

Editorial

Our world changes daily with revolutions in science, medicine, technology, and culture occurring with ever increasing rapidity; but how comprehensive is change? Is there, in fact, inherent value in, or an inevitability of, continuities? Such questions can be found being considered across a broad and diverse range of academic work and, for this reason, we were drawn to the theme of continuity and change as one which could illustrate the potential scope in such work, and we have not been disappointed in the response to our call for papers. When the first open meeting regarding an online peer-reviewed inter-disciplinary journal at Stirling commenced in June 2011 no one was fully aware of the trials and tribulations that would befall the subsequently formed editorial board and wider team in the production of such an online publication; but the journey has been an enlightening one for all and seen this seed of an idea grow into reality. Discussions of how to make the journal the perfect platform for junior researchers from across the spectrum to get their work into a public forum have been at the centre of the project throughout, and we hope that this aim can be continued through the subsequent issues of the *Stirling Postgraduate International Journal of Research (inSPIRE)*. The papers collected here offer responses to the theme of continuity and change through a broad range of research encompassing a number of disciplines. From Scottish archaeology to infra-structural development in India, our pilot issue opens up a door to new and exciting postgraduate research.

Hannah Donaldson's piece explores the introduction of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the context of changes in attitudes to disability and the associated models which informed UN debate and policy-making. Donaldson questions whether societal changes in disability however are adequately reflected in the Convention. Emma Smith explores domestic violence as an example of continuity and change in gender inequality discussing resilient stereo-types, feminism, and socioeconomic change to offer an evaluation of the roots of the issue, along with insights into ways in which to eliminate the problem. Samik Shome, Ramanna Shetty, T.J. Joseph, and Mihir Dash's co-authored piece utilises the National Rural Employment

Guarantee Act (NREGA) as a case study for analysing the impact that such government enforced acts working to improve village-level infra-structure have had on the quality of life in the Anekal taluk of Bangalore. Fiona Duncan opens an insightful discussion on Swift's interpretations of the socio-political changes occurring in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century Britain through the medium of *Gulliver's Travels* and his other works. Julie Harvie's paper on the profound change to Scottish primary education through the Curriculum for Excellence examines problems associated with this new educational focus on interdisciplinary and co-operative learning. Murray Cook presents case studies on the Kintore Roman Marching Camp and Cairnmore Hillfort to provide an evaluation of the policies and practicalities faced by archaeologists working to protect Scotland's historical heritage. Dr Soha Elbatrawy's article takes a cross-cultural issue head on in an investigative comparison of internet usage by children in Egypt and the West, tackling broader themes such as children's online security, parental guidance, gender variables, cultural differences, and access to information in our ever changing modern world.

During the development of this pilot issue, we have always hoped that the journal would draw together a diverse range of responses to our theme of 'Continuity and Change' illustrating the scope of new research being undertaken across the disciplines. We hope that in this aim we have succeeded. The pilot issue is essentially a continuity of an age old tradition of disseminating research; however, with an inter-disciplinary online journal, each new issue has the scope for change as a new theme opens the door to a wealth of early research awaiting its open platform.

We would like to thank all our contributors, board members (particularly Aleksandra Webb whose drive and positive attitude lifted the journal off from the starting blocks), copy-editors, peer reviewers, marketing team, and all others involved for all the hard work and inspiration that made this issue a reality, particularly Frances Sessford for her unending patience with us on our first attempt, Carolyn Rowlinson and Information Services, Mark Charters, Fiona Barclay and Katharine Reibig, as well as the Stirling Fund whose grant will be utilised in the continuation of the journal in subsequent issues. We hope you will enjoy reading our pilot issue.

Jamal Bahmad, Lucy Dean, Soha Elbatrawy, and Ewan McDonald

General Editors