

Editorial

Philadelphia 2008 was my first scMOI conference. I was a little nervous when I walked into the room on the first day, as I was pretty sure I wouldn't know anyone, apart from David Boje, whom I'd met the previous year in Southampton. But I needn't have worried. I soon felt very much at home, both benefiting from and contributing to some really useful discussions, in areas that really mattered to the people who were presenting them so passionately and with real concern for the participants in their research. After a while, I realised I was enjoying myself, a rare feeling at conferences for me these days, where so many of the discussions lack that vitality, that engagement. Later on, as we started exploring the bars and restaurants of Philadelphia, I began to feel as if I were among friends, as people seemed genuinely interested in what others were doing and were keen to build relationships. The highpoint of the event for me came when Ben White recited his 'Coyote and Brother Crow' poem; for me that was an electrifying moment that made me realise I really did want to come back in 2009. So, I was really excited when David asked me to put together this special issue of Tamara based on the initial theme of scMOI 2008, Excess, developed in more depth around Nietzsche's "excess of history", a preoccupation with historical sensemaking that overwhelms our noticing of the present.

This special issue extended an invitation to explore the theme of an excess of history in our everyday lives. Nietzsche argues that instead of being manacled by the past, that is, by an excess of history, we should learn

instead how to better employ history for the purpose of life. Thus, a critical history should not only re-story the past, but also imagine the present and the future. While we may revere an antiquarian past that should not suffocate prospective, forward-looking thinking that instead focuses on what is emergent, what is novel, what may be life-affirming for the future. In ossifying the past, antenarratives, multiple voices, alternative directions and living stories (& counter-stories) of resistance are buried in sanitised corporate accounts designed for uncritical mass consumption. In the papers in this issue, the authors really took up Nietzsche's challenge in beginning to uncover hidden stories and other voices, in a diversity of ways that reflects the richness of perspectives aired at scMOI. Taken together, the papers suggest how we can move forward from abusive histories into a re-storied future, a theme that would be well worth further development by other researchers in the future. Finally, Ben White allowed us to include his poem, which is presented here alongside a commentary from Joe Gladstone, allowing us to capture not only the intellectual enrichment of scMOI 2008, but also a little of the energy too, that for me was such an important part of 2008. I look forward to many more years!

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