

Editor's Note

The Society for Comparative Cultural Inquiry at UCL (SCCI) is delighted to introduce the third issue of our postgraduate journal, *Tropos*. Our inaugural issue on 'Unity/Disunity' was followed last year by our second edition 'Distance and Proximity.' These publications explored the complexities which arise from the consideration of these dyadic pairs in a wide variety of cultural, linguistic, textual and theoretical contexts. This edition presents a selection of papers along the theme of the SCCI's fourth annual interdisciplinary postgraduate conference: 'Bonds & Boundaries.' The conference was held at University College London on 18th – 19th June, 2015 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 Dr Katherine Ibbett, Reader in Early Modern Studies (French, UCL) and Dr Andrew van der Vlies, Senior Lecturer (English, Queen Mary).

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 Holocaust, television scandals and Bulgarian protest movements. 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, which will continue in 2016 with 'Belonging and Transgression' on 23-24 June 2016, is organised by the Graduate Society for Comparative Cultural Inquiry, which is also the driving force behind this journal.

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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 the 'Bonds and Boundaries' 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 Dr Katherine Ibbett and Dr Andrew van der Vlies for their fascinating papers which beautifully framed the conference. Particular thanks must also go to Dr Stephanie Bird and Professor Mairéad Hanrahan for their 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. Finally, we are indebted to Essi Viitanen for her excellent design work on this journal.

We hope you will enjoy this third issue of Tropos.

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