

EDITORIAL

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As this issue of the *Journal of Resistance Studies* goes to print, we are in the process of employing a new person to have the daily responsibilities for the editing process, the production and the search for high-quality submissions to future issues. Jørgen Johansen has done this since a couple of years before the first issue was published in 2015. In close cooperation with the main editor Stellan Vinthagen and with support from our editorial board and numerous anonymous reviewers, Johansen has been in charge of publishing 17 issues over 9 volumes. Craig S. Brown has taken on more responsibilities in recent years, especially with the book review section and as a proofreader. From the next issue, Craig will replace Jørgen as the main employee and be the one who 'runs the business' on a daily basis.

JRS has developed to be the leading academic journal with the sole focus on resistance studies and has been central to the development of this relatively new field. It has been a pleasure for the editors and the editorial board to see the expanded interest in resistance studies within many academic circles.

With our regular 'special issues', acceptance of submissions from a wide variety of academic fields and occasional use of guest editors, we have consciously tried to broaden the understanding of resistance studies from many new perspectives.

Running a bi-annual journal demands long-term planning and a steady stream of submissions. For the moment, we have a few special issues in the pipeline and are always open to new suggestions. If you or your colleagues have ideas for a special issue of the *JRS*, the editors would welcome the opportunity to work closely with you to develop the proposal, formulate a timetable and produce a published journal issue.

The next issue on 'Arts, Peace and Resistance' is a result of a suggestion at the last European Peace Research Association (EuPRA) conference and the discussions that were held there; with the call for papers attracting submissions from outside the conference participants too. Although we are

somewhat hesitant to print a collection of typical conference papers, we know that with proper editing, many presentations at conferences can be valuable contributions. We are always open to discussing a possible special issue as a follow up from an interesting conference.

Similar with a Master's thesis; with some editing and extra work many good MA theses can be transformed into sound publishable academic articles. We hope many supervisors will help their students to submit texts based on their theses.

JRS publish, on average, 20-30% of the submissions we receive. Frequently we reject good academic articles because they lack a clear resistance focus. In those cases, we recommend submitting the text to another and more suitable journal.

We are also interested in receiving more book reviews. Some of our Editorial Board members have given their students the task to write reviews of books, movies or computer games with resistance relevance. For many, such a review can be their first publication in a high-quality journal, which is good for their CV and might give them an extra push to engage in resistance studies. Additionally, the 'Classical Book Review' in the JRS has given authors the opportunity to reflect on older or seminal texts, or one that was particularly influential on them. JRS will be happy to have book reviews from students as well as from activists.

In future, there are certain aspects we feel it would be constructive to focus on. An ongoing objective of the *JRS* and resistance studies is to collaborate with activists, the 'professors of the street'. Stellan suggested previously that this might involve:

A special thematic issue, on and by 'activist-scholars'; a collection of "evaluation reports" of different activist campaigns written by participating activists themselves, and each commented by engaged academics; conventional academic research papers on activist campaigns, which then are commented on by activists from these campaigns; or, co-authored texts by academics and activists (Vinthagen, 2016, p.6).

As always, we are open to proposals on these efforts and other suggestions you might have.

In Anton Törnberg's guest edited special issue, he observed that none of the articles 'made any predictions for the future of Resistance Studies', and noted the potential and challenges posed by digitalisation (2017, pp.11-

12). We published a special issue on *Digital Resistance* (Vol. 5 number 2, 2019). While the impact of technology such as artificial intelligence is an evident area for consideration, predictions may concern all kinds of issues. Highlighting potential developments that may hinder resistance activities and clarifying their implications—for example, policies eroding women's rights or LGBTQ+ rights at a subnational level, new tools of militarised policing, or meetings and networks of far-right actors—is important for strategizing, especially when the process of researching and publishing typical academic articles is slow. The *JRS*' comments section can serve a purpose for writing about time-sensitive matters. We encourage more people to submit texts with comments on resistance, current issues or articles published by *JRS*. This section is open for less academic texts and reflections.

Some years ago, the editors sought to identify some of the 'borderlands' of resistance studies that merit consideration in the *JRS*, which are worth reiterating given their ongoing pertinence:

Firstly, we might ask, if resistance has to necessarily be done with certain political intentions or is it the consequences that will decide if it is resistance or not? [...] Secondly, although resistance of course might be violent in different ways, conventional armed struggle by guerrilla movements or para militaries falls outside what *JRS* want to publish. On the other hand, we think it is an often-overlooked fact that no armed movements use only military weapons and violence. There are always elements of non-armed resistance in their campaigns and wars, and collaborations with non-armed actors [...] Thirdly, 'sabotage' is an interesting example of a means often related to armed struggles and war, which we think is often too quickly categorized and deserves to be explored more, particularly when it is used within unarmed struggles [...] Fourthly [...] less successful examples of resistance. The majority of case studies on resistance are on those who has to some degree been successful (Johansen & Vinthagen, 2019, pp.7-9)

These borderlands still require concerted engagement. Jørgen (Johansen, 2022, pp.7-8) recently posed the question of whether desperation among parts of the climate movement will lead to some going underground and turning violent, and whether texts such as Malm's (2021) *How to Blow up a Pipeline* may lead to greater support for sabotage. Boyle's (2015) *Drinking*

Molotov Cocktails with Gandhi went much further than Malm's in the 'full spectrum' resistance it called for in the context of environmental action. Analyses of such aspects as the forms and parameters, as well as strategic effectiveness of sabotage and other unarmed actions, are invited.

For a time, contributing authors to the *JRS* would produce a popular summary of their article, which would be posted on our website. While a little more time consuming, this is a positive means of reaching more diverse audiences and stimulating engagement. Another option is to publish through the Resistance Studies page at wagingnonviolence.org, which Stellan and Craig edit. The length of an article might be only 1500 words long, yet the readership can be wide. We also encourage previous contributors to the *JRS* to revisit their articles and consider submitting a summary.

The editors of the *JRS* have previously expressed their weariness about what happens when a field or discipline becomes institutionalised in academia, as increased visibility, funding and formal positions potentially comes at the expense of the critical edge—as occurred with the institutionalisation of Peace and Conflict Studies (Vinthagen, 2021, p.7). However, the value of critical engagement across fields should be remembered. The forthcoming EuPRA special issue is the outcome of closer collaboration started some years ago, when the *JRS* became an association journal of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA), the Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSA), and EuPRA (Johansen & Vinthagen, 2020, p.5). Again, studies and proposals to strengthen cooperation with organisations in other academic fields would be welcome, particularly if enabling creative and radical strategies of resistance.

As has been made outlined in previous editorials, the field of resistance studies is expansive and not one we wish to gatekeep. There is ongoing work to be done to push the boundaries and diversity of resistance practices that the *JRS* considers and encapsulates, adhering to our goal of connecting to emancipatory struggles globally. Given that many resistance events and processes soon fall by the wayside in mainstream understanding, both in terms of their visibility and their considered significance—consider the ongoing events in Iran, which young women have been at the forefront of—if they are indeed even known about, as scholars and practitioners of resistance we can do our best to facilitate understanding of the world of everyday, hidden and not-so-hidden resistance that endures. In this manner, even if societies seem bleak with injustice and domination, we can see there is much to be hopeful about.

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