

Afterword

As this issue is, albeit in part, our tenth volume, we make no apologies for indulging in a little retrospection. To explain the origins of *Skepsi*, we can do no better than adapt an e-mail that Fabien Arribert Narce, its founder, sent us on the occasion of our tenth conference. The idea to create *Skepsi* came to Fabien, then a postgraduate student with the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) at the University of Kent as a result of a public meeting with Julia Goodfellow in the Autumn of 2007, when she first visited SECL after being appointed the University's Vice-Chancellor; during this meeting initiatives such as creating PG journals were mentioned. Shortly after the meeting, Fabien contacted, first, Alvis Sforza Tarrobochia and then all the others who are named as the first editors in the list of past editors and previous issues at the back of this issue, having been inspired by the idea of this exciting project.

From the outset the aim was to create that journal that was based in SECL and so would not only be European in outlook but also reflect SECL's diversity in terms of the cultures and national origins of its students. This is illustrated in the nationalities of the first editors, postgraduate students from France, Italy, Spain, and Poland, as well as the title they eventually chose, *Skepsi*, a term borrowed it from ancient Greek, having realised that Fabien's suggestion, *Argos*, the name of a many-eyed giant in Greek mythology, has other connotations in the UK — a lucky escape!

From the outset, *Skepsi*'s aim has been twofold: not only to publish a journal but also to promote an annual post-graduate conference, papers from which could then be published in the journal. The first of these, *Graft and Transplant*, was held in May 2008 and the first issue of the journal, containing articles from nine of the people who had presented papers at the inaugural conference, was published the following December. Fabien says that the theme of the first conference was an allusion to the way the original group comprised 'fragments' from different parts of Europe. The list of conferences following that of issues and editors illustrates the diversity of topics that have been covered since that first one — and also some imaginative titles.

Since that first issue of the journal, there have been eleven more. While most of these have been dedicated to conferences held at the University of Kent and organised if not by *Skepsi*, then by other groups and individuals within the University, one of our issues, *Miscellanea* (volume 4 (2): Winter/Spring 2011/12), published the results of an essay competition, which *Skepsi* had organised, for postgraduate students at the University of Kent and the Canterbury

Christchurch University. Furthermore, we have not restricted ourselves to publishing articles; the issue *(De)parsing Bodies* (volume 5 (1): Autumn 2012) comprised a miscellany of peer reviewed articles, poetry and artwork. Also, the selection of an article for publication is not conditional on the author's having previously presented a paper at the relevant conference, as will be seen from the current issue.

In conclusion, we acknowledge our indebtedness to SECL for its support, both practical and financial, in promoting the conferences and publishing print copies of the journal.