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# Editorial

## History in the Making Journal Collective:

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### **Editorial: Current Debates around Open Access Publishing**

When we founded History in the Making, the decision to make the journal freely available online was an easy one for us. Not only did we want to ensure that the widest possible audience could access the journal, making it freely available was in line with our aims to create community amongst history students. Making that decision from the start meant that we have never planned on gaining money through subscriptions or paid access to the articles. Our funding comes from universities who support our project and from the occasional private donation, and our costs are kept low through the intense effort of the journal collective and our wonderful team of editors and reviewers.

In the world of scholarly publishing, we are not alone. There are a number of journals making their issues freely available. There are also, of course, some very large academic publishers making a huge profit from scholarly journals – in 2011 the Guardian newspaper in the UK quoted Elsevier's operating profit margin at 36% for the previous financial year. Access to articles, regardless of year of publication, can cost up to \$42 per article, and increasingly centralised control of journal publishing means there is little competition from within the industry to drive down these costs. The same Guardian article estimated that Elsevier, Wiley and Springer now publish 42% of the total scholarly articles published worldwide.

In an age of online publishing, where the cost of publishing is no longer related to the physical production of a journal, it is unsurprising that current debates have shifted focus to the issue of the open access nature of published academic content. The barriers provided by the subscription

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model have been the target of anger in many quarters for some years, but recent UK and European legislation aimed at ensuring publicly-funded research becomes freely available has shifted the debate in a new direction. The thorny questions around open access to academic journals don't seem to centre on whether it is a good idea or not. There are few voices arguing in favour of restricting access to the information contained in journal articles. Whether as part of an argument about wider open access to knowledge, or the belief that the public should have access to research carried out under government funding, few within the world of universities, libraries and the wider research world want to stop open access. The tough questions are around who pays for this, and how it will work legally.

Two models of open access are currently competing in the public discourse, dubbed 'gold' and 'green'. Under the gold model, any papers the journals publish will be open access. In the majority of cases this means the authors of papers have to pay to publish in open access journals. In practice, those fees are paid out of research grant money, or by university departments. For early career researchers and independent scholars, who do not necessarily have institutional financial support, such fees can provide a barrier to publication in these journals. Under the green model, researchers place their articles into open access repositories held by a university library or a centralised archival repository. This happens whether the journals they publish in are open access or not, meaning that some journals continue to charge subscriptions for access to their content, despite it being publicly available. The creation of such open access repositories thus threatens the income streams of existing journals which do rely on subscriptions. The fear is that smaller journals, unused to finding other sources of funding, may not be able to sustain themselves.

While the intention behind open access publishing is clearly to increase the accessibility of academic work to people of all backgrounds and situations, both of these models raise issues in terms of the type of research that gets published. The author-pays model – which has become one of the most prominent subsets of open access publishing – demonstrates this most clearly. As authors are considered to be the primary revenue stream for many large publishing companies currently embracing the open access model, the monetary amount attached to publication becomes a barrier for those researchers who do not have sufficient financial backing from their institutions or who operate outside of formal institutions. Research conducted by a small NGO with a limited budget, for instance, may struggle to get published under this model. At the same time, placing a monetary value on the act of publishing presents the risk that anyone may be able to purchase the right to publish, regardless of the quality of the finished article. This raises serious questions for the peer-review process.

On the other hand, the green model does not entirely resolve the question of what sort of research can be published. While the creation of open access repositories circumvents the need for authors to publish in large author-pays journals in order for their research to be made freely available, these repositories themselves threaten the viability of small and independent journals. Such journals tend to be more specialised and niche publications which often publish specialised research that larger journals are not interested in. The existence of these journals ensures a breadth and diversity of research, allowing new areas of interesting research to be pursued and shared outside of the established cannon, thus pushing at the boundaries of established knowledge. Under the open access model, such journals will need to fight hard for their survival against the increasingly centralised repositories of the author-pays publishers.

History in the Making does not sit outside these debates entirely. While we do not charge anyone at any stage of our publishing process – since doing so would defeat the purpose of our project – we do rely heavily on financial support from our partner institutions, the volunteer labour of our reviewers and editors, and, most pertinent to this debate, the use of the Open Journal System (OJS). OJS is a project funded by the Canadian government through the Public Knowledge Project which provides free access to a journal management and publishing system to anyone, anywhere in the world. The free access nature of this management software significantly cuts down the costs of publishing and increases the capacity for small and independent journals to provide open access to all of their content. For this reason, the OJS software is being adopted more and more across universities as the preferred option for establishing new journals and transforming older publications into the open access model. One thing is for certain, the commitment of organisations such as the Public Knowledge Project to increasing open access of academic research has played a major role in allowing us to establish the History in the Making project.

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As usual, we would like to thank our editors and reviewers for the time and effort that they have put into making this issue happen. We are pleased to report that our pool of editors is currently drawn from sixteen different universities and includes student representatives from three countries outside of Australia. We also acknowledge the continued support of our ten partner institutions, as well as the support extended to us by the postgraduate students at the Australian National University. Without both of these sources of support and participation, the journal would struggle to survive, and we look forward to working with all of you on many future editions.

The collective owes a special debt of gratitude to Andrew Jones, who helped us resolve a major IT issue over the Christmas-New Year period. When our server went down, Andrew put his IT expertise to work in his spare time and for no remuneration, while juggling his own busy schedule. For a small project with very little budget, this was enormously helpful to us, so we thank him for his support.

