

EDITORIAL

## **An End, and a New Beginning...**

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With this issue, the original editorial team of *Foucault Studies* steps down, and a new one takes over. The experience of starting and running a journal has been challenging, frustrating and worthwhile – in probably about equal measure. We began this journal with considerable enthusiasm, which carried us through the first two issues. Then the reality, enormity and perpetuity of the task began to dawn on us. When we made the decision to discontinue the journal, it was a difficult one to come to, but perhaps inevitable given the workload and the lack of institutional or publisher support. Ultimately, all the work to be done on the journal fell to its editors – from properly editorial work such as deciding on referees, adjudicating on papers and corresponding with authors; to the administrative work associated with this; to website design, copyediting, proofreading and production of pdfs.

In doing this, we were not working entirely alone. Morris Rabinowitz has provided invaluable support for the journal throughout, as our copyeditor. This is an essential but largely thankless task, though we have always tried to show our appreciation. So it is with pleasure that as editors we make our private thanks public.

Our editorial board have also been useful and supportive, as have our referees, who have provided reports that have been extremely helpful to us as editors, and also, we believe, to our authors. Although authors may not always agree with this, we do believe that papers have been improved through the review process. We set out with a clear aim that this journal would be run to the same standards as a print-journal, and we firmly believe that this has been the case.

When we announced that issue 4 would be the last issue – we were determined to see all current papers through review, and to honour all commitments to authors – there was genuine regret expressed by a large number of people, both on the editorial board and beyond. Due to the kindness of some of our readers, some opportunities were raised, including interest from publishers, but there was nothing that we felt would preserve the ethos of the journal – that it be web-based, free-to-access and, through

this, genuinely interdisciplinary and international, and to have an audience beyond the academy.

Then we were approached by Sverre Raffensøe of Copenhagen Business School. Through a series of email conversations and finally a face-to-face meeting in Copenhagen with one of the current editors, we worked out how the journal could continue. Clare and Alan have agreed to continue as co-editors in the future and Alan as book review editor, and so provide continuity from the original journal to the new setup. Sverre and his team will produce the journal from issue 5, and we thank them for their enthusiasm and wish them well. Updated contact details and submission information appear on the journal's homepage.

Finally, we are grateful to those people who have read and contributed to the journal. The interest in the journal has genuinely surprised, sustained and inspired us. We are especially grateful for your patience in awaiting each issue. With that, we leave you with issue 4, and believe that there is much to enjoy, appreciate and provoke here. Fortunately this is not the end, issue 5 will be both a continuation and a new beginning.