



CHIEF EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

I am pleased to introduce the third issue of the *Birmingham Journal for Europe* which is entitled 'Europe: Brink of Collapse or Portrait of Progress?' The *BJfE* re-launched in 2013 and is published in collaboration with the Graduate Centre for Europe, an interdisciplinary postgraduate forum that facilitates collaborative research and the exchange of ideas about Europe. The journal offers researchers the opportunity to disseminate their research and enables the GCfE publications sub-committee the opportunity to gain invaluable editorial experience. In addition to managing the *BJfE* the publications team has expanded its remit to include the publication of a blog and a term time newsletter as of 2013.

This issue addresses the ideas of both 'Collapse' and 'Progress' in Europe which were the key conference themes in 2012 and 2013 respectively. The borders delimiting our political, cultural and historical understanding of Europe are subject to constant renegotiation. Our 2012 conference explored the concept of upheaval and how Europe's shifting fortunes have been, and remain, a function of both its own idiosyncrasies and of changes imposed upon it by its relationship with the outside world. Conversely, in 2013 our conference opted to focus on the more positive idea of European progress. In 2012 the EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with the Nobel Committee praising the EU's long historical role in promoting reconciliation and peace.

This volume invited postgraduate researchers to offer their own reflections on either European collapse or progress. Emmanuelle Herbert's paper addresses this issue head on with an examination of the EU's contribution to progress through case studies analysing instances where the EU has both successfully and unsuccessfully played a role in European reconciliation. Zainab Naqvi provides both an institutional and legal focus on this topic in considering the development of the European Parliament. Stoyan Panov examines European judicial space in his paper addressing the effect of the European arrest warrant on EU integration. Finally, Elizaveta Zhuk's paper looks at the impact racism and nationalism has had on one of the world's most popular sports, Football.

As the Chief Editor of the *BJfE* I would like to thank my editorial staff, the academic reviewers and particularly the authors whose tireless efforts have made this publication possible.

Gail E. Mobley