

Editors Note

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The Society for Comparative Cultural Inquiry at UCL (SCCI) is delighted to introduce the fourth issue of our postgraduate journal, *Tropos*. The papers included were all presented at the 2016 Conference, titled ‘Belonging and Transgression’. The papers addressed a wide variety of disciplinary interests in connection with the title theme, intended to allow a point of convergence for scholars from a number of eclectic intellectual backgrounds. The submissions each explored how notions of Belonging and Transgression could be understood and interpreted across a number of cultural, linguistic, and theoretical contexts.

This edition of *Tropos* presents an exclusive selection of the papers presented at the conference, which in 2016 enjoyed its fourth year running. The conference was held at University College London on 23rd-24th June 2016 and was organised by members of the Society from both the School of European Language, Culture, and Societies (SELCS) and the Centre for Multidisciplinary and Intercultural Inquiry (CMII). It featured numerous postgraduate speakers from across the UK and Europe as well as keynote addresses from Professor Mairéad Hanrahan (Chair of French, UCL) and Professor John Sutherland (Emeritus Lord Northcliffe Professor of Modern English Literature, UCL)

The research presented at the conference drew on a wide variety of disciplines, speaking to a range of different subjects as diverse as writings on the politics of AIDS/HIV in France, the 16th century legal discussions on the rights of free-movement of peoples, and mid-twentieth century Hungarian theatre. The conference stimulated lively discussions provoked by the theme and the different methods of addressing it throughout the papers. These conversations continued long after the formal proceedings concluded. We are delighted to share a selection of the papers from this conference with you in these pages, and we hope that a similarly lasting discussion will occur between you, the reader, and the articles in this third edition of *Tropos*.

The conference series will continue in 2017 and organised by the Graduate Society for Comparative Cultural Inquiry.

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UCL’s Society for Comparative Cultural Inquiry, its events, conferences and journal *Tropos* are open to all researchers interested in challenging norms and disciplinary divisions, who are willing to critically reflect on culture, literature, art, film, history, philosophy, politics, or any other related field. Our ambition is to cover the subjects encompassed by the rubric Arts and Humanities, taking our cue from the boundary-crossing work being done in UCL’s SELCS and CMII.

Acknowledgements

We would like to extend our thanks to all of the speakers who contributed to making 'Belonging and Transgression' a wonderful crucible for exchanging and developing ideas as well as fostering discussion between various academic disciplines. We are very grateful to our two keynote speakers Professor Mairéad Hanrahan and Professor John Sutherland for supporting the conference with their opening and closing presentations. Particular thanks must also go to Dr Stephanie Bird her continued encouragement and support.

We are indebted to generous financial support from the UCL Joint Faculty Institute of Graduate Studies for the conference and from SELCS for making the publication of this journal possible.

We hope you will enjoy this fourth issue of Tropos. UCL Editors: Jakob von Baeyer
Alexandra Lee, Jordan Phillips, Melissa Powell, Alex Woodcock

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