

Transcript: Introduction Video to Vol. 1 (2022): International Journal of Equity and Social Justice in Higher Education

Featuring Elizabeth Harsma (EH), Alfredo Duplat (AD), and Andy Johnson (AJ)

[Watch the video here](#)

[upbeat acoustic guitar music fades in then fades out]

EH Welcome to the introduction to volume one of the International Journal of Equity and Social Justice and Higher Education. My name is Elizabeth Harsma my pronouns are she/her. And I'm an instructional designer and technologist, and I am the Learning community coordinator for volume one.

AD Hello, my name is Alfredo Duplat. My pronouns are he/him, el/lo. I'm from Colombia .I am a cis man. And my, my role in this, in this journal, in the International Journal and Equity and Social Justice in higher Education is to be the coordinator for the Advisory Board and we have a fantastic team. I invite you to see our Members in our web page.

AJ I'm Andy Johnson. My pronouns are he and him. I work here at the university and my role here is the managing editor. So I look at all the submissions and I send them out for review.

I think it's good to start out of why we are involved in this journal. The why question and I I think this journal started because we obviously see a need for change. And you mentioned to disrupt traditional power structures and I got involved because I I kind of represent the disability community and fighting for justice for that Community as well.

EH Yeah, so I became involved in the journal because I was learning more about anti-racist and culturally responsive and sustaining teaching methods in my role as an instructional designer and I saw a need for for change, for engaging faculty, in scholarship, in writing, in creating resources that we can share and use together. So that is a part of why I became involved.

- AD I am interested in this project because. Well, there is a lot of room for improvement in in in these institutions, especially for underrepresented students, minorities like Hispanics. The ratio of completion of Hispanics in the US in in the higher education is is terrible, is very poor. And I would like to to change that. And I'm here because I'm working in team with two fantastic colleagues and working with you is very easy, so it's a joy.
- EH (Elizabeth: says quietly:) Agree, it's a joy.
- AD Elizabeth mentioned something that I want to pick up this idea that we have to hear different voices to open this up to different voices, to different points of view. And that's one of our goals is to help share these different voices and views. Now the traditional journal - were not the traditional journal, right? Yeah, tell me about that.
- EH Well, I think the - I had an experience where an editor of a journal actually took the steps to mentor me. To arrive at a published product that was publishable, right? And, and that's not typical experience in academic publishing it, it's very much you know you're accepted or you're not accepted and there's not really an in between space. So the idea was, is that we can foster more collective and collaborative spaces in academic publishing, and that then brings in more voices to that space, so that I think really is part of. That process, right? More of a learning collective kind of approach.
- AJ And when I started editing, you know, I started with the traditional editor mindset. You know, filter this, that, and what did you say that bumped me along?
- EH Well, I seem to recall us having some conversations about that the process should be just as important as the product, and part of that process is helping affirming academic identity. A lot of times, gatekeeping or filter rating processes can serve to reinforce beliefs about belonging, about value. And so our process here is really to affirm the academic identities of those who are engaging in the journal with submissions or as peer reviewers, or as part of the learning community that we're here to uplift and provide maybe in your words Andy, right? A ladder up to the fruit, right. We're talking about that fruit tree, yeah.

