Gittins reflects on his own personal transformation into an academic researcher and discusses his journey into the 'ivory tower' and associated misconceptions from a farmer's perspective. In the second Reflection Tomczak reflects on her transformation during her PhD both in terms of how she has changed and also how her approach to research has changed. In the third Reflection Byrne discusses the transformations needed to limit global heating and avoid destructive environmental changes. In the fourth Reflection Kassem reflects on transformations to the focus of his doctoral research, to the topic of anti-Muslim racism, and how conducting this research has impacted his career, activism and concerns. In the fifth Reflection Durcan offers a commentary on the effects of COVID-19 on undertaking ethnographic research. In the sixth Reflection Reynolds offers her personal reflections on how COVID-19 has transformed social science research through a shift from face-to-face to predominantly online research. In the seventh Reflection Bainbridge reflects on some of the apprehensions she had when starting an EdD during the COVID-19 pandemic and considers how future research might be impacted due to associated transformations to the field. In the eighth Reflection Simpson explores his transition from a prisoner to a PhD researcher and draws on his own personal experiences to reflect on the transformative power of education. Finally, in the ninth Reflection Wang reflects on how the COVID-19 has transformed their research proposal and discusses some practical issues related to conducting fieldwork online.

Concluding comments

Every stage involved in the production of this Issue occurred in the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic. All of our editorial team meetings were online, as was our correspondence with authors and peer reviewers. Nevertheless, we as the editorial team are deeply appreciative of the resilience and enthusiasm demonstrated by authors and peer reviewers, who, in particular, volunteered their time to peer review our submissions whilst continuing their own doctoral research.

In closing, we must thank those that have supported this Issue of *Sentio*; members of the Sentio Advisory Board, Professor Alan Pickering (Goldsmiths, University of London), Professor Laura Camfield (University of East Anglia), Dr May Seitanidi (University of Kent) and Professor Ismene Gizelia (University of Essex); Paul Newman, SeNSS Coordinator; and our authors and peer reviewers. Thanks to all involved, your continued support and encouragement have helped to make the publication of this Issue of *Sentio* possible.

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