



Editorial

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The *International Journal for History, Culture and Modernity (HCM)* was launched on June 5, 2013 during a festive event in which people involved in founding the journal as well as leading cultural historians commented on the journal and its mission. The launch highlighted *HCM's* commitment to open-access publishing, a focus on the cultural history of modernity and a global scope. As a new peer-reviewed open access journal offering a forum for interdisciplinary scholarship in the domain of the humanities, the journal aims to stimulate research and a lively academic exchange in the field of the cultural history of modernity worldwide.

HCM is published by Amsterdam University Press. The journal envisages three kinds of articles, each of which is represented by the contributions to this first issue. Relatively brief forum articles offer statements concerning history, culture and modernity that invite further reflection; they are meant to stimulate discussion but may at the same time be provocative or even disturbing. Research articles may address any topic in the cultural history of modernity, while review articles gauge the value of recent studies in the field. This issue is illustrative of what *HCM* aims to be. Apart from the opening forum article, it includes two research articles and one review article.

The opening article of *HCM's* first issue can be read as an editorial statement. It has been written by the four Utrecht-based editors. Though we, as authors, are of course responsible for its content and wording, the general line of argument illustrates the full editorial board's mission statement. Modernity, we argue, carries with it a notion of permanent criticism, of intellectual debate and of work in progress. We suggest that modernity is made and experienced by trial and error, and that there is nothing noncommittal about it. As modernity is the world we have to cope with, it enjoins us to confront real dilemmas and make difficult choices. The article is an

open call for a reflexive conversation on what is both a contested concept and a practical effort.

On behalf of the editorial board,

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