

Sociological Research Online

Call for Special Issue

Proposals



The British Sociological Association journal *Sociological Research Online (SRO)* is inviting proposals for a special issue of the journal to be published in 2029.

Deadline to submit proposals: 24 September 2026, 17:00 BST

This is an open call and proposals can be on any theme. The proposed special issue should offer an exciting contribution to emerging sociological debates by bringing together conceptually, empirically and/or methodologically innovative interventions within a specific topic area. The proposed special issue should build on the journal's reputation for publishing high quality, critical and reflexive applied sociological research in innovative and expansive ways.

To this end, we particularly welcome proposals that share the journal's participatory ethos, are international in scope, and which clearly state how they will make use of the range of publishing formats that *SRO* offers - including original articles, *Sociology in Action* and *Beyond the Text* articles. Moreover, we would welcome proposals that explicitly address core and overarching concerns of the journal, including:

- Methodological, theoretical and empirical innovations and creativity
- Sociologies and their publics
- Niche sociologies
- Sociological communication, including reflexivity, relevance, and timeliness
- Sociology's place in the world, its ethics, politics and futures
- Sociology's interdisciplinary intersections and possibilities
- Sociological responses to contemporary crises and emerging challenges

Prospective guest editors should submit proposals for the 2029 special issue by **24 September 2026** for consideration by the editorial board.

Focus and rationale

1. Please clearly describe the focus of your proposed special issue and the reasons why it is particularly timely, relevant, etc.
2. Please explain how the proposal fits within the remit of the journal. See the journal's statement of aims and scope: <https://journals.sagepub.com/aims-scope/SRO>
3. Please identify which parts of the sociological community you expect to be interested in your special issue.
4. If the papers were originally presented at a specific conference, seminar or other event, you should provide details.
5. Please indicate any international dimension to your proposed special issue.
6. Indicate the mix, style and nature of the format of contributions.



Proposed content

Please describe the types of content that you wish to see in the special issue. If there are any specific manuscript submissions based on recent events that you would like to encourage for the special issue, please include a description.*

The journal and the BSA expect all special issues to include a diversity of voices and perspectives. The journal asks all special issues to use an open call for papers in order to open up opportunities for submission from a broad range of international scholars, beyond those papers that may come from existing networks and events. The BSA will support distribution of the Call for Papers and guest editors are also expected to distribute the Call for Papers to a variety of networks. Please indicate how you will reach a broad range of networks to encourage diverse submissions.

We particularly welcome special issue proposals from outside the UK, as well as guest editorial teams that include scholars from multiple countries or regions.

As well as original research articles, special issues should also include an editorial introduction, which is expected to provide the required background, context and a conceptual framework for the special issue. We also encourage editors to seek out and include Sociology in Action and/or Beyond the Text contributions. See [our website](#) for more information on these article types. Special issues may also include book reviews. Please indicate the types of manuscripts that you would like to see in the special issue.

*Please note that all submissions are subject to the normal peer review practices of the journal and acceptance is subject to satisfactory peer review reports. Peer reviewers will include members of the Editorial Board as well as additional subject-experts.

Publication Schedule

A timetable for peer review and publication will be discussed, agreed and drawn up by the journal and guest editors for any accepted proposal. A special issue resulting from this call will likely be published in 2029.

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Communication of results on proposals: Early January 2027

Proposals should adhere to the guidelines above and should not exceed **three pages in total**. Completed proposals should be sent as email attachments to Selina Hisir, BSA Publications Coordinator, at sro.journal@britsoc.org.uk

We welcome potential proposers to contact the journal if they would like to discuss details regarding their proposals. For further information and queries, please contact the Editors or email sro.journal@britsoc.org.uk