

## **5.0: SWAMPED! Muddied Environments and the Ecology of Being Bogged Down**

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Call for Papers

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While it may first be thought of as a space of stagnation, the swamp is also a transition zone. A space in which water and land merge, swamps have long represented an area in which the earth resists being controlled, and have functioned as areas of resistance in many Indigenous epistemes and folklores. Swamps, then, are areas that resist human control, and epitomise agency of the natural world, doing so too on a conceptual level. At the same time, they have been co-opted semantically, as the term “swamped” has become associated with systems, both of society and signification, that are overwhelmed - whether in terms of a job market being swamped, or in the politically loaded draining of “the swamp” as a network of corruption. Where the former strand of signification uses the swamp to highlight agency, the latter points out a lack of it. As a result, swamps have become spaces of contestation and transition both as physical environments, and as linguistic ones. How do these strands of meaning diverge, and where do they come together?

For the upcoming issue of Soapbox, a graduate peer-reviewed journal for cultural analysis, we invite young researchers and established scholars alike to submit academic essays or creative works that critically engage with the theme of *swamped*. We are inviting extended proposals (500-1000 words) that follow consistent and complete formatting and referencing style to be submitted to [submissions@soapboxjournal.net](mailto:submissions@soapboxjournal.net) by February 21st, 2023.

You can find the full call for papers and more information about the submission process on our website here: <https://www.soapboxjournal.net/join>

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