

# **Issue 4, Winter 2012:**

## **Thinking Forward Through the Past**

### **About the Authors**

#### **Ruth Littlewood**

Ruth Littlewood is a student at the University of Sheffield, having studied German and Hispanic Studies at undergraduate and completed an MA in Hispanic Studies in 2012. She is now in the first year of a PhD funded by the AHRC which is investigating the narratives of female political prisoners during the Spanish Civil War and under the subsequent Franco dictatorship.

#### **Bridie Moore**

Bridie Moore is an AHRC funded second year PhD student at the University of Sheffield, researching the performance of age and ageing. She studied for her MA at Sheffield, where her dissertation concerned the work of the political playwright Kay Adshead. Before becoming a full-time postgraduate student Bridie was a Lecturer in Performing Arts at Kirklees College and a theatre director and facilitator in mainstream and community theatre, working for, amongst others, Liverpool Everyman, Battersea Arts Centre and Paines Plough Theatre Company. Her PhD includes an element of practice-as-research and to facilitate this she has formed 'Passages', a theatre group for people over the age of fifty. *Life Acts*, their first full-length performance was staged at the University Theatre Workshop in April 2013 and they are taking this performance on an Alumni Foundation and Arts Enterprise funded public engagement tour in May 2013.

#### **Ayumi Nonmiya**

Ayumi Nonmiya is from Mito, Japan, and obtained her MA in Language and Information Studies at the University of Tokyo. She is currently a second-year PhD student at the School of English, majoring in historical linguistics. Her PhD thesis

deals with second person pronouns in eighteenth-century British dramas, especially focussing on the pragmatic and sociolinguistic factors and genres. She was a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar in the 2011-12 academic year. She also worked as an intern of White Rose Skills Development Network (Japanese academia). She is grateful to Mr Tony Prince, who checked her English.

## **Moe Shoji**

After obtaining her BA in French Literature and MA in English Literature from Kyoto University in Japan, Moe Shoji completed her second MA in Theatre and Performance Studies in the University of Sheffield. Her dissertation applied the notion of 'paratext' by Gérard Genette to contemporary theatre practice. She remains at the University of Sheffield and is currently expanding the theme of paratext in contemporary theatre towards her PhD. Her other research interests include self-translation and its influence on the act of writing, which she studied in her BA and first MA.

## **Ran Zhao**

Ran Zhao, having completed her BA honours in English Studies, is continuing in her studies at the University of Sheffield, studying English Literature on the topic of Romanticism, Realism and Gothic Literature. Her MA dissertation aims to employ the philosophical thoughts of Schopenhauer, Camus and Nietzsche reflectively to anatomise the modern spiritual crisis reflected in *Of Human Bondage*, *The Moon and Sixpence*, and *The Razor's Edge* and tries to demonstrate Maugham's ever deepening process of understanding humanity, with the purpose of showing that Maugham, according to his own perceptions of life and by creating his three heroes of distinctive nature, gradually points out an effectual way to unshackle spiritual bondage and acquire ultimate freedom.