- AJ Yep, Yep, it's this is not low hanging fruit. We don't have a low bar as far as submissions, but we provide a ladder up so if you submit and you can submit a journal article, a traditional article, it could be a visual piece. YouTube, a podcast. We have some visual art. Coming in our first journal, you can be part of a learning committee. So if you submit a piece that it needs some work, we will nurture you, help you, so that it becomes acceptable to a larger audience. Yes, so our goal really is to nurture so you can be then part of a learning community.
- EH Yeah, that makes me think of kind of this idea of Open Access and open source. And this was something that Alfredo, I think, came to the conversation with, that not only is this accessible for our authors, for our peer reviewers, for our learning community, but also for our audience, right. Yeah.
- AD Yes, in, in terms of of - It's free, as in freedom. The information should be able to circulate in many spaces easily and regardless of you if you have a disability or not. So that's very important for us because the traditional journal in many ways works like a like a funnel and only the elite or the - the ones who has a lot of privilege have access to that and we would like to, to change that paradigm and - and the experience in the university is collective, is cooperative, the journals has to be in the same, in the same page. That's, that's my point, yeah.
- EH Yeah, yeah, and I also found the open-source concept to be a really unique idea. Rather than sort of this is this idea that's static and stays the same in time, you brought this idea of open source to the journal, which I thought was really exciting.
- AD Something that is is incredible is that there are competitive products that runs the world economy, that they are built by a collective. Uh, a collective endeavor, and I'm thinking about the, the free software movement or the Open Access movement where there are volunteers around the world working in the same project. Uh, in tune - and the final result is sharable. You can use it, you can modify it, you can improve it, you can share it. We would like to have the same mindset in this journal.
- AJ And there are different ways of knowing, and that's why you can know through art. You can know through creativity, so we welcome a variety of ways of knowing oral traditions, Podcasts, YouTube videos, all represent different ways of knowing and telling truth. Satire is used to get to a higher truth, sometimes.
- AD Yes. And it's not only about academic papers we are accepting also.
- EH Right. Yeah.

- AD Good practices or suggestions for how to how to improve our services in the university.
- AJ Yes, how tos.
- AD This is not a journal just drawn by academics and for academics, but also for staff and administrators and students. So yes, yes.
- AJ So for the first submission, there is an article on uh, culturally responsive teaching. It will define what it is and. It will give you some strategies that you can use tomorrow in your classroom in higher Ed, whether it's community at or a four year university.
- EH We also have a podcast submission which is in Spanish with the translation in English well, I think we'll talk more about languages a little later, but this podcast in Spanish. Which also is a very practical here's an introduction to equity and some personal steps you can take to start to engage or continue to engage in a sort of personal a journey in equity work. So there's some some real practical pieces coming out in volume one as well.
- AJ Oh my gosh, this reminded me. One of the fantastic articles is an autoethnography. Three women of color describing their experience working with advisors in their doctoral, uh, degree and that's exactly what we're looking for. The voices of the people must be heard and we want to create change.
- EH This is the International Journal of Equity and Social Justice, and I think that's something that, you know, we talked about as a group but Alfredo really expanded that for us, I think.
- AD International for, for at that moment of the journal means continental - we would like to speak to the Americas. And connect and different academic traditions that could complement and help each other to be more equitable and more, more to provide more social justice for everybody. So, we are welcoming right now articles in Spanish and in our Advisory Board we have several members from Latin America and we have - in a position to accept papers in Spanish right now and in the future in Portuguese. So we would like to connect with Brazil, with Hispanic America, with the Hispanics in the US and Canada and, and, and make their journal their home, too.

- EH And I think the hope and the vision is, as our advisory board, our editorial board grows that we can continue to build, build collective, collaborative work from across the globe in many different languages, not just English, right, that we are expanding our voices through different language as well as different cultures across the entire planet, yeah.
- AJ To hit all the continents. That's our goal.
- AD Yes, and in the future we are going to provide translations to some of the pieces, if we can do it to all of them, we will try to do it. But we are a small team and we'll see. But you know, I would like to offer this information in multiple languages and in multiple formats too.
- AJ Yeah, there's not a journal like this out there. This is the first of its kind. Because of the multiple media, you know, there's not a journal out there like that and there's not a journal that addresses the issues that we do. Equity, social justice in higher education and our goal is change.
- EH Thank you for watching this introduction, for listening. And we are so appreciative that you're here with us and we invite you to read, to watch, listen, and share volume one - and keep an eye out for ways you can engage in our forthcoming volume 2.

[upbeat acoustic guitar music fades in then fades out]

References

- Into The Light by Oak Studios [Audio], retrieved from
<https://youtu.be/5nNVrUE4oDAC>Creative Commons - Attribution 4.0
Audio and video editing by Ocho, <https://ko-fi.com/ocho>