“So fucking Goldsmiths” (SFG)?
Identity, intervention and collaboration in scholarly publishing

Sarah Kember
"So fucking Goldsmiths"

Someone who attends Goldsmiths University and acts and dresses in a particularly cool, arty or "individual" way typical of the university's reputation.

You'd know someone who's SFG once you've seen them.

#sfg #goldsmiths university #individual #cool #arty

by roland9000 April 20, 2009
Changing publishing ecologies
A landscape study of new university presses and academic-led publishing

A report to Jisc by Jannika Adama and Graham Stone, with an introduction by Chris Kaan
“Strategies to build brand awareness focus both on publishing outstanding and high quality humanities research and on attracting world-leading senior scholars to publish with the presses and join their editorial boards. Punctum Books and Counterpress also emphasise the importance of aesthetics where it concerns book design, website and logo branding to really stand out in this respect.”
“We are particularly fond of the printed book, which we are not giving up on. In fact, I will maintain strenuously and vigorously that the printed book has a mobility, portability, longevity, usability, iterability and attainability, that is still incredibly useful and that people still desire”

Eileen Joy (punctum books)
“OA is additive not substitutive; for some authors in some circumstances it will be appropriate but for others it will not. OA should be a fundamental publishing option offered by academic publishers just like hardback, paperback or the assorted e-book types. There is no one future for the university press.”

Anthony Cond ‘The university press is back in vogue’, The Bookseller, August 18, 2015
Annex C: Open access and monographs

1. We have already stated that monographs and other long-form research outputs need not be available in an open-access form to be eligible for submission to the next REF. In the long term, however, we want to see the benefits that open access has brought to journal articles extended to other research outputs, including monographs. We therefore intend to move towards an open-access requirement for monographs in the exercise that follows the next REF (expected in the mid-2020s). Given the length of time required to produce and publish monographs, we are signalling this now, to give due notice to the sector.
“The matter at issue is not just the differential treatment afforded commercial interests against those involved in the public sector, but the way in which open access in the latter is made to serve commercialization.”

(John Holmwood ‘Commercial Enclosure. Whatever happened to open access?’ Radical Philosophy, Sept/Oct 2013)

“an underlying desire to “disrupt” the academy which will have dire implications for academic labour, thought and freedom if it is not contested.”

(David Berry ‘The Uses of Open Access’, STUNLAW. Philosophy and Critique for a Digital Age, February 16, 2019)
- open out from open access
- recognize that this disruptive agenda has effectively delimited what is currently being said and done in academic publishing
- refocus on a scholar-led approach to publishing as a means of contesting the current conditions of possibility that structure academic work and life
- precarious and free labour that is unevenly distributed according to career stage, gender and so on
- funding cuts
- student fees
- market based competition
- professionalization
- commercialization
- standardization
- imposition of an audit culture
- increased use of metrics as a way of evaluating academic work
Why publish?
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Key points
- Digital technology should provide a context for publishing but by no means an endpoint.
- A pay-to-pay model of publishing is not only exploitative but also dangerous because it makes the ability to pay contingent on the ability to pay.
- How will publishers survive, and how will writers eat in a publishing environment increasingly oriented to free online content.
- There are no solutions to publishing, but more networked and fluid alternatives may be a way forward.
- increase diversity at every level of publishing, including the monograph itself – the form of the book, its modes of communication
- intervene “below the line” at the level of scholarly practices such as peer review and citation that reinforce scholarly norms and relations of power
- emphasize an ethic of care around the publishing process and around those, such as early career researchers, who are too readily exploited within it
- divert labour of researching, writing, editing and reviewing to new scholar-led presses
- establish a ‘new order of rank’ (Weber)
academic publishing as a sustainable exercise, and more importantly as a means of contestation and creative intervention is not about identity, individualism and competition
I welcome the current growth of new university presses, not because I believe that a marketplace of self-branded, self-funded enterprises will drive up efficiency and competition and drive down costs ...

but because I believe in the possibility of a **publishing network** that is properly, publicly funded, rooted in the university and rooting for the future of AHSS as much as STEM (instead of STEAM).
Untangling Academic Publishing
A history of the relationship between commercial interests, academic prestige and the circulation of research

Aileen Fyfe, Kelly Coate, Stephen Curry, Stuart Lawson, Noah Moxham, Camilla Merk Rastvik

May 2017
we now have an opportunity to return to that window of time, particularly in the 1960s and 70s when publishing and scholarship were more inventive, collective and politicized
To the UK government and its research agencies:
A policy for future academic publishing that opens out from open access (a good idea gone ideological)
- driven by diversity, inventiveness and interventionism as much as commercial innovation
- supported not by a free market model of technological disruption and competition but by a collaborative, institutional model of scholar-led publishing and shared infrastructure

Recognizing the equal but different value of AHSS research in relation to STEM would modify the current emphasis on rapid communication and information circulation (that sounds too much like cyberlibertarianism) and enable us – as a partnership of publishers and academics – to re-evaluate our role as trainers and educators and reinvest in what, in cultural terms, might still be understood as an immeasurable public good
A consortium of university presses (new/old/emerging) could find various ways to publish together (co-branding, co-investing in core AHSS areas like creative and life writing, developing options for audio-visual and arts and media publishing) including through green models of open access based on shared institutional repositories.

Changing publishing ecologies calls for
- help establishing a publishing collective
- support for library integration