

# *Agoriad: A Journal of Spatial Theory* – Mission Statement

## THE MANAGING EDITORS

*Agoriad: A Journal of Spatial Theory*, is a new, open-access journal designed to provide a supportive home for new and emerging early career researchers in Human Geography and cognate disciplines who are engaged in spatial theory, broadly conceived and practiced, and who are pushing the boundaries of their fields of study. The journal also welcomes the contributions of more established academics and professors who share our ethos of advancing the scope, reach, and importance of spatial theory, and who are seeking a venue for publishing leading theoretical work. While the journal as a whole is managed by a small group of experienced academics based at Welsh universities, with the assistance of an advisory board of well-established international experts, each issue of the journal is edited by a dedicated team of early career researchers who lead every step of the way: from the initial call for papers, through the article submission and peer-review processes, right up to the production of the online publication of the issue itself. In so doing, the journal supports the career development of a new generation of academic authors and editors.

The title of the journal is taken from a Welsh word ‘agoriad’ and it is especially evocative for a publication devoted to spatial theory. Agoriad has several meanings that resonate with our ambitions for the journal. Firstly, it means key (goriad), a meaning that can be traced back to the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, when it referred to the key to a city or to a castle. Agoriad can also mean a musical key and even a spiritual key, such as the keys to the Christian Kingdom of Heaven. Secondly, it means the act of opening, including into and through something, and it may also refer to a hatch, aperture, gap, entrance, or open space. Thirdly, it has, since the sixteenth century, signified explanation, exposition, and interpretation, as well as an opening in the sense of an opportunity to grasp. This threefold meaning perfectly captures the spirit of this new journal of spatial theory – an invitation to unlock and open up the potential of spatial theory for our understanding, explanation, and engagement with the world, and to set the tone for new and established scholars to flourish as they advance spatial theory in the face of an ever-increasing concatenation of twenty-first century challenges and opportunities.

In naming this journal of spatial theory *Agoriad*, we especially intend for it to provide an opening for researchers to publish their work and share their ideas with an international audience of scholars working in the field of Human Geography, as well as related disciplines in the Arts & Humanities and the Social Sciences. We also expect each issue of the journal to work as a creative intellectual opening: introducing readers to concepts, theories, arguments, and case studies that will invite – and occasionally force – us to rethink our conception and understanding of the world in new, refreshing, and



challenging ways. We therefore draw inspiration from the many meanings of this very old Welsh word 'agoriad', especially how it indicates an entranceway, a clearing, and an open space, perhaps for a public gathering or a people's assembly, much like the Ancient Greek agora, and how it also suggests the need for new explanations, expositions, and interpretations. In all senses of the word, *Agoriad* will provide an eye-opening, welcoming, and hospitable thinking space for both readers and authors to experience and enjoy. The time has come – or rather, the space has opened – for us all to think again: eto ac eto.

We are very grateful to everyone who has supported the launch of this new journal aimed at early career researchers: Cardiff University Press for welcoming *Agoriad* into its portfolio of academic journals, Ubiquity Press for providing the journal with an open-access publication platform, the Economic & Social Research Council's Welsh Graduate School for the Social Sciences (ESRC WGSSS) for supporting the training of our early career editorial teams and for funding the annual Human Geography Theory School at Gregynog in Powys, Wales, and especially the many authors and peer-reviewers without whom this venture would simply have been impossible. We very much hope that all of our authors and peer-reviewers will have appreciated our supportive ethos and found the experience rewarding. We truly value your efforts. We are also particularly appreciative of the established academics who have written anchor papers and agreed to be interviewed for the journal. Your contributions are invaluable.

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**AGORIAD, DEFINED IN WELSH AND ENGLISH****agoriad, goriad**

1 a. Allwedd:

*key.*

b. Allwedd neu nodyn (ar biano, &c.):

*key (of piano, etc.).*

c. (enghrau. ffig. ac mewn cyd-destun ffig.: *figurative examples and examples in a figurative context*).

d. (yn y ll.). (enghrau.'n cyfeirio at *Math* 16:19 (gw. yr adran fl.):

*(in plural) example with reference to Gospel of Matthew 16:19 – ‘I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’*).

2. Y weithred o agor; twll neu hollt, yn enw. un sy'n caniatáu mynediad, agen, bwlch, mynedfa; lle agored:

*(act of) opening; opening (in or through something), hatch, aperture, gap, entrance; open space.*

3 a. Esboniad, dehongliad:

*exposition, interpretation.*

b. Cyfle:

*opportunity, opening.*

*Cyfuniadau, Combinations:*

agoriad llygad: *eye-opener.*

chwibol agoriad: *tubular part or pipe of a key.*

twll agoriad: *keyhole.*

Source: *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (GPC): A Dictionary of the Welsh Language*, University of Wales, 2024. <<https://www.welsh-dictionary.ac.uk>>

# AGO RIAD

## A Journal of Spatial Theory

### ABOUT THE JOURNAL

**Agoriad** (meaning *Openings* in Welsh) is a diamond open access journal exploring theoretical and philosophical ideas in Human Geography and associated fields, published annually. Each volume explores a key theme, linked to the annual Gregynog Theory School which is hosted by the Welsh Graduate School of Social Sciences.

Agoriad is edited by postgraduate and early career researchers with oversight and support from a managing editorial team. Its aim is to publish high-quality research on key theoretical debates, as well as to provide a supportive publishing process for researchers at all levels.

As an open access publication, Agoriad is available without charge to the user and their institution. You are allowed to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of the articles in this journal without asking prior permission from either the publisher or the author.

To discuss publication or to submit a paper please contact: [Agoriad@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:Agoriad@cardiff.ac.uk)



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