

## Editorial

Neil Badmington

Two years ago I noted in my annual *Barthes Studies* editorial how difficult it was to plan ahead at the height of a global pandemic. COVID-19 has not since disappeared, evidently, but I had high hopes that the recent move back towards ‘normal life’ would make this year’s volume of the journal more straightforward to produce.

I should, it seems, have remained on the side of what *S/Z* calls ‘the code of universal pessimism’. The present volume was meant to be a full-length special issue, guest-edited and introduced by Marine Furet, on the intertextual connections between Roland Barthes and Angela Carter. The plans were exciting and the Call for Papers resulted in a number of definite commitments. One of those confirmed contributors withdrew from the project at the very last minute, however, and the guest-editor’s contextualizing introduction has, without explanation, failed to materialize. The wonderful essays by Austin Svedjan and Friederike Danebrook that survive from the original plan are published here with special thanks from me to the authors for honouring their commitments.

On a different note, this year’s volume is Jennifer Rushworth’s first as Reviews Editor, and I am delighted to welcome her formally to the role. Jennifer’s contact details at University College London, for review copies and expressions of interest in reviewing, can be found in the ‘About’ section of the journal’s website.

Next year, for its ninth volume – if I dare risk a plan that would permit hope to triumph over experience – *Barthes Studies* will return to a general, un-themed format.

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