

EDITORIAL: Issue 11, Autumn 2011

We are delighted to publish the eleventh issue of *Opticon1826*. This issue contains six articles containing original, peer-reviewed research, two research notes, two commentaries, three literature reviews and eight thought-provoking images.

Reflecting on this issue as a whole, I am struck by the strong sense of social responsibility that pervades the majority of the articles in this issue. Many authors are concerned with shared responsibility at an international level, reflecting the recognition of the ever-increasing degree of global interconnectedness. In his review of Thomas Pogge's *Politics as Usual*, *Gwilym Blunt* considers whether global poverty should be considered a crime against humanity. Particularly pertinent in the light of the current global financial crisis, and the subsequent widespread attention that has been given to the notion of irresponsibility in the causation of that crisis, the issue of responsible behaviour by both businesses and governments is highlighted in two pieces relating to global issues of an economic nature. *Parikshit Kabra* discusses the Indian Government's regulation of private companies, while *Cagman Palmer* considers the future evolution of worldwide share ownership. On a more local level, but also engaging with the theme of social responsibility, *Daniel Lobo* uses the case of Deptford regeneration to discuss the need for a fairer power structure in urban regeneration projects.

Two articles are concerned with the environment, an issue increasingly considered a shared global responsibility. *Daniel Lobo* compares social environmental justice issues in the USA and the UK, while *Charlie Morris-Marsham* and *Dr Gemma Moore* focus on renewable energy options. Three further pieces also have underlying themes of ethics and morality. *Kimberley Bryon* reviews the ethical implications of personalised medicine, while *Talha Sami* and *Philip Sedgwick* examine the ethics and philosophy underlying Evidence Based Medicine. Ethics relating to individual freedoms in relation to the state are explored by *Thijs Bogers* in his appraisal of Spinoza's philosophy.

It is often said that the mark of a responsible, healthy society is one which invests heavily in both pure scientific research and in culture. To this end, we are pleased to also include pieces concerned with natural sciences and, contrastingly, those which are reviews of literature. *Louisa Petchey* explores mitochondria's darker side while *Dr Antonio Torrisi* reviews the recent discovery of a new class of materials. Further scientific endeavour at UCL is reflected in the image gallery which contains eight stimulating and fascinating images. In her review of J. M. Coetzee's, *Scenes from Provincial Life*, *Sophie Hughes* explores the notion of truth in autobiographical writing while in a contrasting genre, *Georgia Panteli* glances into the dark, uncanny world of Alois Hotschnig.

Opticon1826 has come a long way since its inception five years ago. Taking over its reins is a daunting challenge, but one to which I am looking forward with enormous enthusiasm. As we venture eagerly into our second ten issues, we have a host of new developments in the pipeline. Keep up-to-date by checking our website, join our mailing list, or follow us on Twitter '@Opticon1826'. This issue marks somewhat of a new dawn for us, as we comprise a largely new editorial team. We welcome Arne Blackman (Biomedical Sciences), Nilay Lakhar (Engineering Sciences), Manuela Melandri (Laws), Sinead Roberts (Life Sciences), Alison Cross (Mathematical & Physical Sciences), Rebecca Collins (Social & Historical Sciences) and Federica Chiocchetti (Images). I thank them and our remaining editors, Marlies Gabriele Prinzl (Arts & Humanities), Wesley Aelbrecht (Bartlett) and Roman Spesyvtsev (Webmaster) profusely for all their hard work over the last few months. Finally I'd like to thank all of our contributors for their sense of responsibility to engage with the bigger questions and to share their research with the wider research community with such refreshing enthusiasm.

Susan Skelton
Editor-in-Chief