

## Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*, a scholarly, fully refereed publication aimed at promoting the development of European Studies in Australia and New Zealand. A collaborative effort between the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) and the European Union Studies Association of New Zealand (EUSA-NZ), this new journal provides a forum for discussion of contemporary European issues while fostering and maintaining links among those working in the field both in Australia and New Zealand and internationally.

While the journal welcomes submissions that reflect on the relationship between Europe and Australia and New Zealand, this is not the journal's primary *raison d'être*. Indeed, in some respects the title of the journal might be slightly misleading! Rather, the journal has two particular of 'reasons for being'.

The first of these reasons is fairly straightforward. Academics in Australian and New Zealand Universities are under ever increasing pressures to publish. These pressures are, admittedly to a lesser degree, also omnipresent for post-graduates. The *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* provides a new medium for seasoned academics, early career academics and post-graduates alike to present their research, exchange their views and seek critical feedback from their peers.

The second reason is entirely selfish. The editors of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* come from a variety of research backgrounds. However, we are unified in our passion and enthusiasm for the study of all things European. More importantly though, we know that this love is not ours alone. Indeed, what in lacks in numbers, the European research community in Australia and New Zealand certainly makes up for in enthusiasm. Up until now, the primary medium for this 'European voice' has been through the European Centres in Melbourne, Canberra and Canterbury. The *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* provides a roof under which these voices can now gather as one.

A few words about the first edition. In acknowledging that 'Europe' itself is a contested concept, the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* aims to address the difficult practical and theoretical questions posed by the sheer complexity that is Europe and to encourage and inform the range of scholarships and approaches on Europe. One particular issue that the Australian and New Zealand European Studies teaching community continues to grapple with is the question of what European Studies is and how it relates to the studies of the European Union. With this in mind, the editors have devoted the first issue of the journal to articles by three prominent scholars from the region debating the nature of European and European Union Studies. Writing from different backgrounds and experiences, Martin Holland, Philomena Murray, and Ben Wellings trace the development of the discipline in the region, debate what the discipline should consist of and question the future of European and European Union Studies in Australia and New Zealand, asking what is required for it to continue to flourish. These high quality articles from outstanding scholars in the field will hopefully set the tone for future issues of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*.

The first issue of the journal also includes the winners of the 2008 Contemporary European Studies Association of Australia (CESAA) Essay Competition. Every second issue, the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* will publish the winners from the previous year's CESAA Essay Competition. The CESAA Essay Competition facilitates greater awareness of developments in European affairs, thereby promoting a closer cooperation between Australia and the European Union. Considering the always present 'tyranny of distance', the Essay Competition is a wonderful way for students to maintain contact with the 'European Community' in Australia. There are also more tangible benefits: the competition presents an excellent opportunity for students to have their ideas peer reviewed and of course, there are prizes awarded.

Finally, the journal includes reviews of two books written by Australian and New Zealand scholars. Both books explore different facets in modern-day dialogue between Australia, New Zealand and the European Union.

This journal came to life due to the incredible support and inspiration we have received from the European and EU studies academic communities both in Australia and New Zealand. Our editorial team is grateful to all authors who have considered or are considering publishing with the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* – a vibrant academic forum our journal is aspiring to be is impossible without committed and talented participants. We also would like to thank the members of the Journal's Editorial and Editorial Advisory Boards for their enthusiasm and guidance in chiseling out the concept of the Journal. We would like to express our special gratitude to the EUSA-NZ leader and NCRE/NZEUCN Director Professor Martin Holland for supporting our new journal – to warrant a wider outreach of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*, every issue of the journal will also appear in an electronic format hosted and run by European Union Studies Association of New Zealand (EUSA-NZ). We are also thankful to a talented web-designer Wendy Toynton who has created and maintained the Journal's website while based at the NCRE. Our special thanks to Paul Bealing at the University of Canterbury for designing the front cover of the Journal. We also would like to acknowledge the NCRE Interns Svenja Eiling and Karima Abidat for assisting our editorial team in formatting the first issue of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies*. Our final thanks goes to the Contemporary European Studies Association of Australian (CESAA) for its generous financial support in publishing a hard copy of this Journal and for supporting the launch of the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of European Studies* on June 11, 2009.

**Matt Killingsworth, Natalia Chaban, Matt Harvey.**  
Co-Editors