

## Editorial

Jodie Matthews

University of Huddersfield, Academy for British and Irish Studies

The University of Huddersfield's [Academy for British and Irish Studies](#) was established in 2009, and this new journal develops out of its varied and interdisciplinary work. Colleagues from across the University with an interest in the politics, histories, and representations of Britain and Ireland have come together these six years (and prior to the formal establishment of our Academy) to share research, bring high-profile speakers to campus, and foster links with scholars across the globe. Crucially, we have always looked, and continue to look, outwards: beyond the theoretical space of the campus to work with thinkers and organisers outside academia, and beyond the idea of British and Irish Studies as something pertaining only to this small archipelago in the north Atlantic. Inward and outward migration, imperialism, international comparisons, and global socio-political reverberations are integral to Huddersfield's conception of British and Irish Studies. If there are three core themes of scholarship around which research produced by members of the Academy revolves, they are 'identity', 'culture', and 'relevance'. This manifests as original work on (to name but some areas) conflict, connection, and commemoration; empire, education, and ethnicity; religion, racism, and revolution.

*Identity Papers* shares this core. We anticipate publishing work about histories, politics, culture(s), literatures, identities, minoritization, extremism, racism, communities, citizenship, nationalities, regions, the post/colonial, diaspora, territories, and more. Rather than delimit what we believe British and Irish Studies to be and invite submissions accordingly, we hope that the work published in *Identity Papers* might stand as a statement for the heterogeneous research that constitutes and critiques this field.

*Identity Papers* seeks a wide and cross-disciplinary audience from inside and outside the university sector, and draws on robust research to communicate ideas connected with identities in Britain and Ireland, today and in the past, in a readable way. Centrally, it aims for 'accessibility with rigour'. Authors are invited to point to lengthier, specialist articles and books, but write here concisely with a diverse readership in mind. As scholars, readers, and thinkers, we all, surely, hope to draw on the most relevant work from any discipline that informs our own specialism. *Identity Papers* acknowledges that wish by prioritising the stimulating and comprehensible. Specialism is here valued for the light that it can throw on other areas of work, producing an intelligent 'worldliness', to use Edward Said's early-1990s notion of that term: 'the opposite of separatism, and also the reverse of exclusivism', an approach that connects historical and cultural specificities and appreciates 'the large, many-windowed house of human culture' (Said, *Reflections on exile*, 2001: 382).

In format somewhere between an academic journal, an intelligent magazine,

and a contributor blog, *Identity Papers* brings together the work of academics and non-academics whose research focuses on or responds to any aspect of contemporary and historical British and Irish Studies. It showcases learned comment, considered opinion, and reflective reviews, and its future content is now in the hands of its enthusiastic contributors and learned international editorial board.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5920/idp.2015.111>

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