

## ***Culture Unbound* Vol. 8 Editorial**

By Eva Hemmungs Wirtén, James Meese & Johanna Dahlin

This editorial marks the launch of *Culture Unbound*'s eighth annual volume. Eva Hemmungs Wirtén remains as editor in chief and is joined by James Meese as associate editor and Johanna Dahlin as executive editor. The editorial team is based on different continents but the team did manage to meet at the beginning of this year. During this meeting, we set out a number of new directions for the future and we are convinced that 2016 will be an exciting year for the journal.

The last thematic section of 2015 "Publishing for Public Knowledge" emerged from the workshop celebrating *Culture Unbound*'s first five years and discussed publishing policies and changing political and economic conditions for knowledge production. We will continue to engage with the question of how changing political and financial conditions and expectations for academia affect how knowledge can be produced and published in the years to come.

In 2016 our readers will begin to notice some changes emanating from the above-mentioned workshop as well as from the renewal and consolidation work we have been undertaking since then. We will endeavour to broaden the range of formats *Culture Unbound* is publishing, starting with a pilot episode of "Unbound Conversations" a podcast series that we hope to make a regular feature of *Culture Unbound* in the future. We will also give greater exposure and weight to the articles that are not part of thematic sections, which will lead to some changes in how the articles are displayed on our website. Starting with this volume, *Culture Unbound* will start to publish issues, and not only volumes. The issues may contain both thematic sections and independent articles, or just one of the categories. Taking advantage of the digital format we will be able to make new research available through Advance Access when finalised ahead of an issue's publication date. Having numbered issues will make articles easier to find, and it will give the independent articles a more clearly carved out space in *Culture Unbound*.

That being said, we have three very exciting thematic sections planned for this year: "Rupture and Exile: Permanent Liminality in Spaces for Movement and Abandonment" (edited by Harmoy Sigantoria and Frank G. Karioris) will be published shortly, followed by "Streaming Heritage" (edited by Pelle Snickars) and "The performative power of cultural products in the making and remaking of figurations of gender and sexuality, within and by way of transnational communities" (edited by Pia Laskar, Erika Alm and Cathrin Wasshede).

Our overall goal is to maintain an open, inclusive and truly interdisciplinary perspective while at the same time identifying and developing the distinctive tone, approach and choice of subjects that have emerged over the years since *Culture Unbound* was founded.

As always, we would like to end this editorial and open the volume with an invitation to our readers to take part *Culture Unbound* by suggesting changes, contributing articles and proposing thematic sections for the coming years. We will continue to embrace diversity, stay alert and keep our minds open to accommodate emerging fields of research.

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