User-Generated Content: Has the Time Come for Users' Rights?

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This paper examines the growing phenomenon of user-generated content (UGC) on the Internet, and its implications for copyright law. It considers whether certain transformative forms of UGC are socially valuable such as would justify their recognition as rights under copyright law. In so doing, the paper also examines the scope and limitations of longstanding copyright concepts such as "authorship", "derivative works" and "fair use" in order to determine whether or not, and if so, how, copyright law may be sufficiently flexible to accommodate "users' rights" in such UGC.