



### Editorial Note

The 2018 edition of *Ex Historia* sees our journal celebrating its tenth birthday, and, emboldened by a record of high-quality scholarship that now extends to an entire decade, turning its attentions to the theme of 'Empire'. A ten-year anniversary is always a good time for retrospection – for looking back with satisfaction over a sprawling roll-call of achievements – but it is also a good time to be pushing one's chest outward, and dreaming of a wider imperium. Thus it is that we publish articles from postgraduate researchers in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia and Canada, concerning subjects that are as diverse as they are imperial (or sometimes more diverse than imperial, or vice versa). There is a statistical and comparative approach to empires; a study of an eighteenth-century political theorist; an examination of race and gender in post-colonial Australia; and a fascinating survey of the book-covers of Holocaust literature. In addition, this year's book reviews cover works on the British Raj, the Roman Empire, the Basque country, the Free Port of Livorno, and empires in general.

As well as publishing its journal, *Ex Historia* is also responsible for a wider (and indeed a growing) range of participatory activities. This year saw another fascinating series of symposia, running across the autumn and spring terms, allowing postgraduate students to present their research to their peers and engage in fruitful discussion. It also saw the inauguration of an *Ex Historia* Christmas dinner, with after-dinner entertainment provided in the form of a debating and mathematical exercise based on money.

But let it never be said that, in its quest for rigorous and imperial scholarship, *Ex Historia* lives cut-off from the outside world. In response to the interminable Brexit debates, *Ex Historia* took the bold and imaginative step of recreating political division within the forum of its symposia series, enacting a sort of mimetic catastrophe whereby the Remainers faced off against the Undergraduateers. Likewise, a sly, ironic commentary was offered upon the presidency of the controversial Donald Trump; and the debates over academic pensions led to the intermission of several of the *Ex Historia* symposia, which, having been scheduled to take

place on strike days, were duly postponed. It is much to be hoped that, moving forward, *Ex Historia* can continue to reposition itself as an agent on the political landscape, until, one day – perhaps by the time of the journal’s twentieth anniversary – it has become as influential an institution as News International or the Vatican.

*Ex Historia* owes everything to the hard work of all the individuals involved in the journal: the editorial team, who were involved at every stage of the review process; the subject editors who lent their time and expertise during the initial internal review; and the external reviewers who gave detailed and expert feedback. Most of all, we are grateful to the contributing authors for their continued dedication to publishing on the *Ex Historia* open access platform.

We hope you enjoy this erudite, engaging, and Empirical edition of *Ex Historia*.

Leo Shipp and Sonia Wigh  
Co-Editors, 2017-18