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**FRINGE Series: Criteria for submission**

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The FRINGE series, published by UCL Press, seeks to promote collective volumes that:

1. *Suggest innovative take on area studies;*
2. *Resolve tensions between contextualisation and comparison;*
3. *Host research that is trans-regional and cross-disciplinary;*
4. *Build a research agenda by focusing on subjects deemed ‘fringy’ yet essential for understanding the workings of the centre*:
   1. **F**luid
   2. **R**esistant to articulation
   3. **I**nvisible
   4. **N**eutral, or residing in
   5. **G**rey zones,
   6. **E**lusive in other ways.

Each of the edited volumes selected for publication will embody the FRINGE ethos by passing at least one of the following tests.

**FRINGE 6-point criteria**

*Area test*: making connections with other areas, crosschecking relevance, bridging disconnected discussions (for example, unification of Germany with unification of Korea; searching for economies of favours and compare their workings in post-communist contexts with those in other places)

*Multi-discipline test*: identifying possible links and finding additional angles and discourses that could make research relevant for other disciplines (for example, research on informality can be relevant for different disciplines, but it is essential to attract disciplinary scholars to see how).

*Complexity test*: articulating matters that are elusive (runaway scheming), substantively ambivalent (neither nor, or both), hidden (workings behind the facades of formal institutions), non-measurable, constitute paradoxes (legal corruption or legitimate crime, Sorites paradoxes), grey areas (neither legal, nor illegal) or blurred borderlines (both subversive and supportive, being both a problem and a solution, vague and necessarily unknowable).

*Bottom-up test*: focusing on ‘what works’, rather than what should work (increasingly, the funding bodies are interested in policy oriented and problem-solving approaches that require integrating top-down policies with bottom-up analysis of their effectiveness)

*Networking test*: reaching out for expertise that we do not have at the UCL in-house through social media and initiating fringy research networks.

*Generalisation test*: avoiding generalisations where possible by being specific.