

EDITORIAL: Gary Hutchison

It was lovely to be asked to contribute to the inaugural issue of *Ology: Reviews in Applied Sciences* as its first guest editor. As a senior academic and expert adviser to the UK government I understand the value and importance of critical thinking, writing and reviewing. I couldn't do my job without these core skills and I was thrilled to hear that this publication was being commissioned to celebrate critical appraisal.

We are all too aware that the world around us is changing, with multiple channels of information coming at us from sources beyond traditional outlets. The era of 'fake news' has arrived and to try and navigate this new world of information and to make sense of it requires honed academic skills.

Developing these skills can be daunting, where do you practice? What if I get it wrong? After all as academics our reputation is paramount and nobody wants to lose face. I remember my journey and training (which I can tell you has had its bumps along the way!) and I know I would have benefited from a community such as this to train and express my views. *Ology: Reviews in Applied Sciences* has been set up with the aim of providing a vehicle for showcasing critical analyses of academic literature in an open and supportive environment for staff and students from our School. So I encourage you to grab this opportunity, be you a seasoned Professor or newly embarked PhD student, as *Ology: Reviews in Applied Sciences* makes for an enjoyable and easy publication to showcase your talents.

In this first issue we can see a number of commentaries, by means of book reviews, covering a range of topics from gamification and population genetics to life after rugby. The diversity of our School is to be celebrated and we have much to learn from one another, and to finish with that thought I hope you enjoy this first edition.....

Dr Gary Hutchison is Dean of the School of Applied Sciences, a UK Government Scientific Advisor, and Director of the Centre for Nano Safety.

<https://napier.ac.uk/people/gary-hutchison>