Editorial

Welcome to *Diogenes*, the online journal edited by the postgraduate students at the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham. After the launch of Gate to the Eastern Mediterranean (GEM) last year, the need for a different platform for discussion of current research by postgraduate students in these fields has become even more apparent. The diversity of research interests in these three distinct, yet interconnected, fields of study encourages active discussions among the students at the Centre as well as with a wider audience. An online journal thus serves as a channel through which the postgraduate community could communicate its research ideas to such an audience. With *Diogenes*, the postgraduate community at the Centre now enjoys three different platforms that facilitate the exchange of ideas: GEM as the general platform, Annual Postgraduate Colloquium as the platform with the academic community and *Diogenes*.

This issue consists of articles of very different interests, yet they all address how human mind perceives, represents, approaches and is being influenced by elements of history. Zuzana Černáková examines the role played by prejudices and emotions during the Second Crusade. Elli Evangelidou looks at how two novels represent the Greek Civil War. Alexandros Siapkas provides a synopsis of the different academic approaches to the issue of foreign intervention in Greece during the Second World War. Yannis Stamos investigates how Epicureanism affected two modern Greek poets. Niki Touriki analyses how Anna Komnene described characters in her *Alexiad*. Finally, Gemma Norman provides a general overview of Ottoman Studies while reviewing *The Ottoman World*.

For this first issue, it would not have been possible to put together the collection of articles on various topics without the assistance and wide-ranging expertise of the specialist editors: Annika Asp-Talwar and Jeffrey Brubaker for Byzantine Studies, Evangelia Yfantidi for archaeology, Yannis Stamos for Modern Greek Studies. I would like to express gratitude to Mr. George Dardanos, owner of Gutenberg and Τυπωθήτω, John Mamais, the designer at Gutenberg and Τυπωθήτω, and Niki Touriki for their contributions to the aesthetical aspect of the journal. The work of Carlo Virgilio, the initial General Editor, who was unable to finish editing due to other commitments, is deeply appreciated. The unwavering support from Gemma Norman, the current president of GEM, and Annika Asp-Talwar, the founding president, has been immensely encouraging for all of us involved.
The editorial team is also grateful that the staff members at the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies showed much support for GEM in its first year and for the editing of this journal. We would like to dedicate this first issue to Professor Emeritus of Byzantine Studies Anthony Bryer, who was the founder and the first director of the Centre.

We are planning to include any future contributions in forms other than articles and reviews, presenting the diversity of postgraduate research activities in their diverse forms. Because this is a journal edited by the postgraduate students for the postgraduate students, it belongs to everyone who takes part in it. And I hope this is a gateway to the Eastern Mediterranean for you. Enjoy reading.

Wei-sheng Lin
General Editor