The Occasional Papers, Institute for Culture and Society (tOPICS) Advice for Authors

The Occasional Papers, Institute for Culture and Society (tOPICS) is a research publication outlet for ICS-associated researchers, research support and professional staff, and higher degree research students.

Housed on the Institute for Culture and Society website, tOPICS provides a space for advanced work-in-progress, such as research conference papers and substantial drafts of a research article. Adaptations of research reports may also be suitable for tOPICS.

Contributions to tOPICS should have substantive theoretical, conceptual and/or empirical content in the field of cultural research, but there is no formal reviewing process. The Editors will determine whether manuscripts are suitable for tOPICS.

Authors’ work will be widely available online – previously published tOPICS papers have been extensively accessed by readers.

Authors are free to do whatever they want with their work after it has been published on the ICS website. We ask only that the tOPICS version is appropriately cited. All papers are lodged with the National Library of Australia repository for posterity and allocated an ISBN for accessibility.


Instructions and advice for submission

- Include an abstract (200–300 words), up to 5 keywords and a brief (100 words) biography.
- Times New Roman font, size 12, fully justified.
- The University’s Harvard Referencing style.
- Authors are encouraged to provide strong visual content as well as text, and to take advantage of digital technologies. It is preferable that visual content be embedded in the text itself, with hyperlinks being the next best option if you don’t have the necessary permissions.
- There is no mandated word limit, but the optimum length for tOPICS is 5000–7000 words, including notes and references.

Authors are requested to follow these guidelines as closely as possible in order to minimise any delays in publication.

Manuscripts should be submitted to Malini Sur (Editor) at m.sur@westernsydney.edu.au.