

# **Issue 4, Winter 2012:**

## **Thinking Forward Through the Past**

### **Editorial**

Welcome to the fourth 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 MA and PhD 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 fourth issue of *Track Changes*, we bring together four articles and one event review, under the title of ‘Thinking Forward Through the Past’. How we relate to the past, and how the past relates to us, is one of the strongest themes in arts and humanities research. Thinking forward through the past embraces the principle that a greater understanding of the past enables a more thorough understanding of the present, and better ability to predict the future – possibilities also unlocked by reinventing and reinterpreting the ideas and events of the past into diverse arrays of continuity and change that run throughout the historical, literary, and sociological disciplines. Each contribution of the current issue approaches these themes from its own unique direction, demonstrating the scope of the theme and the insight of the authors, as well as the breadth and depth of research being undertaken in the arts and humanities.

Herein is a theme that draws scholarship from a local to an international level. Literature, linguistics and theatre fall into narratives about our changing world, or how we see it change, through the past to the present. In this issue, the notion of time and the place of individuals and ideas within it is key, with the idea of the changing self being at once embraced and challenged, ways of interpreting our relation to the past being shown in contention, and the sheer mystery of past-future relations are

explored. Contemporary theatre, classic literature, and the language they use to communicate are subjects our authors reflect on and think forward through.

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