

## Editorial note

This general issue of *From the European South* introduces for the first time a section called “Special focus” because it contains a tightly woven series of contributions around specific themes which, in this case, concentrates on ‘mobility’, ‘immobility’, ‘borders’ and ‘storytelling’. The section is guest-edited and introduced by Claudia Gualtieri (University of Milan) and is the result of two collaborative research projects including experiences of political activism across Europe.

*FES 5* also features two articles dealing, respectively, with the question of the colonial/postcolonial archive – a welcome addition to the reflections published in *FES 1* (Archives of the future) – and with the strategic role of variations of the *Bildungsroman* genre in contemporary Nigerian feminist/womanist novels.

The concluding Review section sheds light on four timely publications that dialogue closely with the interests of our journal and with the Special focus of this issue. It offers a view from the Global South on the question of borders and the politics of translation (Cazzato on Frassinelli); it investigates colonialism in relation to the institution of the archive in the Mediterranean and in Italy, where interrogating archival records means to interrogate contemporary Europe (Bernardi on Chambers-Cariello), and also to make visible the ways in which the arts have contributed in the past to creating enduring images of otherness in our culture (Gravano on Tomasella). Finally, a poignant analysis of the “refugee crisis” in Europe sheds light on how European institutions have gradually reinforced racialization politics, and shows how European theories and studies are still failing to reference the colonial quality of (European) modernity (Derobertis on Mellino).

A.O.