

EDITORIAL

This special issue of *Literary Cultures* explores the existence of peripheral voices in society by engaging with literary texts from multiple locations and periods. The aim of this special issue is to speak about the unspoken, particularly focusing on prevalent issues such as race, gender, sexuality and mental health.

The special issue is the result of a collaborative process which began with questions of identity in relation to these themes and consideration of how this is conveyed in literature. Collectively, we considered how peripheral identities are often marginalised amongst the generalised expectations and stereotypes and recognised that this remains a struggle in everyday contemporary society. Discussion revealed that we were, in fact, focusing upon the negativity that is conveyed through prejudice rather than asking ourselves: what can we do to shed light on those who face it? So, with that in mind, 'Peripheral Voices' became our basis for investigation, and the title of our special issue.

Articles and book reviews convey subjects that are often perceived as 'taboo'. We hope that collectively, we have created a special issue that is thought-provoking, that contributes to the project of postcolonial studies, gender studies, sexuality studies, and global mental health studies, that is slowly enabling voices to be heard and that provides evidence that the distance between central and peripheral voices is diminishing.