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Antony Hoyte-West

**Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland**

antony.hoyte.west@gmail.com

**ORCID ID:** 0000-0003-4410-6520

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Book Review of *Scholarly Publication Trajectories of Early-career Scholars: Insider Perspectives*, edited by Pejman Habibie and Sally Burgess. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021

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For many new PhD holders, the first few weeks, months, and years after the doctoral defence can represent a time of new opportunities, horizons, and adventures. Yet other aspects of the whole experience can also bring certain challenges, and the potential difficulties facing early-career researchers are well-known. Indeed, the general uncertainty provoked by the COVID-19 pandemic has served to heighten the latent insecurity and precariousness that can be overwhelming to many new academics, including with regard to issues such as lack of guidance and mentorship as well as job insecurity. This can be accompanied by pressure to publish often, in prestigious outlets, and in English.

In this vein, *Scholarly Publication Trajectories of Early-career Scholars: Insider Perspectives* therefore represents an important addition to the relevant literature. Edited by the experienced scholars Pejman Habibie (Western University) and Sally Burgess (University of La Laguna), it draws together the voices of over a dozen researchers – working primarily but not exclusively in fields relating to applied linguistics – who are mostly near the beginning of their academic careers. Indeed, the work is distinguished by a remarkable range of contributions from many different countries, backgrounds, and academic traditions. As Brian Paltridge observes in his foreword to the work, this book reflects on many of the practicalities and pitfalls faced by early career academics in their career as scholarly writers. In adopting primarily autoethnographic approaches, each chapter provides an illuminating account that is both theoretically grounded yet at the same time highly relevant to professional practice.

In outlining the rationale for the volume, the editors open the work by highlighting the main chosen theoretical standpoints, before briefly summarising each chapter<sup>1</sup>. The first section of the work, entitled *Socialisation, Networks, Mentorship*, highlights the importance of appropriate mentoring and support structures for early career academics (see, for example, the chapters by Saskia Van Vliegen and Matthew R. Deroo). This is particularly apparent

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1 Please note that the presentation of the chapters in this review differs from the order of appearance in the book.

in case of challenges, as detailed in Oliver Shaw's contribution, which cites his experience of having a manuscript rejected. Questions of how to enter the realms of international scholarly publishing are discussed in Hesamoddin Shahriari's article on the Iranian context, and Oana Maria Carciu reflects on scholarly productivity strategies and practice through reference to her own situation as an early career researcher working outside her native country. This aspect, of navigating career and publication trajectories in a foreign country, is also discussed in volume editor Sally Burgess's retrospective of her academic career abroad.

The second section of the book, *Identity, Visibility, Voice* explores different aspects of the early career experience in novel ways, as illustrated by Ron Darwin's contribution on the interplay of technology and the digital world with regard to academic publication practices and its impact on his own scholarly work. Naoko Mochizuki uses her own lived experiences to explore her own early-career trajectory, paying particular attention to her status as a writer of non-native English in the world of scholarly publishing. In this regard, Ismael Fazel examines the socialisation process within wider academia through the lens of his own publishing pathway, firstly in his home country and subsequently abroad, whilst also providing relevant pointers and analysis of peer-review comments and of incorporating these together under supervision. Isabel Herrando-Rodrigo's chapter also provides an overview of how her scholarly output has developed over a decade-and-a-half, focusing on her dual role for most of that time as a secondary school teacher and a university lecturer, and the consequent challenges and experiences that this has entailed. Experience also features prominently in Pamela Olmos-Lopez's contribution on her publishing trajectory, where she outlines her unique status as an experienced and an early-career researcher at the same time, having previously worked in academia in her own country and subsequently completed a PhD abroad before returning. Robert Kohls's chapter, which opens the section, explores his trajectory as someone who earned a PhD later in life. As such, he outlines theoretical and methodological aspects of scholarly writing as a form of self-care, particularly in the light of his receiving a diagnosis of a major medical condition.

In the third and closing section of the book, *Ideology, Power, Struggle*, Kevin Gormley reflects on his own path through the scholarly writing process through contextualising his own thoughts and practices amid the widespread dominance of productivity-based perspectives. This notion of external influence is also discussed by Sharon McCulloch, who analyses her own trajectory as a scholarly writer and the precariousness of modern academia through examination of linguistic and geographical issues as well as broader geopolitical factors such as the changing employment market and institutional research assessment procedures. Tanju Deveci discusses the challenges faced by many non-native English speakers by using the Power-Load-Margin theory to outline internal and external aspects relevant to his scholarly publication trajectory. The final contribution is a tripartite conversation on career reflections, in the form of a trioethnography between the editor Pejman Habibie and the eminent scholars Richard D. Sawyer and Joe Norris. As such, it serves as a conclusion, drawing together perspectives on issues relating to discourse communities and colonisation, aspects of agency and structure, as well as outlining possibilities on how these factors could be decolonised through the usage of autoethnography and its related iterations.

With the voices of the researchers themselves given centre stage, each chapter contained in the volume under review represents challenges that have been overcome, with relevant strategies and potential solutions provided to deal with often complex and thorny issues. Accordingly, this book will be of use to those early-career researchers who are seeking additional guidance and support at this important stage in their professional lives. Though each chapter stands independently, the volume is well-planned and cohesive in terms of the contributions, insights, and perspectives presented. The sound theoretical basis means that the work is also useful for continued scholarly research on this fascinating and understudied topic. Indeed, this book is to be highly recommended. In an academic world that is constantly developing and evolving, it is clear that *Scholarly Publication Trajectories of Early-career Scholars: Insider Perspectives* will be of interest to early career researchers from across the humanities and social sciences for many years to come.