Engaging with the Impact of Auditing: Critical responses to performing relevance

*An Anthropology in Action special issue*

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Replete with the dangers and opportunities of highly instrumentalised state interventions into the assessment of universities, this special issue is intended to offer initial scholarly insights into something that concerns the whole higher education sector. In Australia, the especial (but certainly not exclusive) focus of this special issue, the Engagement and Impact Assessment is in preparation for submission in 2024. The exercise has produced all manner of responses in the sector, including but not limited to: resentment of an audit with seemingly few meaningful yields yet requiring high levels of preparatory work; critical insights into institutional relations with the state placed into historical context; rehearsals of future strategies for institutional cooperation; nuanced understandings of workload implications and to whom they fall in circumstances of institutional representation; the emergence of different ‘classes’ of researcher citizens in accordance with their status as ‘pure’ or ‘applied researchers, and comparisons of the national assessment with the experiences of international institutions.

This call for papers welcomes all and any extensions of these speculations, as well as new speculations on any aspect of the ways in which universities are being asked to respond to questions of relevance and public engagement. While the aforementioned topics are not exhaustive and serve as provocations only, papers that deal with how these processes make HASS disciplines think about the future and their own capacity to imagine and respond to the future of research are especially welcome. It is intended that further issues will be undertaken by the journal that will be in part guided by the kinds of concerns and themes emerging from this initial call. It is also expected that a broader range of parties than just anthropologists will be involved; an anthropological foundation is intended to support and undergird a multitude of multi, inter and other disciplinary speculations and queries.

Submissions

**Abstracts are due by 30 June 2022** and should be submitted as Microsoft Word, OpenOffice, or Rich Text Format (rtf) files to the online submissions system: [http://ojs.berghahnjournals.com/index.php/aja](http://ojs.berghahnjournals.com/index.php/aja).

Authors must register with the journal on the submission website prior to submitting, or, if already registered, they can simply log in. On registering as an Author, authors have the option of also registering as a Reviewer (to be called upon to undertake peer reviews of other submissions).

**Full manuscripts are due by 30 September 2022.** Authors should provide a cover page giving brief biographical details (up to 25 to 50 words), including an ORCID, a total word count, the number of tables and/or figures included and any acknowledgements. Affiliations and email addresses will be posted online for indexing/abstracting purposes.

Articles should be **5,000 to 6,000 words** including an abstract of no more than 125 words and 5 to 8 keywords.
The *Anthropology in Action* style guide is based on the *New Oxford Style Manual* and *New Hart’s Rules*, with some deviations for house preferences. Please note that the journal uses **UK punctuation and spelling** (including a preference for –ise over –ize endings), following The Oxford English Dictionary.

Please refer to the Style Guide online:  

For more information, please see www.berghahnjournals.com/aia

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