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New journal sprouts soon for postgraduate students

Nov 30, 2004

A doctoral candidate with the Faculty of Creative Arts has been appointed the foundation editor of the University of Wollongong's proposed new fully refereed postgraduate journal, Rhizome.

The newly-appointed editor, Lycia Trouton, believes the journal's title is a good fit with its planned cross-disciplinary outreach.

"Rhizome is a figurative term used by theorists Felix Guattari and Gilles Deleuze to describe non hierarchical networks and 'in-between' positions of all kinds. Yet, it also references a botanical meaning which refers to a horizontal, usually underground stem, that often sends out roots and shoots from its nodes," Ms Trouton said.

She said the Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) considered the term and reference appropriate for a cross-disciplinary journal, stemming from a central objective.

Rhizome is the first journal of its kind at UOW and the first edition of the bi-annual journal is expected to go on sale in the New Year.

Ms Trouton said the new journal would be a boon for postgraduates wanting to give their future careers a push along.

The journal is aiming at 10 articles and book reviews an issue and Ms Trouton is especially encouraging international researchers on campus to contribute.

"Our international community here is an asset and the journal will highlight this, as well as cross-disciplinary research – aspects that put the University of Wollongong on the map," she said.

Academic staff will be involved in the production process of the journal and advisory and editorial committees will also be established.

Contributions are solicited bi-annually from UOW postgraduate students, including Bachelor (Hons) students.

Ms Trouton, who came to Australia from overseas herself, said she was excited to take on this new challenge and will draw on her own international background to ensure the journal has a "global feel" to it.

"I like to see things through – I'm a good implementer and intend for this journal to become a major academic forum through which postgraduates will be able to speak plainly about their various research work," she said.

She said postgraduates are encouraged to publish their work in specialist journals but there is a clear need for fledgling researchers, especially outside of the humanities, to understand the publishing system and make the necessary steps towards building an academic career.

"Submitting to a journal outside a student's own field may not be as daunting a task!"

"My office at 115 Northfields Avenue is accessible, and Rhizome will provide a place to exchange ideas across the whole academic community, together with extra editing support," Ms Trouton said.

She said the new journal would not only provide an opportunity for postgraduates to discuss their research but also their purpose during the period of postgraduate study. This is expected to add to student success and degree completion.

WUPA is an independent student union representing about 4,000 postgraduate students at the University of Wollongong.



The newly-appointed editor of the postgraduate journal, Rhizome, Lycia Trouton, with WUPA President, Jason Hart

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Rhizome: the new bi-annual, cross-disciplinary journal

Rhizome, the new bi-annual, cross-disciplinary journal is the first of its kind on campus. It will be distributed in May 2005. **Rhizome** is modelled after the University of Melbourne post-graduate association (UMPA) journal **Traffic**, in production since 2002. The Wollongong University Postgraduate Association (WUPA) journal's title is a good fit with its planned cross-disciplinary outreach.

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The WUPA council chose the term and reference as appropriate for a cross-disciplinary journal, stemming from a central objective. Editor, Lycia Trouton says the new journal is a boon for postgraduates wanting to give their future careers a push along.

The journal is aiming at **10 articles, 7 book reviews and 3 inter-textual reviews** (digital media, moving image, theatre, art, live music) per issue. Trouton is especially encouraging international researchers on campus to contribute.

"Our international community here is an asset and the journal should highlight this, along with cross-disciplinary research – aspects that put the University of Wollongong on the map."

Advisory and editorial committees have been established since December 2004. Contributions will be solicited bi-annually from UOW postgraduate students, including Bachelor (Hons) students.

Contributors are asked to consider:

- What is the central thesis of your work? What is your research 'saying'?
- How does the thesis you discuss contribute to the broader disciplinary knowledge in which you work? What is the point of your research discipline? How are you 'filling in the blanks' within your discipline?
- What is the point of academic research for the broader community?
- Can the specificity of your disciplinary research be translated for a broader audience across campus and outside the academy and, if so, how?
- Articles should be approximately 4,000 words (not including endnotes)
- Submissions should be one hard copy and one electronic copy, with on disc or as an email attachment to the Editor.

- Closing dates are advertised at www.uow.edu.au/wupa/

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"I like to see things through – WUPA intends for this journal to become a major academic forum through which postgraduates will be able to speak plainly about their various research."

She said postgraduates are encouraged to publish their work in specialist journals but there is a clear need for fledgling researchers, especially outside of the humanities, to understand the publishing system and make the necessary steps towards building an academic career.



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Editor of Rhizome, Lycia Trouton, shows off her world record holding Post-It Note collection.