

Editorial

‘Interdisciplinary’ is currently a major buzzword in academia. It seems that no matter where one turns—whether for funding, publishing or even just conference themes—everyone wants to know how research fits into a broader field. It often seems that research councils and societies will not consider anything not thought to be ‘interdisciplinary’, which is why history fits in so well to the discussion. We launched *Retrospectives: A Postgraduate History Journal* in the recognition that history lends itself readily to interdisciplinarity.

Of course this distinction is to some degree a false one since a contemporary definition of history is necessarily broad and often includes fields not traditionally considered ‘history’. The method(s) one might use to research seventeenth-century medical practices would differ greatly from those used to research World War II servicemen, for example; both of which would be different to examining imperial trade routes. In discussing our fields of study with other postgraduates and the academics at Warwick and elsewhere, we are struck by how vast, broad and diverse the field of history really is. Some come from an economic, Marxist background, some from a socially-constructed, Foucaultian framework, and some from a comparative analysis point-of-view. The elements that differentiate us—our various time periods, our sundry research methodologies, our diverse specialties, even our departments—are yet also what bind us together in our shared endeavor to research the past.

While other disciplines also study the past, sometimes even using the same conceptual theories and methods, history continues to evolve and showcase its diversity. That is exactly what we at *Retrospectives*, in founding this journal, wanted to accentuate. While some areas of research may never be touched upon in these pages, many other facets not traditionally considered ‘history’ will be exposed. In fact, we will try to focus on these ‘non-traditional’ aspects as much as possible, in attempting to further the discipline of history academically.

Additionally, by limiting the publication to postgraduate students—including MA, MPhil, and PhD students—we intend to continue to broaden the field. By publishing original, double-blind peer-reviewed papers by those who may be submitting to publish for the

first time, we aim to offer a place where graduate students feel like the researchers and contributors to academia that they are.

We hope you enjoy reading the articles within this issue, and for years to come. We also hope this is only the starting point for many authors, that they then go on to publish in many other journals and produce long, fruitful careers in academic publishing.

Collin Lieberg
Founder & Editor
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