

## *Journal of Material Culture*: Selection process for Special Issues

Deadline: 1 October

*The Journal of Material Culture* welcomes proposals for special issues (SI) that aim to engage and further the core aims of the journal. *The Journal of Material Culture* is an interdisciplinary journal designed to cater for the increasing interest in material culture studies. It is concerned with the relationship between artefacts and social relations irrespective of time and place and aims to systematically explore the linkage between the construction of social identities and the production and use of culture.

*The Journal of Material Culture* transcends traditional disciplinary and cultural boundaries drawing on a wide range of disciplines including anthropology, archaeology, design studies, history, human geography, museology and medicine/health using rich ethnographic or similarly empirical case studies. It aims to promote and develop a general comparative and international perspective by publishing papers on theory and methodology, interpretive strategies and substantive studies of key themes and issues. As a general practice, the Journal publishes one SI each calendar year, usually in December.

From 2020, the Journal is changing how we accept Special Issues. In an effort to cut the waiting time between initial proposal and final publication, we will no longer be considering proposals for collections that have not yet been written. Instead, we invite full manuscripts of the proposed issue, and anticipate that the individual articles in the collection will have already gone through a rigorous review by the guest editor(s) who propose the SI.

Along with the full manuscript, proposals should include a cover letter that demonstrates how the SI will support and further the aims of the journal. Proposals should include:

- Contact details and 150-word bio for each of the editor(s)
- A description of, and rationale for the special issue
- Details of article titles and contributing authors
- A breakdown of the length of articles (including introduction and afterward/response, as appropriate) (Total words for special issue should be around 40,000 words.)
- A summary of how the collection arose, any other means of publication that has been considered, and what stages of review/revision have already been completed.

We expect guest editors to work closely with contributing authors to ensure a high standard of research and writing and strong coherence across the SI. Given this, we anticipate that the papers are read and anonymously reviewed informally before formal submission to JMC. The Editorial Board of the Journal will then review all proposed Special Issues in full, and will choose one to move forward to formal review. Guest editors will be informed of the decision by 1 December, and article manuscripts should be submitted to the ManuscriptCentral by 1 January. The Journal will work with the guest editors to find suitable reviewers, in order to facilitate the SI be published in the December issue, 14 months after initial submission.

Please note that an accepted proposal does not guarantee that the SI, nor any contributions therein, will necessarily be accepted. Each paper will be evaluated on its own merit. The Journal expects the guest editors to work with authors to ensure that each contribution is successful. Papers that have been through the full review process and accepted for publication before the scheduled print publication date will be published online first.

The deadline for submission of special issue proposals is 1 October each year. Proposals should be sent to the Editorial Assistant at [ucsajmc@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ucsajmc@ucl.ac.uk).