In view of the impact of the coronavirus crisis on our lives and work – the extreme present we’re all living through – we feel it is only appropriate to extend the deadline for contributions. We recognize that, at this critical juncture, some contributors will want to interrogate pervasive media in relation to the pandemic. For instance, the migration of our practices, cultural and social lives online. Or the role of mobile computing in contact tracing and the expansion of surveillance economies in the name of public health. You might want to compare the field before and after coronavirus, or speculate about what happens after the current crisis recedes. But we do not want to oblige contributors to make predictions about the part pervasive technologies may play in any utopian or dystopian ‘new normal’. So, please, also submit papers based on your pre-pandemic research and arts practices, rather than feeling the need to reinvent what you think and do to account for socio-technical shifts that are still ongoing.

Journal of Pervasive Media (formerly Ubiquity) invites long form (7000 words) and short form (1000 words) submissions on the state of the field of pervasive media as we find it in 2020. Submissions could take the form of articles, provocations, manifestos, or artists pages. Ten years after the original launch of Ubiquity, twelve years after the establishment of the Pervasive Media Studio in Bristol’s Watershed, we are relaunching the journal with an exploration of the ethics, methodologies, technologies, critical approaches, orthodoxies and paradigms present within this expanded field. The aim of the first of this new volume is to survey the field, attend to shifts since the launch of Ubiquity, and point to potential developments and projections for the future of the field.

The Journal of Pervasive Media is an international peer-reviewed journal for transdisciplinary researchers and practitioners engaging with devices and systems that alter users’ behaviours, interactions and relationships with the world around them. For instance, artists, designers, creative technologists, theorists and scientists, exploring technologies such as locative media, augmented or mixed reality, mobile or wearable computing, through which places and times can be layered, performance enhanced, subjectivity multiplied, and data critically and creatively explored.

Since the mid 2000s, pervasive technologies have become commonplace, where prior to this point they occupied a position of relative novelty. The journal anticipates and explicitly explores the consequences of a culture where everyone and everything is connected, providing a context in which to consider how these technologies and practices are transforming our perspectives on and in the world.

As well as providing opportunities for enriching human experience, the ubiquity of such entangled technologies and practices necessitate critical, political and ethical questions. The Journal aims to create new dialogues between disciplines that utilize these technologies, and to consider the impact of these activities within social, cultural, and economic contexts. The Journal will foreground creative approaches that provoke a critical engagement with pervasive media and/or address issues of representation and inclusion within the field.

Please email article and review submissions by 1 September 2020, in Harvard style and with endnotes, via the Journal’s homepage for double-blind peer review: www.intellectbooks.com/journal-of-pervasive-media. We will respond within six weeks of submission. Address any editorial, formatting, or other journal queries to the editors at tom.abba@uwe.ac.uk, hilary.oshaughnessy@watershed.co.uk, or P.Clarke@bristol.ac.uk and any reviews queries to tom.abba@uwe.ac.uk.