*The History in the Making Journal Collective*

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### Article Abstracts

#### Feeding 'the sacred fire': *Le Courier Australien* and *France Libre*

Jillian Donohoo

*Second Year Undergraduate, University of Sydney*

Following the German invasion of Paris in June 1941, and General de Gaulle's declaration of resistance, Sydney-based French language newspaper *Le Courier Australien* pledged support to the Free French Movement. From August 1941 to April 1942, the newspaper was transformed from an insular newspaper unheard of outside the Sydney French community to an organisation reaching the broader English-speaking Australian population; holding special events and fundraisers for *France Libre*; and situating its work within the international and national context. This paper will explore the significant contributions of the remarkable newspaper that became a community rallying point.

#### Flee the loathsome shadow: Marsilio Ficino (1433-99) and the Medici in Florence

Jessica O'Leary

*Second Year Undergraduate, Monash University*

This article examines the changing political landscape of Medicean Florence, from Cosimo de' Medici (1389-1464) to his grandson Lorenzo the Magnificent (1449-1492), through the letters of the celebrated neo-Platonist philosopher Marsilio Ficino (1433-99). Ficino's philosophical, theological and astronomical works have been extensively studied, but little work has been done on how his epistolary relationship with the Medici reflected the rise and fall of the philosopher's fortunes. Lorenzo did not follow Cosimo's virtuous example in politics and strayed from Cosimo's path to a powerful Florence. Ficino counselled both Cosimo and Lorenzo through his letters and his praise of the 'wise and prudent' Cosimo and his frustration with the 'impure and ignorant' prince Lorenzo reflects the precarious status of the Florentine intellectual. Ficino did not totally support Laurentian rule and as a result, he was stripped of his status in the inner sanctum of Florentine politics and was forced to seek alternative means to sustain his philosophical work. This article will argue that examining Ficino's letters to the Medici reveals wider political changes in Renaissance Florence and the need for clients to balance personal satisfaction with a need to survive.

### **Forged through 'Blood and Iron': How and Why the Army was so Important in the Creation of a German Nation from the 1860s to 1918.**

Nadja Siegel

*Second Year Undergraduate, University of New England*

It is impossible to understand the German nation-building processes in the nineteenth century without recognising the importance of the military. It can be argued that the military became an important national symbol and transcended into German national culture and consciousness. This is partly due to the military being a tangible institution of the State but also a cultural force that became a national symbol and was an integral part of the 'invented traditions' in the new nation following unification in 1871.

### **The Conservatism of Richard Hofstadter**

Ryan Coates

*Third Year Undergraduate, Durham University*

Richard Hofstadter (1916-1970) was the outstanding American historian of the twentieth century. The almost universally accepted orthodox interpretation of Hofstadter's thought positions him as one of the leading liberal intellectuals of postwar America. Subsequently, his relationship to conservatism has been underexamined and generally considered to have been one of unrelenting hostility. This interpretation is based upon a misreading of Hofstadter's essays on 'pseudo-conservatism' and the 'paranoid style.' Subsequently, this essay sets out to re-examine Hofstadter's relationship to conservatism through acknowledging his distinction between moderate and pseudo-conservatism, and reassessing his most political works. This will allow the discovery of what Howe and Finn have described as Hofstadter's 'latent conservatism.'

### **Reconstructing the Falklands War**

Matthew Theodorakis

*Third Year Undergraduate, Monash University*

For Britain, constructions of the Falklands War have been dominated by government and media sources. This essay seeks to develop a competing narrative by drawing on accounts offered by people directly involved in the conflict.

### **Vague Boundaries: Ideas of Public and Private in Petrarch's Seniles**

Luke Bancroft

*Honours, Monash University*

In terms of epistolography, Petrarch deserves the acclaim he has won as an innovative literary mind. He was very much the instigator of a revolutionary epistle tradition. Paying particular attention to his final collection of letters, the *Rerum senilium libri*, this article explores the extent to which we can demarcate between the public and private Petrarch in his correspondence. It argues that we must exercise caution when approaching these concepts in Petrarch, since his understanding of them was vastly different to our own. It is possible, however, to draw some distinctions by examining the public image Petrarch strove to achieve, and by exploring the notion of male friendship as contained in the letters. In doing this, we are able to identify those elements of Petrarch's character that might be described as private, but only insofar as they relate to his broader public image.

### **The Role of Causation in History**

James Brien

*Honours, University of New England*

E.J. Tapp boldly claimed that without a concept of causation 'there could be no history'. To many extents, he is correct - causation plays an essential role in the process of historical explanation. It connects historical facts to provide greater understanding about the past. Causation is thus a fundamental aspect of the historical writing process. As such, there have been numerous debates over the exact role and implications of its application. This essay assesses the major debates surround the application of causation to historical research and writing, such as the role causation has played in the construction of histories, its role in historical explanation, defining a cause, subjectivity and selection, determinism and free will.

### **Debating the Legitimacy of Violence: Duelling in Antebellum America**

Declan Mulders-Jones

*Honours, University of Sydney*

The antebellum period of American history was characterised by the prevalence of duelling. The custom was hardly uncontested; it was the subject of fierce debate in the public sphere for decades. Periodically, this debate emerged to dominate public discourse in the wake of particularly noteworthy duels, usually due to the fame of participants or a fatal outcome. This debate represents an unparalleled avenue into reconstructing the conflicting sources of legitimacy for violence put forward by various social groups, occurring in a period where state-formation processes were in their infancy and the sanction of the state had not yet become the primary means of differentiating between legitimate and illegitimate acts of violence.

### **Nature's Cruel Mistake: Representations of Transsexual Experience in Twentieth-Century Autobiographies**

Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden

*Honours, University of Melbourne*

Gender is understood as one of the formative aspects of the construction of subjectivity. This article will discuss how early transsexuals interpreted and represented their sexed and gendered bodies in relation to their sense of identity and negotiation of normative understandings of performative gender within Western society. It explores how three transsexual people constructed their biographical experiences and the understanding of transsexuality in wider social understandings of gender and sexuality during the twentieth century.