

Editorial

As the new editors of *Modern Italy*, our first task is to warmly thank our predecessors for their outstanding contribution to the development of the journal over the last five years. Anna Cento Bull and Martin Bull instigated and oversaw the transformation of *Modern Italy* to a quarterly, carrying forward and expanding the work of their predecessors (John Dickie, Mark Donovan and John Pollard). Their work has been invaluable in raising the status of the journal to a position of international excellence, and they have been helped in their task by a series of dedicated editorial assistants, most recently Deborah Woodman.

We take over this journal at a critical time for Italian studies in the UK. Italian Departments are under more pressure than ever to cut costs and many face the threat of closure now or in the near future, or of being merged with larger departments. This moment presents many difficulties, but also provides opportunities for Italian studies (political science, sociology, history, anthropology, film studies, literary studies, linguistics and so on) to become more integrated with other disciplines.

In this moment of change we, as editors, would like to expand the range of the journal and to open up its pages to more cross-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary work. We will also seek to build more bridges with ongoing research in Italy and to encourage publication of new and exciting research in a whole series of areas. The last 20 years have seen a historiographical revolution which has transformed the way Italian history is being understood (take, for example, recent work on the Risorgimento, on the Resistance, on the Second World War and more generally on the issue of historical memory). In many areas of study paradigms have been challenged and in some cases overturned, but there remains considerable resistance to the adoption of new methodologies and new ways of looking at Italy's past.

As editors of *Modern Italy*, we will try and open up the journal to these debates through an enhanced contexts and debates section. As with our predecessors we continue to encourage young scholars to submit their work to the journal, but also encourage senior scholars to submit work which involves a greater element of risk. This process will in no way compromise the high standards of refereeing and overseeing of the quality of the journal which have always been part of its raison d'être since its first issue on 'The Italian Crisis 1989–1994' was published in 1995. Moreover, as a partnership between two great cities – London and Glasgow – we aim to promote Italian history beyond the academy through the wider diffusion of the journal and its ideas and the continuation of the strong partnership with the Association for the Study of Modern Italy and the publisher, Taylor & Francis.

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