

Preface

This year marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Department of History at the Faculty of Humanities in Pula. Journals are considered a rite of passage of sorts for a scholarly institution. This first issue of *History in Flux* is, in our opinion, an appropriate manner of marking the anniversary, a sign of the maturity of the Department, and a guiding light for the future.

History in Flux has been gestating for several years. The initial idea was to establish a platform for the publication of proceedings from our biennial conference *Past, Present, Future*, hosted at the Faculty of Humanities since 2015. A selection of papers from the first conference, titled *Identity in Flux*, was published in the Faculty's journal *Tabula* (14, 2016). In the meantime, we decided to establish a new journal as a more appropriate channel for regular communication with our historian colleagues. It is clear that its title originates in the theme of the first conference and underlines the changing perceptions, presentations and interpretations of history. The papers presented in this volume stem from the second conference held in May 2017 and titled *Victory or Defeat? Societies between Warfare and Post-War Turmoil*. The original scope was, however, refined and further broadened to position the Journal at an intersection between historiographies and cultures.

In order to be relevant to society and the world today, contemporary historiography needs to connect scholars across boundaries, be they ethnic, national, social or even generational. *History in Flux* shall tackle topics that are of universal relevance, such as war, peace, identity, religion, society and so on. Furthermore, our ambition is to connect different national historiographies of Europe and beyond, bringing together historians from different traditions and points of view. For that reason, we opted for English, the modern *lingua franca*, as the working language of the journal.

History in Flux will be published once a year. It will have thematic volumes but also welcomes papers dealing with topics seldom published for an international audience. By following this idea, the journal will hopefully become a meeting point of global and local perspectives. This is especially important for those historiographies with a tradition of publishing the majority of research in national languages only. While one of our first ambitions was to foster dialogue between Croatian and international scholars, our scope encompasses all of European history, from antiquity to contemporary times. We hope that both authors and readers will recognize this effort, and that this journal will successfully grow and promote the Department of History in Pula.