

Editorial

Building Bridges Across Disciplines: Welcome to the Inaugural Issue of *Social Sciences and Humanities Inquiry*

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Today's most important challenges cannot be understood through the lens of a single discipline. Many of the issues we seek to understand—people, societies, cultures, institutions, and ideas—call for different perspectives, different methods, and a willingness to learn from one another. Building bridges across disciplines is therefore not simply an academic ideal—it is increasingly a necessity. This is what good scholarly inquiry asks of us: to remain curious, question assumptions, and learn from perspectives beyond our own.

Every new journal inevitably invites the same question: *Why another journal?* It is a fair question, especially when researchers already have many publication options. For me, the answer has never been about creating another place to publish papers, but about creating a space where meaningful scholarly exchange can flourish across disciplines. It is with this conviction that I welcome you to the inaugural issue of *Social Sciences and Humanities Inquiry* (SSH). Serving as the founding Editor-in-Chief is both an honor and a responsibility. More than anything else, I see this first issue as the beginning of a scholarly community, one shaped not by mission statements but by the authors, reviewers, and readers who contribute to it.

One reason for establishing SSH is that many excellent studies do not fit comfortably within a single discipline. Academic fields provide valuable perspectives, but they can also create boundaries around inherently interdisciplinary issues. SSH was founded to provide a home for scholarship that encourages interdisciplinary dialogue while maintaining high academic standards. Rather than asking researchers to fit their work into disciplinary categories, we believe that research questions should shape the choice of methods and perspectives. When those questions cross disciplinary boundaries, journals should be willing to cross them as well. This is the role we hope SSH will play within the international research community.

Although I have spent my academic career in psychology, my research has continually reminded me that understanding human behavior often requires insights from sociology, communication, education, history, philosophy, political science, and other fields. Working as a researcher, author, reviewer, and editor has strengthened my appreciation for scholarship that connects disciplines while maintaining high academic standards. Together, these experiences have shaped my vision for SSH. As an international journal, we welcome research from diverse geographical, cultural, and methodological traditions. Although research often begins in local contexts, its insights frequently contribute to broader international conversations.

We chose the word *Inquiry* in our title because it reflects our belief that good scholarship begins with curiosity, is strengthened through careful investigation, and advances through open dialogue. Important advances often emerge where disciplines meet. We welcome empirical, theoretical, methodological, and review papers from across the social sciences and humanities. What matters most is not the method itself, but whether the research is conducted rigorously and contributes meaningful new knowledge. As an open-access journal, SSH is committed to making scholarship freely available to researchers, educators, students, practitioners, and policymakers around the world. This approach allows ideas to travel further, encourages collaboration, and extends the impact of research beyond academia.

Accessibility, however, is only one part of responsible publishing. Every researcher understands the uncertainty of submitting a manuscript and the frustration of lengthy review processes. While careful evaluation can never be rushed, unnecessary delays serve neither authors nor science. Our commitment is to combine rigorous and constructive peer review with an efficient editorial process, providing timely editorial decisions and rapid publication without compromising quality, fairness, or integrity. Throughout my career, I have experienced academic publishing as an author, reviewer, and editor. Those experiences have reinforced a simple

lesson: authors value journals that communicate openly, treat submissions fairly, respect their time, and apply consistent academic standards.

Scholarship advances not only through strong findings, but also through thoughtful questions, respectful debate, and the willingness to reconsider established ideas. I hope *SSHI* will provide a forum where that spirit can flourish. Good journals are built on trust. Trust grows through transparent editorial decisions, constructive peer review, respectful communication, and consistency. A journal's reputation is earned gradually through the quality of its publications and the confidence it builds within the scholarly community. We know that trust is earned one manuscript at a time, and we are committed to doing exactly that.

This inaugural issue would not have been possible without the support of many colleagues. I sincerely thank our Editorial Board, reviewers, authors, the Editorial Office, and Apollo Journals for their commitment to establishing *SSHI* and supporting its first issue.

Finally, I would like to extend a personal invitation to researchers around the world. Whatever your disciplinary background, I hope you will consider *SSHI* as a place to share thoughtful, rigorous, and innovative scholarship. My aspiration is for *SSHI* to become known not only for the quality of the research it publishes, but also for the quality of the academic community it helps build. Every established journal began with a first issue, and where *SSHI* stands in the years ahead will depend on the collective efforts of its authors, reviewers, readers, editors, and the wider research community. Ultimately, I hope *SSHI* will become more than a publication venue—a trusted forum where intellectual curiosity, diverse perspectives, and careful scholarship deepen our understanding of society, culture, and the human experience. If this journal encourages inquiry as much as it disseminates knowledge, then it will have fulfilled the purpose for which it was founded.

Thank you for joining us at the beginning of this journey.

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