



[Dr Jeremy Rinker](#)
Editor

Call for Papers

The *Journal of Transdisciplinary Peace Praxis* (JTTP) is excited to announce the call for its upcoming **sixth issue** (Volume 3, Number 2). As we continue to develop as a scholarly journal of contemplative cutting-edge research and practice on subjects related to human social flourishing and peace, we wish to open a call for papers that centre questions about defining, positioning, and exploring the role of the 'public intellectual' (i.e. that individual who speaks to the public on issues of the political or ideological moment, see Posner, 2003) in today's world. In 2021, a centuries-long debate continues over what it means to be a public intellectual and what role academic research, truth, and knowledge should play in a free and democratic society. In the individualist and anti-intellectual climate of today, what is the role of traditional academics and academic institutions of higher education in society? How does traditional scholarship and disciplinary training both sustain and subvert attempts to create lasting social change?

While JTTP's general call for papers is always an open call for collaborative transdisciplinary scholarship, we plan to organise our **sixth issue**, the completion of our third year of publication, around the definition, relevance, and critical position of publicly engaged intellectual activity. Whether you call it community-engaged scholarship (Post, Ward, Longo & Saltmarsh, 2016) or public scholarship (Leavy, 2019), the naming and framing of the vast literature on the academy's role in public debate and reason, remains important to future human flourishing. We at JTTP aim to solicit collaborative transdisciplinary approaches to understanding how and why the public intellectual should, or should not, be instrumental in public policy, social development, and social change in the modern world.

We do not presume this special issue to be a manifesto for simply opening wide the doors of the academy, nor do we assume that the active decolonisation and/or the levelling of intellectual activity in the disciplines are ill-founded enterprises. Discipline, in the academic sense, implies a set of methods of analytical problem solving. These methods, while surely developed and honed within oppressive systems, do still hold pragmatic, methodological, and epistemological importance and relevance. How do contemporary scholar-practitioners foreground approaches to change that apply proven methodology without over-privileging pedigree or under-privileging activist and community practice? How can academe root out academic arrogance and privilege without destroying the proverbial castle on the hill? While well-aware that this is contested terrain, fraught with historic power imbalances and long side-lined identity concerns, this special issue of the JTTP aims to open space for critical and collaborative transdisciplinary discussion of a way forward for lovers of knowledge, truth, and epistemological methods. More than mere intellectualising, we believe the idea of the public intellectual is of critical concern to developing peaceful and creative futures. Well-reasoned and thought provoking single and co-authored works that explore this complex issue are welcomed.

As usual our thoughts raise more questions than answers, and to further articulate some of these broad problematics, we outline the following framing questions that are of particular interest to the editorial team of the JTTP:

- + What is the role of higher education in today's society?
- + What role does local community play in the future of higher education?
- + How does traditional scholarship and disciplinary training both sustain and subvert attempts to create lasting social change in today's society?
- + Why is disciplinary methodology important to the everyday wicked problems we face in the world?
- + What does it mean to be a contemporary scholar-practitioner and public intellectual? How do we identify and amplify such social actors?

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- + How do trained professionals foreground approaches to change that apply proven methodology without: (a) over-privileging pedigree, (b) under-valuing privilege; (c) engaging in armchair research on subjects as opposed to with them, or (d) under-privileging activists/community knowledge and practice?
- + How does local engagement and collaboration improve knowledge creation? How do reciprocal relationships improve social policy and practice?
- + How can academe root out academic arrogance, privilege, and presumption without destroying the traditional aims of the liberal arts and scientific research and education?
- + Can the life of the mind be realised without engaging real world problems/debates?

The 'public intellectual' plays an important role in response to the wicked problems (Rittel & Webber, 1973) of today. Focus on who they are, what they do, and how and why they do what they do, deserves continued intellectual attention. We hope that this issue of the JTTP will cast light on strands of anti-intellectualism in ascendancy around the world and open exploration of the means to bring intellectual rigour and methodological insights further into the public sphere.

As always, we are particularly interested in submissions from practitioners working on the front lines of community-based activism. We encourage those in academe, activist organising, and public/investigative journalism to reflect on their own praxis and positionality as public intellectuals. While this call represents a challenging set of issues to both name and frame, we hope this sixth issue of the JTTP raises critical debate on the role of academe in 21st century life. All methods from mixed-methods case study to autoethnography are encouraged. Co-authored and cross/trans-disciplinary explorations are strongly encouraged. If we can collaboratively develop and apply theories-of-change that respond to some of the worlds' most contingent and pressing conflicts, then the potential exists to rethink our shared response to interrelated wicked problems.

You are encouraged to send us a 250-word abstract of your proposed contribution before **15 March 2021**. We will convey our decision within seven-to-ten days, and the complete manuscript (7,000 to 9,000 words) is required to be received latest by **31 May 2021**, allowing adequate time for the peer review process.

Kindly see the [Submission Guidelines](#) in [AUTHOR'S CORNER](#).

With Metta (Loving Kindness),



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