

Foreword

The UACES Student Forum Committee began to think about launching its own journal just over a year ago. Since then, we have managed to secure funding from UACES and the Committee has put in a great deal of effort ensuring that this issue, the first, of the Journal for Contemporary European Research (JCER) has come into being.

The Student Forum Committee launched this journal in order to give research students and young academics as well as more established scholars a forum to publish their work. Today the political, legal and economic debates on European issues are more far-reaching than ever before. Be it the ratification of the Constitution, the economic challenges from the US and Asia, the incorporation of new member states in the East, the challenges and opportunities of increasing immigration, the social problems caused by mass unemployment and the impact of global security issues, Europe provides one of the most far-reaching and relevant areas for research. The JCER aims to become a well-recognised forum for these debates and contribute to the wider exchange of ideas on Europe.

Finally, I would like to thank everybody who has been involved with the Journal so far: Sara Binzer Hobolt, who was the driving force behind the journal in the early stages; Sue Davis and Luke Foster from the UACES Office who were able to find solutions to any problems put to them; the UACES Officers who had enough faith in the JCER to grant us the necessary funding; the UACES Student Forum Committee members who never turn down a request for support, the two editors, Stijn Billiet and Samantha Currie who must be the most efficient and pleasant co-workers there are; Kenneth Armstrong and Nieves Pérez-Solórzano Borragán who have supplied us with excellent advice as well as last minute emergency help and of course, all contributors and reviewers who made all this possible.

Lars Hoffmann, Editor-in-Chief