

Issue 3, Summer 2012:

'Equality and Access'

Editorial

Welcome to the third 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 to ensure the dissemination of this scholarship within the academic community at the University of Sheffield and beyond, whilst providing post-graduate students with training and hands-on experience of academic publishing. *Track Changes* is a peer-reviewed journal that is published bi-annually on a free to access online basis.

In this, the third issue of *Track Changes*, we bring together six articles and one event review, under the title of 'Equality and Access'. It would be hard to imagine a more resonant theme in arts and humanities research than the multi-faceted questions of equality and access in human society. Each contribution of the current issue engages with these themes from its own angle, ably demonstrating the scope of the theme, as well as the valuable and relevant research being undertaken in the arts and humanities

Truly this is a theme that unites our scholarly community. From the archaeologist to the linguist, and the philosopher to the historian, questions of equality and access concern researchers of the earliest human civilizations, of the great eras of world literature, and of the social policy of the twenty-first century. In this issue, the notion of access is discussed across time and space, placed in the context of attaining spiritual purity through chastity in tenth-century ecclesiastical thought, and analysed as a fundamental aspect of the contrasting the provision of childcare in France and England. Furthermore, the arts are discussed as a way of providing access to Latin through Anglo-Saxon texts, and to science in the literature of science fiction. Where access is denied or limited, articles examine the marginalisation of social groups and backgrounds, both in Dutch colonial literature, and in Shakespeare's *King John*.

Similarly, equality is called into question within the archaeological framework of metallurgy, highlighting the way in which scholars from all areas of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities can engage with this theme.

As editors of this issue of *Track Changes* 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. Our thanks must be given to those who have helped to form this team, participating in the processes of peer review, editing, and proof reading. We are proud to have been a part of *Track Changes*, and look forward to its continued growth and success.

The Editors