

Research Notes, Debates & Controversies, On the Front Line WES Author Guide



Whilst many if not all articles submitted to *Work, Employment and Society* would be expected to engage with debates and controversies, the standard template for an article published in the journal is one in which theoretical propositions, generated in part from a literature review, are explored through empirical examination to advance understandings of perspectives, practices and policy. A paper submitted to *Research Notes, Debates and Controversies* might be expected to address particular aspects of that template.

A Research Note and 'On the Front Line' might consist of contributions on:

- Methodological issues and problems associated with particular research approaches or questions.
- An evaluation of the epistemological or ontological underpinnings of research agendas and arguments for how they could or should be changed.
- Reports of fieldwork that illuminate wider methodological and theoretical or policy issues.
- Reports 'from the front line' that should ordinarily consist of first person narratives or other forms of reportage that foreground worker voice and experience. They should include a short explanation that situates the narrative in its most appropriate contexts, whether organisational, sectoral or geographical, and briefly indicates how it engages with relevant sociological debates or developments.

A Debates and Controversies contribution might consist of:

- A thinkpiece or reflection on key concepts or bodies of knowledge that aims to stimulate new debate.
- An engagement with a body of literature that produces a new interpretation or proposes a new theoretical or empirical direction.
- A polemical critique of accepted wisdom on a topic. This must be serious in intent and considered in tone.

Contributions to either section will not be accepted if they are:

- Underdeveloped versions of a standard article (RN/D&C).
- Premature reports from early stages of research or notes on the research that don't raise substantive methodological and theoretical or policy issues (RN).
- Diatribes against people or perspectives (D&C)
- Poorly contextualised cut and paste extracts from interview or other empirical material (On the Front Line variant of RN)

With these rationales in mind, the expectation is that such submissions will be shorter – normally a maximum of 5000 for a *Research Note* or *Debates and Controversies* (this includes tables, endnotes and references). Submission should be written in UK English.

The journal is international in content and contribution. Authors are strongly encouraged to read past issues of the journal in order to acquaint themselves with the journal's existing engagement with debates and themes relevant to their submission, and for article style, structure and type. A guide to the journal's style requirements and submission process can be found in the general submission guidance: *Submitting a Manuscript*