

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to this first issue 2013, with a brand new cover designed by Anton Fennema based on an image selected by one of our authors, Karwan Fatah-Black. As was the case in previous years, each issue of this new volume will highlight a different part of the image. Make sure to take a moment to check out the details in this lively early nineteenth century painting of the Surinamese plantation *Leeverpoel*.

It is with great pleasure that we present this special issue guest-edited by Matthew Fitzpatrick and Peter Monteath. “Globalising Germany: Exchange Networks in an Age of Nation-Empires” is a timely initiative to examine German attempts, particularly those of non-state actors, to exert global influence through trade, scholarship, exploration, agitation and colonisation. Focusing on the period from 1848 to 1918 from a wide variety of case studies, the authors in this issue all take Sebastian Conrad's point that the dynamics of nationalisation and nationalism in this period are as much a result of globalisation as its prerequisite. We are excited that they chose to work with *Itinerario* on this issue. “Globalising Germany” includes articles not only on German engagements in Australia, Africa, and Latin America, but also on German expansion in Europe itself. In this way, our guest editors have provided an inclusive overview and a meeting of area disciplines which is all too rarely realised. It does not happen often that an *Itinerario* issue carries articles on Poland and Ukraine as subjects of European expansion in the early twentieth century, and we are grateful for this reminder of the multiple and exciting ways in which the journal's mission to reflect on all forms of imperialism can be interpreted. We refer to the introduction by the guest editors for more details on how this collection of papers emerged, and on the guest editors' intentions with this special issue.

As always, our book review editor Laura Cruz has assembled a sizeable book review section on a wide variety of subjects for you to enjoy.

The Editors