

The fifteenth edition of Eras, the peer-reviewed post-graduate online journal for the Monash University School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, has finally arrived. It has been a year of learning for all of us on the committee as we attempted to engage more fully with the on-line environment, both with the computer presence (Wordpress) and opportunities provided by social media. We now tweet, and have Facebook and Academia presences. This has provided us with a more informal way of engaging with our readers, with our "throwback Thursdays" initiated by Stephanie Jury. This provides the ideal opportunity to highlight articles from previous editions. Please "like" and follow us. It is early days, but the committee hopes that this will continue to provide new ways of engaging with a wider international audience.

These past few months have also the gradual migration of old editions of Eras to the platform. We hope this also facilitates access to past works.

This past year in Australia will be remembered as the year with three prime ministers, and gender was most definitely on the agenda. Gender provides the linking theme for two of the articles in this edition. The first is a diachronic analysis of the representations of William Morris, historically considered a "man's man" but more recently portrayed as comical figure whose wife did not even want to sleep with him. By tracing his representation through various biographies, Susan Mooney is able to shed light on how this process of removing can be achieved.

The second article written by yours truly provides insight into the way Giovanni Boccaccio in the fourteenth century read Homer. His unfamiliarity with ancient Greek has led many to suggest minimal influence on his own works in Latin, but by using the figure of Penelope who he represents in several works, a shift in approach to the Greek heroine can be seen. Discussing her deception and referring to her cunning, an attribute Boccaccio also attaches to her husband, shows that the early humanist had a unique perspective on gender for his time, and that he was able to grasp some concepts and use concepts from Homer beyond the limits commonly recognised.

This edition also provides a reflective piece written by a previous managing editor, Stephanie Rocke. Her work challenges the direction taken by universities over the last few years as the use of measurement as a justification for actions has pervaded management. It is a controversial topic and we invite feedback and discussion. This can be through the Eras university web site or via our new social media identities.

Six book reviews nicely plump out this edition. You will note that some people work very hard on doing reviews for this journal. I would like to call out to other post-graduates, especially those at Monash, to recognise the virtue of doing book reviews. In this age of rushing about and surfing the net, it is truly a pleasure to be forced to read a book from cover to cover. Writing a review then reinforces the learning and provides other people a means of assessing the book's worth as they dash off to their next task. The benefits of book reviews spread in many directions. I would particularly like to thank the various publishers for their generosity in sending us review copies. As this edition goes live, there is still a lot of work being done preparing for the next edition and for our various special editions, which we hope will be available in the near future.

I would really like to thank the editorial committee for edition 15. We have a wonderful collection of experienced editors (Stephanie Rocke, John D'Alton, Stephen Joyce, Anne Holloway), and some fresh blood (Sam Baudinette, Stephanie Jury, Stewart Ibrahim and Julian Koplín) to carry us into the future. I also need to thank Tom in ITS who has been very patient as I stumble around trying work the technology, as well as the support staff in SOPHIS. This is truly a combined effort and none of it would have been managed alone.

Natasha Amendola  
Managing Editor