

Editorial

Change, Continuity, Profile

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NORDEUROPA *forum* starts into its second year of extensive structural change and reorientation. The establishment as »Journal for the Study of Culture« of Northern Europe and its substantial extension comprised also a thematic widening. NORDEUROPA *forum* now addresses culture as a broad frame of analysis in which culture is perceived both as process and result and becomes object of inventive analyses that are of high quality. The new shape stands for the manifestation of a pointedly inter- and transdisciplinary profile of the journal. The thematic widening also implies a conceptual turn: NORDEUROPA *forum* approaches all perspectives and disciplines which – in a broad geographical perspective – deal with Northern Europe. In this respect, the reorientation aims at a lively and controversial dialogue on Northern Europe, to which researchers of all academic disciplines, methodological orientations, and topics within cultural studies are dearly invited.

The consistently established change is based on explicit continuity. NORDEUROPA *forum* has always pursued a strict quality management with regard to contributions through an anonymised and internationalised peer review process. For us, this is essential in times of academic Excellence competition. At the same time, there is another kind of continuity which is near and dear to us: NORDEUROPA *forum* has been and will be freely available to all readers and authors.

It is a special blend of broad analytical perspectives, a wide definition of the concept of Northern Europe, coupled with high requirements concerning quality and reliable open access that accounts for the unique profile of NORDEUROPA *forum*. Or, as co-editor Jan Hecker-Stampehl put it during a meeting of the editorial staff in October 2014: »NORDEUROPA *forum* is the coolest player among scholarly journals related to Northern Europe because it is #interdisciplinary and #openaccess.«

Such an open and broadly positioned scholarly journal aims at becoming the first, quasi-natural choice for everyone interested in Northern Europe, which is truly ambitious in times of modern information society with its manifold analogous and digital sources of information. In order to live up to this intention and to advance our visibility, we recently launched the NORDEUROPA *forum* blog which will complement our online presence on

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Facebook and Twitter. The blog is to be a place for debates as well as for profound and scholarly sound analyses of current debates (<http://nofoblog.hypotheses.org/>). While its topical broadness conforms with the standards of the journal, the blog shall be even more up to date, more discursive, and, on top of this, more comprehensively embedded into the network of manifold sources of information and forms of display.

The process of reorientation also involved changes in the personnel structure of NORDEUROPA *forum*. The editorial board – comprising both editors and staffers – has been extended, while the number of the editors in chief has diminished by one. In October 2014, Ebbe Volquardsen resigned as editor in chief in order to be able to finish his doctoral thesis with full attention. He will, nonetheless, continue as a member of the editorial staff. Sincere thanks are given to him on behalf of the editors and the members of the editorial staff!

Already in spring 2014, Karina Henschel quit her position as managing editor; she too wants to concentrate on her master degree. Editors and members of the editorial staff hereby thank her for her excellent work! Ina Juckel has since then taken over as managing editor – and we warmly welcome her in our team at NORDEUROPA *forum*.

The relaunch of our website has been exquisitely outlined and realised by Malte Detlefsen. Many thanks to him from all editors and members of the editorial staff, notably because, after finishing his official work, Malte Detlefsen still supports us as honorary advisor by controlling and backing the web appearance of NORDEUROPA *forum*.

Last but not least, our gratitude goes also to all authors of the journal and our recently launched blog. Our thanks are tied to the hope that many authors will couple their academic interests in Northern Europe with a commitment to NORDEUROPA *forum*, so that we can further on offer an inspiring reading to all our readers.