

FOREWORD FROM THE CHAIR OF THE SOCIETY FOR ITALIAN STUDIES

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As Chair of the Society for Italian Studies, a subject association whose mission is to further the academic study of Italy and the Italian language across all fields of study in the United Kingdom and Ireland, I am delighted to have the opportunity to introduce the inaugural volume of a new online postgraduate journal sponsored by the Society: *Notes in Italian Studies*. The Society is strongly committed to supporting postgraduate students working in all fields of Italian Studies: it sponsors an annual postgraduate colloquium; it offers bursaries for attendance at its biennial conference; it runs postgraduate prizes (in partnership with the British Italian Society) every year; and—crucially—postgraduates are full members of its executive committee, feeding into all the discussions and initiatives of the Society. This new journal represents one outcome of such discussions.

The Society already has its own journal, *Italian Studies*, which publishes four issues per year, including one issue per year on Italian Cultural Studies. The journal's former Senior Editors—Ruth Glynn, Catherine Keen, and Giuliana Pieri—recently published an issue (75.2) celebrating the journal's seventy-fifth year and dedicated to examining areas of research that we viewed as representative of the state of the art in 2020 of Italian Studies and key to its future development. I view as just as important to the future development of the discipline the energy and enthusiasm that lie behind *Notes in Italian Studies*. This new journal represents a model of intensive collaboration amongst the Society's postgraduate students, as well as of their ability to find a conceptual and thematic nexus—work and its representations in Italian culture—that speaks across periods and disciplinary boundaries. The volume brings together papers originally delivered online at the Society's 2020 Postgraduate Colloquium together with other contributions from postgraduates in our community. Written in an agile short-format form, peer reviewed and edited by the postgraduate community itself, the essays offer a series of pithy interrogations of the theme, from Dante to contemporary Italian migrant literature, embracing a range of objects of enquiry and critical discourses. Our postgraduate community has been deeply affected by the difficult circumstances of the last eighteenth months, and it is therefore an even greater pleasure to celebrate this achievement, to be able to read these contributions, and to appreciate the collective richness of what is offered.

I am immensely grateful to all those involved, whose initiative (and hard work) has brought the inaugural volume of the journal (the first of many, I hope) to completion.