

# Introducing *Septentrio Creative*: A playground for creative materials in academic publishing

Researchers do unexpected things. They are creative and in need of a place where their many different kinds of work can find a home. *Septentrio Creative* is such a place. As an diamond open-access publication channel led by scholars at UiT The Arctic University of Norway it supports and explores creativity in academia. By opening a space for diverse academic materials and their theoretical explorations, the channel publishes creative outputs from research, development, teaching, innovation, mobility, outreach, administration, community engagement, interventions, and more. *Septentrio Creative* is also a place to publish digital exhibitions, installations, short fiction, poetry, music, digital art, software, scores, blueprints, and complementary materials to research published elsewhere. Submissions are welcome to mix more than one form of expression to bring lateral thinking to their topic.

## A playground for wild and creative academic work

Academic work can take diverse forms, which sometimes count as impact but not as academic outputs. Impact needs visibility and acknowledgement, and this journal addresses this aspect of academic work. As founding editors, we envision and encourage the channel to evolve over time, in dynamic interaction with its contributors and the materials submitted. In addition to opening a space for creative experiments in academic publishing, we will explore diverse approaches to submission practices. We start by making ourselves vulnerable, with examples from our own research practices to show some of the possibilities and to invite authors, creators and researchers submitting their creative materials, novel questions, and topics that are relevant to transdisciplinary humanities. We are eager for contributions that will shape and reshape the journal itself.

## A place to promote a culture where peer-review becomes an act of co-creation

The journal will foster a culture in which peer review can also be approached in creative ways and become visible as a creative activity. To do this, we will actively explore novel and diverse modes of co-creation and collaboration in the production and communication of academic outputs (Peh, 2022). We build on our experiences with [Conceptualizing the North \(2020\)](#), a corona-driven special issue in the open-access humanities journal *Nordlit*, that delved into the intersections of artistic and academic research. By drawing on principles developed during the work with this special issue, *Septentrio Creative* advances the notion that peer review should be a positive and co-creative process:

We did not wish to obscure our authors or their works. Rather, we wanted to make co-creative peer review a contribution to the imaginative space, turning it into a shared process in which the author is part of a dialogue, not a passive subject (Maxwell, Stien, and Mittner, 2020)

### Why Septentrio Creative now?

Today's complex challenges can no longer be met by traditional approaches to research and scholarship that we have grown up with and embraced more or less consciously. We need creative approaches to research, science, education, community engagement, communication and living in this world. Established forms of research, teaching, and science communication often sideline creative and artistic work outside of their usual modes of operation. *Septentrio Creative* aims to counteract this trend by providing a platform for diverse creative engagements in academia. Hosted by UiT's Centre for Arctic Humanities (ArchHum) *Septentrio Creative* addresses the need to strengthen professional communities in the field of Arctic humanities, increases the visibility of the arts and humanities in academia and society at large, and develops collaborative relationships.

## So, who and what is *Septentrio Creative* for?

*Septentrio Creative* is a platform for the publication of creative outputs related to academic work, whether this is research, education, administration, or something else. Yet, through its focus on creativity, the channel will also engage lateral thinking, the margins, borders, and boundaries of academia. As such, the journal seeks to build bridges between academia and the broader public. Contributions should aim to speak across both sides of these bridges, draw them closer to each other, and increasingly interweave research, higher education, public discourse, and social transformation.

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## References

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Resonating moments 2025, Lilli Mittner with Artful Dementia Research Lab, Lina Forslund and Torje Jenssen. © Centre for Arctic Humanities, CC BY 4.0

