

Call for Papers for Volume 28 (2024)

The editors of *EJES* are issuing calls for papers for issues of the journal to be published in 2024. Potential contributors are reminded that *EJES* operates a two-stage review process. The first is based on the submission of detailed proposals (up to 1,000 words) and results in invitations to submit full essays from which a final selection is then made. **The deadline for essay proposals for this volume is 30 November 2022, with delivery of completed essays in the spring of 2023, and publication in Volume 28 (2024).**

Procedure

EJES operates a two-stage review process.

1. Contributors are invited to submit proposals for essays on the topic in question by 30 November 2022.
2. Following review of the proposals by the editorial board panel, informed by external specialists as appropriate, the guest editors will invite the authors of short-listed proposals to submit full-length essays for review with a spring 2023 deadline.
3. The full-length essays undergo another round of review, and a final selection as well as suggestions for revisions are made. Selected essays are then revised and resubmitted to the guest editors in late 2023 for publication in 2024.

EJES employs Chicago Style ([T&F Chicago AD](#)) and British English conventions for spelling. For more information about *EJES*, see: <http://www.essenglish.org/ejes.html>.

GRIT: Resilience, Resistance, and other Infrastructural Interventions

Grit names the residual grains that interrupt flow; it is also resolve, a pushing back on adversarial circumstances. Where Grit has recently become aligned with modes of success deriving from the mobilisation of privileges and capital, we want to shift away from individualist and entrepreneurial notions of ‘true grit’ to thinking about Grit as a relational and collective endeavour of interrupting processes of extraction and profit. Rather than espousing Grit as a quality that correlates with the maintenance of heightened performance in the face of resistance, we turn to the properties of resistance itself. Of particular interest is how Grit manifests itself within infrastructural assemblages and seemingly ‘smooth’ systems of production and circulation. Grit suggests processes of active resistance, requiring resolve and allowing for discomfort. Accordingly, resilience is reformulated in terms of solidarities and collective forms, rather than individual agencies. If resilience names a capacity to recover, what does it mean to think of disruption as a central tactic of recovery?

By loosening Grit from the grip of resilience discourses that position resolve as central to the continuation of petrocultural, we are interested in contributions that probe the specific ways in which infrastructures can be interrupted, hijacked, hacked and redirected through material practices and imaginative forms. From sabotage and strikes to ships in the Suez we are interested in those agents and agencies – human and non-human – of friction and resistance and what their intervention reveals about the working of the infrastructures in question.

We are particularly interested in those infrastructures that work with or through the oceans (such as pipelines, oil platforms, subsea cables, and container shipping). The shoreline, the liminal site between the land and the ocean, seems a particularly apt space from which to contemplate the intersections between environment, labour, and the infrastructures that mediate flows of power, resources, information, and waste products. Moreover, the world's littorals mark places where the climate crisis makes landfall, with rising tides and degraded defences laying bare current and future vulnerabilities.

How can we trace disrupted infrastructures, and acts of their disruption, in cultural and literary texts? Are there specific aesthetics and forms entailed in Grit, and how might these be best described or classified? How does the failure of infrastructure – whether through ruination or direct intervention – expose the false promises of infrastructural development? What kinds of hijacking, hacking, and interrupting lay bare what aspects of the inherent assumptions of infrastructural arrangements? How do intersectional expectations of labour affect perceptions of intervention, resistance and disruption? Finally, what is the potential of Grit to resist, reconfigure and restore?

For this special issue, we are calling for contributions and ask for abstracts that address, circle or refuse the following themes:

- Pelagic / off-shore infrastructures of energy
- Power generation: specifically, thinking through the links of energy production and social reproduction
- Collaborations of protest and slow violence in the mode of the saboteur
- Histories of labour extraction and their infrastructures (slavery, indentured labour)
- Cultural entanglements of infrastructural transitions, energy transitions, and power transitions
- Narratives of transformations by dockyard and port labour organisations, esp. as pertains to interruptions of trade
- Infrastructural sabotage and other disruptions
- Thinking through the various materialities of Grit, e.g. in contrast / comparison to close cognates such as dirt, grain, dust, rust.
- Connections between specific infrastructures and the kinds of interruptions that they attract
- Aesthetics of Grit: What forms and modes does Grit take and how does it disrupt literary infrastructure?
- Dwelling with the things that stop infrastructures working

Detailed proposals (up to 1,000 words) for full essays (7,500 words) as well as a short biography (max. 100 words) should be sent to the guest editors by 30 November 2022. This issue will be part of volume 28 (2024). All inquiries regarding this issue can be sent to the three guest editors.

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