



Work, Employment and Society

Guidance on Research Notes, Debates & Controversies and 'On the Front Line'

Please take five minutes to read the Notes for Contributors document as well as this document: It contains many useful points on formatting and style that apply to ALL types of WES manuscripts. Following the guidance will help to ensure that the submission process will be smooth and speedy. All submissions to WES should be prepared according to the Notes to Contributors and then submitted online through ScholarOne Manuscripts™. This applies to ALL manuscript types.

Work, Employment and Society publishes a variety of manuscript types. Currently we are particularly interested in receiving **Debates and Controversies, Research Notes and On the Front Line** pieces. These manuscript types are shorter (normally 5000 words) than a full research article, but play a key role in stimulating new debate, questioning accepted wisdom and adding to the body of knowledge.

These pieces are subject to the same academic rigour and double-blind peer review of all WES articles. They also have a shorter time to publication once accepted and submissions of these types may be published before the REF deadline.

A Debates and Controversies (D&C) contribution should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. A think-piece or reflection on key concepts or bodies of knowledge that aims to stimulate new debate.
- b. An engagement with a body of literature that produces a new interpretation or proposes a new theoretical or empirical direction.
- c. A polemical critique of accepted wisdom on a topic. This must be serious in intent and considered in tone.
- d. The D&C section is a forum for ongoing debate (e.g. the impact of financialisation on employment). Therefore, manuscripts should engage with previous D&C articles and other contributions in WES where appropriate and relevant.

A Research Note (RN) contribution should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Methodological issues and problems associated with particular research approaches or questions.
- b. An evaluation of the epistemological or ontological underpinnings of research agendas and arguments for how they could or should be changed.
- c. Reflections on innovative, distinctive or unusual methodological, theoretical or policy issues arising from empirical fieldwork.

On the Front Line contributions should be prepared using the following guidelines:

- a. The purpose of 'On the Front Line' (OtFL) contributions is to let workers speak for themselves thereby enabling their voices to convey insight into the realities of work and employment.



- b. OtFL articles are co-authored with the worker participant(s) and ordinarily consist of first-person narratives or other forms of reportage that foreground worker voice and experience.
- c. Co-authorship by the worker means that they should play an active role in preparing and agreeing the content, and editing of their own narrative, including any revisions made during the peer-review process.
- d. OtFL contributions should include a short explanation that situates the narrative in its most appropriate contexts, whether organisational, sectoral or geographical, and briefly indicates how it engages with relevant sociological debates or developments. As OtFL articles are designed to be unmediated accounts by workers, it is important that they end with the first-person narrative, thereby giving the worker the 'final word'. For this reason a reflective and summative academic-style conclusion is not appropriate.
- e. The worker's identity and any details in the narrative suggesting their identity, or others identity (e.g. colleagues and managers), will normally be anonymized. Discretion in this area is a matter of editorial prerogative, irrespective of whether co-authors wish to de-anonymise the worker and/or other specific details in the narrative.
- f. In the case of OtFL articles, it is especially important that you consult the journal for recent examples of their distinctive approach and format.
- g. OtFL articles, unlike other WES content, are free to download from the journal website. They are designed to appeal to a wider audience than the academy and are an important element of WES's commitment to public sociology.

Contributions will not be accepted if they are:

- a. Underdeveloped versions of a standard article (RN/D&C).
- b. Premature reports from early stages of research or notes on the research that do not raise substantive methodological, theoretical or policy issues (RN).
- c. Diatribes against people or perspectives (D&C)
- d. Recycled and/or reconstituted pre-existing interview data or other empirical material (OtFL)

Word length

5000 words including tables, endnotes and references. Submissions should be written in UK English.

The journal is international in content and contribution. Authors are strongly encouraged to read past issues of the journal to acquaint themselves with the journal's existing engagement with debates and themes relevant to their submissions, and for article style, structure and type.

Further information

If you have any other questions or would like to discuss your ideas for a D&C, RN or OtFL submission, please contact:

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To submit to the journal, visit the following URL:

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wes>



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