

About the Cover

As co-founder and (outgoing) Co-Editor in Chief, my dream for HPJ was to create a space for emerging researchers and community voices to share fresh perspectives and different approaches in the broad area of population health research and issues. It is a challenge to take on such an endeavor in the shadow of corporate and profit-driven scientific publishers, a reliance on volunteer hours of editors and reviewers, and continuous pressure to secure funding. Yet, for the last 4 years, HPJ has navigated these challenges to publish 13 issues from over 80 authors while continuing to grow and evolve.

Cover photo: Recently I visited a museum located in a formally abandoned, and now repurposed, power plant station (pictured lower left). Instead of demolishing the building, it was renewed and reused as a structure to house and share knowledge with the public. In the space surrounding this museum (which was formally a gas station) there is a vertical garden with over 15,000 plants, a full replica of a fossilized dinosaur skeleton, and many unique, architectural sculptures. I took this photo as a representation and exploration of the concept of sustainability - in both the natural environment and the world in which we live, and also metaphorically, in academic publishing and the pathways in which knowledge is generated, translated, mobilized, and commodified.



With this juxtaposition, I draw comparisons between our efforts to make environmentally sustainable choices in our daily lives against a backdrop of record-breaking pollution generated by corporations that threaten to undo our individual efforts and perhaps our very existence. Politics and power dynamics in scientific research and publishing frequently dictate which research topics are deemed fundable, which knowledge may face barriers to publication, or create paywalls where knowledge is available only to those who can afford to pay. These systems are not sustainable as they currently operate.

I often look for inspiration to challenge such systems. The conscious choice to reuse a building for public benefit exemplifies a realistic approach to sustainability. Rather than 'tearing it all down,' we can incite change by renewing and repurposing the structures that already exist.

About the Artist

Christie Stilwell
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About the artist: Christie is a Ph.D. in Health candidate at Dalhousie University. Her primary research explores aging and mental wellness among Inuit in southern coastal Labrador communities. She co-founded HPJ in 2020 and served as co-editor in chief from 2020-2024.