

Editor's Note

We are pleased to inaugurate Portuguese Literary & Cultural Studies (PLCS) as a hybrid print and online, open-access journal with a thematic issue dedicated to questioning ideas of progress and change.

Bruno Carvalho, the guest editor of "PLCS 29: The Eighteenth Century," was invited by João Cezar de Castro Rocha to help us initiate this exciting phase of the journal's history. This special issue promises fresh critical insights into conceptions of transition, perceptions of new beginnings, practices of circulation and appropriation, definitions of the limits and forms of knowledge and the significance of enduring legacies. This provocatively capacious theme seems appropriate for the launch of PLCS into the digital age. It links the contemporary moment to familiar eighteenth-century ideals of accessibility, dissemination and relevance. As it moves forward, the journal will continue to adhere to its founding mission—echoed throughout Carvalho's rigorous and authoritative introduction and the stimulating articles published in PLCS 29—to consider peripheries, explore resistances and investigate ambiguities from a range of theoretical and methodological approaches. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with Bruno Carvalho on this thematic issue, which aims for interdisciplinary dialogue and offers a penetrating assessment of current scholarly thinking in eighteenth-century Luso-Brazilian literary and cultural studies. This first hybrid print and digital issue points to a brilliant future.

The journal's future endeavors will be guided by a new editorial board. It is an honor to welcome Ana Paula Ferreira, Cristiana Bastos and Fernando Arenas to PLCS. The editorial board helps to identify relevant themes for journal issues and to invite scholars to serve as guest editors. These thematic issues are key to the journal's identity in the field, though we continue to encourage submissions for our non-thematic sections.

I would now like to recognize João Cezar de Castro Rocha's achievement as our former editor in chief (2011–2015). I am grateful for his sustained leadership, inspiring dedication and many valuable contributions to the journal. Despite working with significant pressures and constraints, he successfully published four excellent issues in two years. We are indebted to him for his tenure at the helm. We

are also most grateful for the service and generosity of Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht, José Luís Jobim and Maria Alzira Seixo as outgoing editorial board members.

Finally, I would like to thank the Digital Services team at the Claire T. Carney Library at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth for embarking on this institutional partnership and making this transition to an online, open-access format possible. I would also like to thank Princeton graduate students Marina Bedran and Charlie Hankin and UMass Dartmouth graduate student Americo Motta for their assistance with the copy-editing and formatting of PLCS 29. I greatly appreciate the comments and suggestions made by the journal's editors to the articles in the thematic and non-thematic sections.

As we begin this new phase, we remain dedicated to honoring the journal's legacy and expanding the range of themes and topics featured in upcoming issues. For instance, our next issue, PLCS 30, will be dedicated to the visual, material and sonic cultures of Lusophone Africa. We hope to hear from our readers with suggestions for future issues, and we encourage both emerging and established scholars to contribute their work. We look forward to many more fruitful collaborations and invigorating conversations with our community of readers and contributors.

mario pereira

Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth