

Preface

Since its inception, *Alternation* has aimed to foster interdisciplinary studies. Focused on Southern African literature and languages, many articles have dealt with this complex either explicitly or perspectively. On the one hand, *Alternation's* published research gives recognition to the contributions that disciplinary perspectives have made and continue to make to our country's scholarly challenges. It attempts to bring marginalised dialogues and discourses to the centre of debate and scholarly exchange as well as open up previously neglected or suppressed spaces for research, problematisation and scholarly dialogue. On the other hand, its interdisciplinary focus also poses the challenge to think differently vis-à-vis thought prescribed by entrenched positions, discourses and ideologies. It is in the context of these assumptions that the journal welcomes and encourages interdisciplinary contributions, but also the articulations of relevant views within the broader ambit of scholarly research in the Humanities. Spanning locales from the local to the global, one of the challenges the cultivation of a new and energetic Humanities constructively contributing towards 'development' is to think interdisciplinarily or beyond inherited discursive constraints.

This issue is the result of research by the recently formed School of Social Sciences and Development Studies at the University of Durban-Westville. It presents its contribution towards the on-going debate.

Johannes A. Smit
Editor