Editorial

Srikant Sarangi

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2022 has quietly arrived when graphic memories of 2021 are destined to linger. In terms of journal activities, over the past year it has been 'business as usual' with regard to the volume of submissions – if anything, there seems to be a slight upward trend, given the 'publish or perish' mandate that defines many careers. It has to be said that the peer review process is posing unprecedented challenges during the pandemic years as many colleagues are understandably preoccupied with digital working from their home offices while managing personal upheavals in their family spheres.

Although not related to COVID-19, it is with much sadness I report the untimely deaths last year of two long-standing board members – Jan Blommaert and Jack Bilmes. In their own fields they have been dominant forces and their work will no doubt continue to influence many scholars in future years. Their professional (and personal) legacies will stay with us.

Beginning 2022, I announce a reconfigured board, partly occasioned by the recent deaths but also because of retirements and other commitments of several colleagues. In acknowledging their unfailing cooperation over the years I bid farewell to Donal Carbaugh, Cecilia Ford, Susan Herring, Yoshihiko Ikegami, Marco Jacquemet, Douglas Maynard, Mike Stubbs, Jaan Valsiner, Jef Verschueren and Yueguo Gu. Their generous association with TEXT & TALK must be on record.

I am delighted that several new colleagues, at very short notice, have accepted my invite to join the advisory board. They include Jannis Androutsopoulos, Marina Bondi, Ruth Breeze, François Cooren, Helen Kelly-Holmes, John A. Bateman, Sigrid Norris, Shi-xu, Maite Taboada, Caroline Tagg, Crispin Thurlow and Karen Tracy. I welcome them on board and look forward to their active involvement in the peer review process, while anticipating a few more additions during this year as a way of aligning the required expertise with the shifting trend in manuscript submissions to TEXT & TALK.

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