

## Foreword

One of the most interesting aspects of working in a history department is meeting and talking with the postgraduates and postdoctoral students who mill around. While they have their anxieties (deadlines, finishing chapters, finishing sentences, applications, jobs, more applications, networking ... ) there is always a sense of enthusiasm and excitement for the ideas they generate, and the research work in which they engage.

The enthusiasm of our postgraduate students for the subject of history is clearly in evidence in this second issue of *Retrospectives*. Twenty seven current and former Warwick students are on the review board, and the executive board consists of Collin Lieberg acting as editor, Josh Moulding as deputy editor, John Morgan as secretary, Natalie Cox in promotions, Maurits Meerwijk as book reviews/features editor, Sarah Jane Bodell as webmaster and Josette Duncan as treasurer. Considerable time and effort is expended by all in making this wonderful publication available to a wide range of readers.

The journal has generated at least 7000 web hits – some from the US, Japan, Turkey, Australia, Brazil and Tunisia – there are over 115 Twitter followers. No doubt all of these numbers will increase. Members of the executive board have been working hard with the Communications Office to help with external advertising. The history department is fully supportive of the journal and views it as a valuable means of extending historical debate, allowing new and stimulating ideas to be exchanged among all readers, and most importantly giving voice to a new generation of historians.

History is, among other things, about complexity and uncertainty. It is our role as historians to clarify, to be suspicious of easy answers, or simplistic analysis. The articles in this journal reflect the values of history, encouraging perspective, depth, tolerance for the views of others, allowing us to develop our curiosity, and reflect on the substance of what we are reading.

This second issue of the journal is very welcome. I congratulate all those who have worked so hard to bring this issue to fruition. I trust you will enjoy reading it.

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