

Editor's Foreword



I am pleased to present the seventh edition of *Ceræ: An Australasian Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. One of the most interesting and exciting parts of setting a theme for each issue is seeing the unique ways in which the authors engage with that theme. This has certainly been the case for this volume, focused around 'minority and marginalised experiences,' wherein the three articles focus on gender and sexuality, emotion, and identity.

Felipe E. Rojas explores the complex interplay of sexuality and gender performance in Lope de Vega's *El gallardo catalán*. In particular, Rojas shows how Lope de Vega exploits the marginalized status of same-sex relationships to enhance conflict and tension – and, indeed, ambiguity – within *El gallardo catalán*. In her article, Emma Louise Barlow examines the emotive language of suicide in Dante's *Inferno*. She argues that Dante's representation of suicide exposes a 'heterogenous yet shared experience of loss and despair', and the narratives of those who had died by suicide reveal the profound personal marginalisation they experienced in life. The final article of the edition is Caroline Wilhelmsson's study of Finland's absence from the Swedish royal titlature, despite officially being a part of the Swedish kingdom from the twelfth century to the early nineteenth. Wilhelmsson examines not only the marginalisation of Finland within the Swedish kingdom, but also an investigates historical ethnonyms.

In this volume, I am also excited to present our first creative piece, wherein Jordan Church describes the wombat in the style of a Middle English bestiary. *Ceræ* welcomes creative and other short pieces (*Varia*) throughout the year. From our next volume onwards, we would also like to encourage postgraduate students and early career researchers based at Australasian institutions to send descriptions of their new

or ongoing projects for inclusion in our *Varia* section. In addition to *Varia*, we continue to accept non-themed article submissions throughout the year.

I would like to express my appreciation for the committee and editorial team of *Ceræ* for their dedication throughout this year – a full update of a constitution by an international team is an undertaking under the best of circumstances, let alone during a pandemic! Every member of the committee worked incredibly hard to bring *Ceræ* through a complex year, and to make the constitution into the best version of the document that it could be. Deputy Editors Victoria Shirley and Matthew Cleary have been invaluable members of the editorial team, and I am grateful to have worked alongside them this year. We are indebted to the exemplary work of our Book Reviews Editor, Minjie Su, and our Deputy Book Review Editor, Patrick Huang. Thanks go as well to outgoing editor Christina Cleary for her guidance and advice during the transition period a year ago. Finally, many thanks to our contributors, peer reviewers, and publishers: we could not, of course, produce this journal without them. I am grateful to them, and to the committee and editorial team of *Ceræ*, to supporting and promoting the scholarship of postgraduate and early career researchers. Volume 7 marks *Ceræ*'s first edition as an independent publication, and I look forward to the journal's future with eagerness and anticipation.

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