

Color Inquiry
Special Issue of *Art/Research International: A Transdisciplinary Journal*

Special Issue Editor
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Call for Abstracts

For some time, color has fascinated literary writers, musicians, and artists (Han Kang, Maggie Nelson, Jay-Z, Joni Mitchell, The Beatles, Weezer, Rothko, Matisse, and so on). These writers, musicians, and artists have focused their attention on a color and followed it. In so doing, they have used color to explore and examine the diversity of human experience and what it means to be human in deeply complex worlds. Color studies have allowed these artists to creatively explore the joyful, the traumatic, the mundane, the spectacular, memories, and memories yet to be created. Drawing on this rich history, Cohen's (2013) edited volume on color in ecology demonstrated how following a color in ecological systems can illuminate complexity. Simply put, focusing on the movements of color materializes the complex nuances of life. If these artists, writers, and ecologists have used color in these ways, then why not qualitative researchers? What might color inquiries generate in the field of qualitative inquiry? What might color generate for you in your thinking? What might happen if we purposefully play with color in qualitative inquiry?

I invited three other scholars to think these questions at a lively 2024 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry panel. This special issue opens the call to more contributors and approaches to color inquiry.

To be considered for this special issue, please submit a 150 word abstract that includes your selected color and what you plan to do with your contribution. You will pick a color and follow it. That following will create its own path, sometimes straightforward, sometimes circumnavigating, sometimes stopping and starting, and everything in between. As the color creates a path, you may write poetry, create art, work/play in natural elements, write in other genres, and so on. Thus, this path may ask you to engage in multiple methods and modalities as the color asks you to traverse both the personal and political. Do what the color asks of you, not what you ask of the color.

You are encouraged to stretch our qualitative imaginations theoretically, artistically, methodologically, and beyond. Arts-based work and textual innovations are welcomed.

Should your abstract be accepted, your commitment to the project will include the following:

- You will have approximately six months to follow and write-create with your color. Write-create a maximum 3000-word (including references) article of-with-about your color inquiry. Image-intensive pieces will have an abbreviated word limit that will be negotiated with the special issue editor. Play. Have fun.
- Due six months after date of receipt of acceptance of invitation.

- We will engage in an internal peer review. Upon receipt of the manuscripts, you will be asked to review two manuscripts and offer generative feedback with the manuscripts. You will have approximately one month for these reviews.
- You will then have approximately two months to revise your manuscript and prepare it for publication.

Timeline

- Abstracts due: March 6th 2026 to snnordstrom@ua.edu
- Invitations to submit full papers/projects sent: April 3, 2026
- Full papers/projects due September 30, 2026
- Peer Review October-November 2026
- Revised manuscripts due March 31, 2027
- Late Spring- Summer 2027 – Manuscripts submitted *Art/Research International*
- Fall 2027 – publication

Please contact Dr. Susan Nordstrom, Associate Professor of Qualitative Research, at the University of Alabama, should you have any questions. snnordstrom@ua.edu