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Postgraduate Perspectives in History: Editorial

The four articles published here represent all that is excellent in current postgraduate perspectives in History. They cover an incredible range of research in terms of content, from the Territorial Force in Edwardian Britain, to guerrilla fighters in late twentieth century Colombia, the social roles of medieval women, and medieval jousting. They also utilise a variety of methodologies, from ethnography to studies of little used sources such as jousting cheques. The geographical range spreads from South America to Italy to Britain, and the contributors are similarly international. Each article has the freshness associated with postgraduate researchers engaged in learning their skills.

They are published after a supportive peer review process, in which an established academic and a PhD student each commented on the submissions, returning them to the authors for revisions as appropriate. They then went for a second round of peer review, to academics at universities across the UK, in order to guide the authors through the stages of the journal publication process. At each step, the editorial team encouraged positivity alongside rigour to ensure that the essays were of high quality and suggestions for change were made with the feelings of the authors in mind. For a long time, academia believed in the invisibility of the author as corollary to the belief in 'objectivity'. In fact, it often led to exclusivity and, in anonymous peer review, to a lack of sensitivity to the humanity of the author. A more supportive approach fits with the mood of the digital doctoral age. Social media and digital technologies connect PhD students in ways that were unimaginable to previous generations. It enables them to publish the results of their research easily and readily, but it also provides support networks so that what they publish is often well developed, well thought out, and results from collaborative effort.

The articles here are drawn from a postgraduate conference at the University of Huddersfield in October 2013, organised by Emma Levitt and Jo Dyrлага from Huddersfield and Frank Grombir from the University of Hull. It provides an example of the way in which digital media underpins face to face sociability and exchange of knowledge and the way in which current postgraduates consider the importance of supporting each other. I am grateful to all the contributors at the conference and particularly to the authors for agreeing to publish with us. Further thanks must go to the peer reviewers and editorial board who gave freely their time, effort and consideration. In particular I would like to thank Jo Dyrлага, who guided all the submissions through the publishing process with care and diligence, and who can claim credit for this first in a long series of *Postgraduate Perspectives in History*.

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