

## **Ten years old – and ready to try new things**

Martin Barker

Sue Turnbull

Joint Editors

*Participations* is now officially ten years old. From small beginnings in 2003, the Journal has grown and expanded to become a significant feature in the landscape of academic publishing devoted to audience and reception studies. Although obviously – and rightly – many other Journals publish work in this field from time to time, *Participations* remains the only Journal specifically focused on this domain. Yet, although all of us who have played a part in its birth and growth are proud of what *Participations* has achieved, there is a considerable amount we still want to do. If we are honest, we did not know when we began how things would develop – and some features of recent issues (the blossoming of Special Sections is a particular case) were not envisaged at all.

Many people still do not know of the Journal's existence. Although the number of people visiting and using the Journal is high (according to our Google Analytics), it is not growing as much as we think is feasible. There are areas of audience and reception work that we have simply not tapped into. Some people who work in this domain – for reasons we can only guess – have chosen not to publish with us. These are among the reasons why after a period of internal discussion, the Editorial Board has decided to try to recast the Journal in specific ways as we endeavour to raise *Participations'* profile while extending its remit in new and exciting ways.

We will remain an online Journal, free-to-use. We will retain our principles of open refereeing, in the teeth of other Journals rejecting (what we see as) the critical advantages of this practice in terms of the evident collegiality it inspires. We will, at least for now, retain the principle of not stockpiling articles (as print journals are in effect forced to do), but will continue to publish as soon as possible after submissions have completed their review process – even though that means issues may be of greatly varying sizes.

Right now we are beginning a process of recruiting a new Editorial Board, and recasting our ways of working. Our aim is to build a core Editorial Board of people who work and have experience in different fields of reception and audience studies: people who are grounded in different traditions and approaches, and who will take on the challenge of putting together a Special Issue every few years, drawing together new work in their particular domain. The ambition is to have the Journal function as a locus where work of very different kinds in the broad field of audience and reception studies can easily be accessed and compared, so that readers can measure their own ideas and problems against traditions outside their normal parameters.

We have our sights on a good number of people. They will shortly know who they are. Some, no doubt, will say no to the idea. Some, we hope, will sign up to this as a valuable contribution to the still-challenging world of audience and reception research. Watch this space.