Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies
Special Issue Call for Papers

From Emergence to Convergence: New critical perspectives, innovative methods and novel approaches to the study of the digital subject

Editors: Helen W. Kennedy & Sarah Atkinson

As we begin our tenure as the new co-editors of Convergence, it is an opportunity to both reflect on the journal’s history and to adapt and refine the aims and objectives in relation to a period of extraordinary technological and social change.

Convergence was set up in 1995 to address the creative, social, political and pedagogical issues raised by the advent of what were then ‘emergent’ new media technologies. 22 years on, we see the intense and ubiquitous integration and absorption of these technologies into almost every aspect of our everyday cultural, social, creative and political lives.

In the context of this ubiquity, this interpenetration of these once emergent technologies, our first special issue as the journal’s editors sets out to refocus our attention on the contemporary very specific sites of ‘convergence’ – those practices, places, and processes where technologies, cultures and aesthetics merge and coalesce in the creation of new subjects, new experiences, new artefacts and new knowledge. In this issue we will publish work that brings together a corresponding convergence of methods and approaches in the illumination of these new phenomena, their impacts, their effects, and their affects.

We are seeking contributions that will enable us to showcase the vibrant emergent and truly convergent methodological practices that wrangle the complexities of compelling new objects of study. The study of technological phenomena and its impact upon subjects, economies, cultures, and aesthetics has stimulated new methodologies which combine and respond to established empirical methods, digital tools, social media analysis, digital humanities methods, and collaborative working with cultural partners, industries and external agencies. There is a significant amount of work where it is the methodological design itself that provides new insights, and it is this work that this issue will showcase and celebrate.

The editors are inviting contributions that feature methodological experimentation in the exploration of these areas:
• New techno-subjects of the anthropocene – Algorithmic/Artificial Intelligence/Artificial Life
• Presence, co-presence and telepresence
• Immersion, interaction and engagement revisited in light of AR, VR, MR innovations
• Innovations in experience design across the virtual and physical realm
• Materiality and material processes in convergent creative practices
• Inclusion, diversity and accessibility of technologies, spaces and practices
• Democratisation of the digital economy: co-production, open access, block chain and cryptocurrency
• New epistemologies and ontologies of data, datafication and big data
• Ethics of distributed data, networked subjects and vulnerable publics
• New forms of marketing and emergent local and global business models
• Workforce, labour and precarious working patterns
• The ludic and technological adaptation and adoption

Articles should be in the range of 6000–8000 words (including all references). See author guidelines here.

Please send a 500-word abstract and a 100-word biography to the editors:
sarah.atkinson@kcl.ac.uk and h.kennedy@brighton.ac.uk by 4pm 29th March 2018.