



# Call for Abstracts: *SRO* Special Issue Making Methodologies: Theoretical, Practical and Ethical Explorations in Creative and Co-Created Sociological Research



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**Deadline for submission of abstracts: 9 June 2026, 17:00 BST**

This special issue critically explores the importance of creativity and creative practice in re-imagining sociological research and inquiry. We invite submissions that examine creative approaches to sociological research design and methodological craft, data analysis, and dissemination, as well as how creative research outputs are designed, shared, and “live on” after projects end. The SI directly responds to *SRO*’s call to publish “theoretically challenging, methodologically innovative, and creative research” (Butcher et al., 2023). It focuses on how creative practice has emerged with and informed the greater involvement of publics in sociological research and the generation of research impact and societal benefit. Furthermore, it explores how new methodologies encompassing co-production and co-creation are re-shaping sociological agendas.

Papers submitted for this special issue will ask how and to whom creativity in research matters. They will reflect on the theory, practice, and ethics of creative sociological research; the relationship between creative research, co-production, and understandings of impact and social benefit; and how the individuals and communities involved in creative research experience the process, including how different outcomes, including creative outputs, are received by diverse audiences.

## Key Themes and Questions

We welcome abstracts for papers from diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives that consider:

- How and to whom creativity in sociological research matters.
- The theory, practice, and ethics of creative sociological research.
- The relationship between creative research, co-production, and understandings of impact and social benefit.
- How individuals and communities involved in creative research experience the process, and how creative outputs are received by diverse audiences.
- The intersections between creative forms of knowledge generation/dissemination and insights from cultural, visual, and digital sociology.

- Decolonial and postcolonial approaches to knowledge production in creative research.
- The role of creative methods in centering marginalized perspectives and addressing epistemic injustice.
- How researchers navigate tensions between institutional procedural ethics and situated ethics or an ethics of care.
- The afterlives of co-produced research outputs.

We are committed to ensuring the SI is international in scope and inclusive of a broad range of voices, including researchers at all career stages.

### Submission Types

The special issue will offer a rich, multi-layered, and multi-format exploration by featuring:

- **Research Articles** of between 5000 - 8000 words
- **Sociology in Action** of between 2000-4000 words
- **Beyond the Text** with accompanying text of 1,500-2,500 words

Information on all formats can be found on the [Sociological Research Online webpage](#)

### Submission Guidance and Decisions

To ensure a fair and efficient review process, the guest editors are unable to provide individual feedback or discuss abstracts prior to the formal submission deadline. We encourage all prospective authors to use the themes outlined in this call to determine the suitability of their work for this Special Issue.

- **Word Count:** Abstracts must not exceed 300 words.
- All authors will be notified of the outcome of their submission by late June 2026.\*
- For detailed information on the standard requirements for this journal, please visit the [SRO Author Instructions](#).
- If you are considering a non-traditional submission, please review the specific remit for:
  - [Sociology in Action guidelines](#)
  - [Beyond the Text guidelines](#)

\*Please note your abstract being selected for full paper submission will not guarantee publication in the special issue.

### How to Submit

Abstracts should be no more than **300 words** in length.

Please submit your abstract via our online form by **09 June 2026**. [This link will take you to the submission form for this call](#).

**Deadline for submission of abstracts for the special issue: 9 June 2026**

**Decisions on abstracts will be communicated by late June 2026.**

**Full paper submission: 26 January 2027**

Sociological Research Online (SRO) is published by the British Sociological Association and SAGE Publications. It is a peer-reviewed journal publishing research within the full range of sociological enquiry, in a variety of formats and publication types from research articles to creative outputs represented by Beyond the Text. For full information about the journal, please visit [the SRO website](#).