

The Apollonian

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

For Volume II, Issue 1

Cognitive Ecologies

Thinking With, Through, and Against Environments

Academic Paper | Book Review

Short Fiction | Translation

Poetry | Interview

Personal Essay | Photo Essay

THE APOLLONIAN

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Cognitive Ecologies: Thinking With, Through, and Against Environments (Special Issue)

This issue will be guest-edited by **Tess Ezzy**, University of New England, Director of the Neurodivergent Creative Methods Lab.

Thinking does not happen only in heads. It is scaffolded by material surroundings, mediated by technological systems, shaped by sensory and affective conditions, and entangled with social, cultural, and ecological contexts. Work in cognitive anthropology, philosophy of mind, media theory, and the environmental humanities — Hutchins, Clark and Chalmers, Malafouris, Hayles, Tribble and Sutton — has made this claim familiar: cognition is distributed, situated, extended, ecological.

This special issue asks what follows politically. If environments condition thought, their distribution is never neutral. Some environments hold thinking; others deplete it. Attention is farmed and resold. Cognitive labour is extracted, and its exhaustion returned to the worker as a personal deficiency. Access to the conditions of sustained thought is stratified by disability, class, race, geography, and institutional position. Cognitive ecology has been better at describing distribution than at asking who bears its costs.

We invite work that thinks with environments, through them, and against them: against environments that are hostile, extractive, or disabling, and against the conceptual habits that make such hostility invisible by relocating cognitive failure inside individual heads.

Provocations rather than prescriptions:

- What does the extended-mind tradition still owe to the individualism it set out to displace?
- What becomes visible when neurodivergent thinking is read as ecological practice rather than as impairment?
- Who is environmental design for, and what does accessible cognitive infrastructure actually require?
- When does a platform scaffold thought, and when does it farm it?
- How should burnout be theorised — as individual pathology, or as an infrastructural effect?
- What forms of cognitive labour are rendered invisible by the environments that depend on them?
- What does ecological crisis do to the conditions under which sustained thinking is possible?

We welcome theoretically rigorous work that is also conceptually adventurous. Contributions may draw on cognitive science, phenomenology, posthumanism, disability and neurodiversity studies, media theory, or environmental thought, and should remain accountable to the methods of their own traditions rather than adopting a common idiom.



Submission Guidelines for Academic Papers

Submit Complete Papers of up to 5,000 words.

We follow MLA 9th Edition guidelines for citations. Font to be used is Times New Roman, size 12, spaced at 1.2 pt, and only unlinked endnotes (no footnotes). The submission must be done by email. We only accept Word Files (.doc or .docx).

Submissions should be prepared for blind peer review (cover page containing abstract, keywords, and bio with no identifiers from the second page onwards). Submissions should only be adjudged if all submission criteria are fulfilled successfully. We regret to inform you that minor edits cannot be accommodated once an issue has been published. Only in the case of major errors may you contact our editors via email.

Peer review takes two to three months, with provisionally accepted authors asked to return revisions within a fortnight.

This is a direct call for finished work rather than a two-stage abstract process, and the issue will be correspondingly selective. Work already at an advanced stage of drafting is very welcome, and anyone considering a submission is warmly encouraged to write with a short description of the piece before the deadline so we can advise on fit. We are glad to hear from early career researchers, independent scholars, and contributors writing from outside the Anglophone North.

Submission Guidelines for Other Sections

The Apollonian: A Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies publishes personal essays, photo essays, poetry, and translation alongside academic papers, and this issue invites all of them. The invitation is not decorative. If cognition is scaffolded by environments, then the forms in which thinking is made public are themselves cognitive infrastructure — and the conventional article is one environment among others, with its own affordances and its own exclusions. Work that argues in another form is enacting the issue's claim rather than describing it.

Book Review:

Reviews of books not older than two years are invited. We may consider submissions of book reviews on fiction, non-fiction, academic volumes (monographs/edited volumes/anthologies), or poetry volumes provided they are written by our stylistic requirements. The book review should be no longer than 2000 words.

Poetry:

Please submit 3-5 poems that engage in cognition, attention, or environmental thought, including work on untranslatability and on what fails to cross between languages. We will be publishing unpublished poems only. However, poems that have been shared on the author's social media are acceptable.

Short Fiction:

Submit short fiction of length between 500-3000 words. We are also open to works of genre fiction that push boundaries and offer new perspectives. You can also send us micro-stories with inventive storytelling.

Translation:

Submit at least 3 poems or a short fiction ranging from 500-3000 words for consideration. The translation should be submitted alongside the source text. Please ensure that you have the original author's consent and mention the same in your submission. If the work is in the public domain and out of copyright, you should mention it as well. Include the original author's short bio alongside your bio.

Interview:

The interview piece should have at least 10-15 questions. Kindly mention whether you have taken the interview in person, by any virtual tool, or through questionnaires. Kindly include a short description of 100 words, highlighting what made you choose the individual and their introduction. We give preference to the interviewee if they are a prominent personality or if they belong to a marginal section of society.

Personal Essay:

We expect the submitters to write a personal, exploratory essay on environments in which thinking has been possible, or impossible: sickrooms, commutes, open-plan offices, kitchens, waiting rooms, the internet at three in the morning. The suggested range is about 1500-2500 words. The entry must be original and unpublished.

Photo Essay:

We are expecting photo essays focussing on on cognitive environments — the architecture of attention, spaces built to hold thought or to hurry it, infrastructures of concentration and of its collapse. We are looking for a collection of curated images accompanied by captions and a text that coalesces the body of the essay.

General guidelines:

- We are looking for photo essays with a range of 6-12 photos per essay.
- Images should be in JPEG, PNG, or TIFF formats at a minimum of 300dpi.
- Images should be optimum for print production.
- The images should be free of watermarks.
- The images should have EXIF data and any other relevant metadata intact.

Submission materials:

- The photo essay should be submitted as a PDF file that contains the text, photos, and their captions, along with separate image files attached.
- A cover page should contain photographer's name, contact information, affiliation, a clear and concise title, write-up not exceeding 400 words, and a short bio within 150 words.
- Add any reference, acknowledgement, and model release if applicable.

Editorial criteria:

- All submissions, including the text, must be original and previously unpublished.
- The photo essay should maintain consistency of style, tone and must provide creative or documentary value.
- The photographs should be ethically obtained, showing respect to the subjects depicted.

***N.B.** We do not accept any fee in the name of submission, processing, publication, etc., fees nor do we pay authors for their contribution. Our relation with the authors is purely academic.*

Deadline for final submission: **20th October, 2026**

Send complete work to

tcaloped@myune.edu.au and **apollonianjournal@gmail.com**

with "Submission-The Apollonian-[Author's Name]" in the subject line.

Our Website: <https://theapollonian.in/>

Instagram: [@apollonian_journal](https://www.instagram.com/apollonian_journal)

