

## Foreword

Professor Verity Brown, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Impact and Innovation

2020 was an extraordinary year. No collage of newspaper clippings could attest to anything else. Buried in and amongst the various challenges we faced as a global community, however, were moments that served to emphasize the indispensable role played by researchers to advance our innovation, to address our inequalities, and to improve our quality of life. As Carl Sindermann wrote in the introduction to his classic *Winning the Game Scientists Play*, “Do research that matters” – that addresses large, basic questions rather than narrow, mundane ones, that uses multiple approaches with current technology, and that is quantitatively impeccable’.

With that in mind it is nothing less than heartening to absorb *Crossing Conceptual Boundaries XI*, containing articles from East London doctoral and early-stage researchers writing – and producing – from the fields of Fine Art, Social Sciences, Education and Psychology.

Authors: I congratulate you on your publication. Seeing one’s name in print in a book is an affirming experience individually, and for us as members of a research environment and culture your articles celebrate the university as a safe space to form and test ideas. Within it, a publication such as this provides a site to translate ideas into words and lend them permanence.

Readers: I am pleased you have picked up – if digitally – this issue with sufficient interest to open it. The articles deal with a range of topics, freely crossing cultural boundaries in a manner fitting the title of the collection. We hope that you will not be disappointed. Indeed, we hope that you will be actively inspired to turn to your keyboards in the coming months and share with future readers the fruits of your own conceptual boundary crossings – a call for submissions for *Crossing Conceptual Boundaries XII* is provided in the back pages.

The acts of research, and of subsequently writing about it, require rigour and tenacity. Gaining skill and confidence in the craft of scholarly writing requires graft, practice and, above all, courage when times are hard. Let us proceed, courageously.