**Epilogue – note from an outgoing editor**

The timelines for journal production mean that I am writing this Epilogue in October 2022, just under three months before I step down as co-editor of *Language Testing*. It has been a great pleasure—a professional highlight—to serve as co-editor of this journal for the past five years. I have particularly enjoyed working alongside so many excellent colleagues: Carol Chapelle, the other co-editor when I began in 2017, and the wider editorial team—Ruslan Suvorov, Ute Knoch, Benjamin Kremmel, Slobodanka Dimova, Ofra Inbar and Glenn Fulcher. A special acknowledgement is reserved for Paula Winke—the current and continuing co-editor—whose vision and energy have shaped the journal these past four years, and for Dylan Burton, our editorial assistant, who has become more of an editorial manager, keeping track and helping us to steer the *LT* ship. The editorial team has always had a collaborative, supportive and friendly atmosphere that I like to think comes through on the pages of the journal. I am grateful for this opportunity to say thank you to all of them.

This first issue of 2023—the 40th anniversary issue—holds special significance. In a broad sense, 40 years of *Language Testing* signifies that language testing is a mature field with a strong foundation in four decades of high-quality research. From an editorial perspective, however, this issue is significant because it encapsulates different innovations that we have introduced over recent years: Viewpoints (to provide scope for more voices in the journal on a range of current topics), a Virtual Special Issue introduction (adding to our growing collection of VSIs), and a firm orientation towards Open Science principles (an important, recent development for the journal). There is also a collection of high-quality empirical articles—the main constant in *Language Testing* these past 40 years. This issue is full of new ideas, insights, and threads to follow-up on in the back catalogue of *Language Testing* articles. I hope that readers will engage with the articles—particularly the Viewpoints—and respond to the various issues raised.

Looking forward, from my perspective as an outgoing editor, there is a general direction of travel that make me optimistic about the future of the journal. The journal is becoming more accessible and open, the range of contributions are becoming more diverse, and we are now communicating research and news about the journal through a variety of channels: video (YouTube) and social media (Twitter). These represent new platforms for disseminating knowledge and for engaging with the journal. As Paula notes in the Editorial to this issue, academic publishing in the future is likely to look very different—we are already a long way from the model of hard-copies of journals lining library shelves, but there is still a lot of work to do to increase access and dismantle barriers. As the journal continues to change, I am confident that the hallmarks of *Language Testing* will remain intact: rigorous empirical and conceptual research, diverse perspectives on language testing practice, and—importantly—deep considerations of ethical and philosophical issues. I wish the new editorial team well, and I am excited to see how the journal continues to develop.

Luke Harding

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