

# Issue 1, Summer 2011: 'Revolutions of Thought and Theory'

## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of *Track Changes*, the Postgraduate Journal of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Sheffield. The quality and diversity of scholarship within the pages of this journal are indicative of the depth and breadth of research work which is being undertaken by M.A. and Ph.D. students throughout the Faculty. The purpose of this Journal is firstly to provide a vehicle for the dissemination of this scholarship within the academic community and beyond, and secondly to provide post-graduate students with training and hands-on experience of academic publishing. *Track Changes* is a peer-reviewed journal that will be published bi-annually on a free to access online basis.

The title of this first issue, 'Revolutions of Thought and Theory', brings together eight articles from a variety of disciplines, each of which deals with a landmark change in our ways of thinking or engaging with the world. The issue emerges during a challenging period for the arts and humanities disciplines, which are coming under increasing pressure to demonstrate their value in terms of social, political and economic engagement or impact. The revolutions represented here may not be reducible to immediate or clearly defined measures of significance, but their impacts have been vital nonetheless for the continuing development of academic practice both within and beyond their own disciplinary boundaries. To paraphrase Ernesto 'Che' Guevara's well-worn slogan, 'a revolution is not an apple that falls when it is ripe. You have to make it fall.' It is only through an active and persistent exertion of intellectual force that such landmark changes have become possible throughout history, paving the way for new and enhanced ways of engaging with the world.

The theme is also appropriate to *Track Changes* itself, which represents a quiet revolution within the Faculty, providing a forum for postgraduates and early career researchers in all departments to share and publish their ideas in an academic journal that is accessible for all to read and enjoy. The eight articles brought together within the pages of this issue cover a broad temporal and geographical scope. We travel from ancient cultures to the modern day and from the New World of Latin America to the former East Germany via a variety of primary sources and theoretical approaches; artefacts, sites, texts, film, philosophy, data analysis and political economy. Our greatest hope is that this level of diversity will continue and expand into future issues.

We are delighted to be able to offer postgraduates both the opportunity to refine and publish their work in a friendly, supportive environment and to become a member of the *Track Changes* editorial board, where they can participate in the processes of peer review, editing and proof reading, the kind of practical experience of the academic publishing industry that is notoriously difficult to obtain as an early career researcher. Thanks must be given to all who have contributed their time and expertise to the preparation of this issue.

Finally, we are extremely proud to have been involved in this project from day one. It has been an exciting and often challenging experience, and the further that we have progressed, the more difficult it has become to believe that a journal of this nature has not always existed within the Faculty. This is just the beginning for *Track Changes*; the next issue is already underway and interest in the journal is growing daily, so the future looks bright for this showcase of the best early career scholarship our Faculty has to offer!

The Editors