



The *European Review of History / Revue Européenne d'histoire (ERH)* is an international refereed journal published by Routledge. This **letter of introduction and general call for contributions** is occasioned by the fact that as of 2008, in its fifteenth year, the journal is moving from four to **six issues a year**, a major change which also involves the establishment of new editorial offices at the European University Institute (Florence) and Central European University (Budapest), besides the central office at the University of Manchester. As this expands our possibilities to a considerable extent, it seems timely to call the attention of colleagues in the historical community to the *ERH* as a possible **publication outlet for their individual and collaborative projects**.

The *ERH* was launched fifteen years ago (in two issues per year at that time) by the European Association of Young Historians with the specific intention of enhancing communication between different generations of historians and different (national, methodological, epistemological, etc.) traditions of historical studies. Thanks to a decade and a half of successful networking – editorial committee meetings at leading centres of historical research, a series of international and inter-generational conferences, a steady flow of high level scholarship to the pages of the journal – as well as the unfailing confidence and support of the publisher, the *ERH* has established itself as a **leading publication venue, and to a certain extent a trendsetter**. Today it

- represents a community of scholars reflecting on the nature and boundaries of Europe;
- enables transnational historiographical reflection;
- invites both established and young scholars with the great historical debates of our time;
- is an essential platform of exchanges and its thematic approach enables comparisons across the continent and throughout the ages;
- publishes scholarly articles both of an empirical and a theoretical kind, interviews, articles debating key questions of historiography, research and practical information, and a rich and diverse review section (research articles are normally between 8000 and 12000 words in length, but shorter polemical pieces of c. 6000 words are also accepted; reviews should be 500-1000 words).

The recent developments present opportunities as well as obligations. The *ERH* already has a tradition of publishing, besides individual articles, thematic dossiers, and even entire **thematic issues** devoted to a specific problem area in historical studies, sometimes submitted to us as edited collections of papers from conferences and colloquia. As academic publishers are increasingly reluctant to deal with “conference volumes”, these collections usually appear either as university and institute publications, which often fail to receive sufficient attention, or not at all. As a matter of fact, individual contributions to such collections tend to find their way to recognized publication venues. While the *ERH* continues emphatically to encourage individual articles that fall within its broad profile, we also recognize that in the given situation, academic journals have a certain obligation to relate to such collective offers in a flexible and constructive manner, and the current expansion



presents an opportunity for the *ERH* to do so. We thus welcome collections of articles that address a clearly delimited subject area and “talk to one another” as contributions to an edited volume. Just as individual articles are accepted, rejected or revised by the *ERH* upon the advice of two independent referees, such collections are specifically examined by two readers both for the quality of the individual contributions and for the coherence of the collection as a whole.

More broadly speaking, a journal with a space of close to half a million words a year for publishing scholarship is in a unique position **not only faithfully to follow, respond to and record, but also to define research agendas**. In this regard, it must be firmly borne in mind that the ideals which inspired the creation and the growth of the *ERH*, while fully worth keeping as yardsticks of our achievement, represent moving targets both in terms of the composition and character of the constituency and the specific issues they relate to. We must continuously refine our sensitivity, together with its institutionalized vehicles, towards the questions and fields of inquiry perceived as relevant in the various centres of historical research in Europe. The establishment of editorial offices in Florence and Budapest must be seen in this context as well: besides signalling the increase of the sheer amount of editorial work, these offices also serve both as **symbols of, and gateways for, the integration of current historical research** on a European level.

At the School of History and Interdisciplinary Studies of CEU we keenly define ourselves as a site of **transnational academic socialization** where existing knowledge is re-examined and new knowledge is created in a mutual learning process, involving a multi-national faculty and student body, recruited from dozens of countries in three continents. At the same time, in advancing the cause of the journal and the international historical community, we shall confidently rely on the networks that have arisen around CEU over the years and intend to reach out beyond these existing ties as well.

For further information (about the journal, free sample copy, instructions for authors etc.):  
<http://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/journal.asp?issn=1350-7486&linktype=2>

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