

## 6 *Editorial*

The field of Galician Studies has undergone significant transformations since the beginning of the 21st Century. Firstly, it has developed into an autonomous field of study within Iberian and Hispanic Studies, and is now regularly well-represented in Hispanic Studies conferences and the principal academic journals of Hispanic and Modern Language Studies. Internally, the field has also seen significant and qualitative advances.

International conferences such as 'A Galaxia explicada: Cultura galega en diálogo/The Galaxy Explained: Galician Culture in Dialogue' (Stirling, June 2007), 'Coming out of the Nation: Beyond the National in Galician Cultural Production' (Liverpool/Bangor, March 2008) and 'Sobre o tempo e as palabras: A cultura galega contemporánea a exame' (Cork, June 2008) succeeded in fostering dialogue upon specific themes in the field, therefore complementing, but also moving beyond, the more generic scope of the International Association of Galician Studies' tri-annual conferences. Equally important is the role played by the expanding network of Centres for Galician Studies funded by the *Xunta de Galicia*, whose efforts to grant increasing visibility to the Galician language and culture on an international scale, as well as to the field of Galician Studies itself, cannot be overemphasised.

The creation of *Galicia 21: Journal of Contemporary Galician Studies*, the first fully refereed and bilingual, academic journal in electronic format devoted solely to this discipline, also attests to the perceived sense of momentum in the field. Amongst the chief objectives of the journal is the wish to create a dedicated and original forum that coheres with the scholarly interests and socio-political concerns of a new millenium, and which gives visibility to a new generation of critics who approach the field from a variety of critical perspectives (feminist theory and gender studies, postcolonial and postnational theories, globalization studies, etc) that have not been previously utilised and which stand in contrast with the marked structuralist and socio-historic approach of traditional philological studies in Galicia. We also hope that the journal will chart new ground in those areas of enquiry that are decidedly of relevance for contemporary Galician Studies, but which have perhaps been overshadowed by the field's focus on literary and linguistic issues. It is in this sense that we would like to encourage submissions from researchers working on cultural studies, translation studies, film and media studies or the creative industries. Ultimately, *Galicia 21* seeks to work alongside researchers and institutions that promote the multidisciplinary analysis of Galician culture to an international degree of visibility.

As the founding editors of *Galicia 21*, we decided from the outset that the journal should be fully accessible through current and developing technology to any reader from around the world who wished to access its contents. Its freely-accessible electronic format intends to contribute to the widening of positions and perspectives across the areas of the Humanities, Science and Information Technology in Galician Studies, and to foster connections with neighbouring frameworks and approaches. This is, as we see it, one of the crucial challenges for Galician culture in the twenty-first century as it seeks to move beyond linguistic, cultural and political normalisation and consolidate both its particularity and its relevance for

wider academic debates developing worldwide. *Galicia 21* therefore aims to expand and redefine the conceptual parameters of Galician Studies in the twenty-first century, in order to critique and examine the foundational paradigms of Galician culture and society itself, so that these may engage with other cultural expressions on a global level as part of the quest to rationalise processes, identify common concerns and co-operate on projects of mutual benefit.

This first issue is a token of the aims and concerns explained above. The contributions include five academic articles from a diversity of perspectives and reflective practices, both theoretical and applied, empirical and personal, speculative and questioning. All contributions to this first issue of *Galicia 21*, by Burghard Baltrusch (University of Vigo), María do Cebreiro Rábade Villar (University of Santiago de Compostela), Roberto Pascual (*Escola Superior de Arte Dramático*), María Reimóndez (University of Vigo) and Anxo Lorenzo (University of Vigo) emerge from a shared desire to think (and articulate) things anew. To them, and to the selection of academic books' reviews, we have added Xabier Cid's interview with Domingo Villar at the Edinburgh Book Festival in the summer of 2008 and Miguel Anxo Murado's reflections on Galicia as a 'physiological' entity. The personal and the creative therefore merge with the more consciously academic (usually in one and the same piece). In so doing, the contributions that give shape to the first issue of *Galicia 21* are themselves an example of the new shapes (and also persistent shapelessness) of our thought and academic practices.

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