
Editorial

It is probable that by now mentions of the COVID-19 pandemic have become passé. However, it would be impossible to discuss the publication of this edition of *Eras* without mentioning the overwhelming challenges and obstacles both board members and contributors were forced to face over the last few years. As a board made up of largely Melbourne residents, we publish Volume 23 emerging from our sixth, and hopefully last, lockdown. After a cumulative 262 days living under stay-at-home orders, we have produced this edition largely from our homes. I will not bore you with a list of the things we have endured as it is likely that you, the reader, endured them along with us. In saying that, a quote from F. Scott Fitzgerald (*A Nice Quiet Place*, 1930) springs to mind: “Suddenly she realised that what she was regretting was not the lost past but the lost future, not what had not been but what would never be.” COVID-19 has not only resulted in a lost past, but as a result of what we have endured, has forever changed how we will live our lives in the future. Without the knowledge of what our futures may now hold, we should look back at what we have achieved since March 2020 with kindness and pride. Thus, I present to you Volume 23 of *Eras*.

I would like to start by thanking all the contributing authors for their incredible articles, essays, and book reviews. I would also like to thank all the peer-reviewers, who generously contributed both their valuable time and their expertise. This edition is privileged to include two articles. Merav Fima’s ‘Ludwig Wittgenstein on Jewish Creativity: From Self-Doubt to Self-Hatred’ is a thoughtful study of Wittgenstein’s Jewish identity through the lens of Sander Gilman’s theory of self-hatred. Kim Shaw’s ‘Will Qualitative Data Analysis Software (QDAS) Keep Apace of Bigger Data Trends? Van Diemen’s Land Convicts Bring NVivo to Trial’ offers an in-depth analysis of whether QDAS programs, like NVivo, can withstand the growing trend in research towards increasingly larger volumes of data. In a first for this journal, and as part of *Eras*’ stated goals of encouraging current and future scholars, we have included three essays from undergraduate students who completed the Monash University unit ‘ATS3080: Remembering the Past’. As such, we are pleased to include ‘Communicative Memory and Australian War Remembrance – A Family Case Study’ by Alison Fiddes, ‘The Brink of Humanity: Remembrance of the Past at Auschwitz-Birkenau’ by Amelia McGrath, and ‘The Problematics of Institutionalised War Memory: Australian War Art and How Ben Quilty Has Altered the Status Quo by Depicting Deep Memory’ by Claire Waddell-Wood. We are also delighted to include three informative book reviews in Volume 23 of *Eras*. First, from Joshua Black, we have a review of Jenny Hocking’s *The Palace Letters: The Queen, the Governor-General, and the Plot to Dismiss Gough Whitlam*. Second, from Darryl Mathieson, we have a review of Georgina Tuari Stewart’s *Māori Philosophy: Indigenous Thinking from Aotearoa*. And finally, from Ari Moore, we have a review of Martin Lin’s *Being and Reason: An Essay on Spinoza’s Metaphysics*.

I would like to close out this Editorial letter by thanking the editorial board that made the publication of this edition possible. Joshua Hatherley (General Board Member) has been a dynamic, considerate, and welcoming figure for as long as I have had the pleasure to know him. Joshua stands a valuable representation of his discipline of philosophy, among what is an overwhelmingly

historically focused board. Joining me as new members of the *Eras* board were Laura Screen (Technical Editor) and Lucy Moloney (General Board Member). Both are incredibly talented, supportive, and insightful young academics, and I feel absolutely honoured to be on this journey with them. We would also like to thank Jennifer Lord (Book Reviews Editor) for her incredible service to *Eras* over the years, as she nears the completion of her degree. Jennifer’s attention to detail, proactive nature, and sheer hard work have made her an indispensable asset. She will be impossible to replace, but we wish her every luck in the future. Last, but by certainly no means least, I would like to thank the incomparable Bernard Keo (recently made Dr. Bernard Keo). Bernard has worked with *Eras* in different positions throughout the years and has been an invaluable source of wisdom and guidance. His mentorship of me throughout my postgraduate career and most recently, guiding me into the role of Editor-in-Chief, has proven how thoughtful, kind, and supportive he is.

I end this edition of *Eras* with great hope for what lays ahead, despite our lost futures. I hope you can oblige me as I sign off with perhaps one of Emily Dickinson’s more well-known works, though one I think we could all bear to read once more:

“Hope” is the thing with feathers –
 That perches in the soul –
 And sings the tune without the words –
 And never stops – at all –

 And sweetest – in the Gale – is heard –
 And sore must be the storm –
 That could abash the little Bird
 That kept so many warm –

 I’ve heard it in the chillest land –
 And on the strangest Sea –
 Yet – never – in Extremity,
 It asked a crumb – of Me.
“Hope” is the thing with feathers – Emily Dickinson (1891).

I look forward to joining you all once more in the next edition of *Eras*.

Rachel Lansell

Editor-in-Chief