Academic research is inherently linked to public domains: civic society, community groups, NGOs, places and spaces, including cyberspace. Public domains are also where academics share their research – with each other, graduate and undergraduate students, civil society and the general public.

Such was the case of a colloquium on the theme *Academic Research in the Public Domain: Interactions, Interpretations and Display*.

This special issue of *Etropics* is a selection of papers first presented at the colloquium organised by the *TransOceanik Links* research group in collaboration with the Culture, Agency and Change Research Group, The Cairns Institute, the *Laboratoire d'Anthropologie Sociale*, CNRS, Paris, and the School of Arts and Social Sciences, James Cook University.

The colloquium was held at The Cairns Institute (TCI), the tropical research institute of James Cook University which serves its tri-city campuses in Cairns, Townsville and Singapore.

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