

## EDITORIAL

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With the rise of Open Access (OA) publishing, it has become also a highly debated issue. In this changing landscape of academic publishing, NJMR faces both new opportunities and challenges. NJMR has been committed to OA since the very beginning. Believing in the value of disseminating and sharing knowledge with the broadest possible reach and free of charge led the founders of the journal to opt for a completely OA publishing format.

While OA is generally accepted in the natural sciences as the way forward and favoured mode of publishing among funders, it can still be hard to convince academic authors in the social and human sciences that OA is indeed compatible with peer review, copyright, academic freedom and quality assessment. In fact, according to a wide survey of 14,700 authors on their views of OA by Taylor & Francis publishing company, wider circulation, greater visibility and larger readership were seen as the main benefits of OA publishing (see <http://www.tandfonline.com/page/openaccess/opensurvey>). Regardless of clear benefits to authors, OA publishing is commonly perceived negatively or at least with suspicion. Tellingly, the latest European Sociological Association conference in Turin held a special workshop dedicated to OA entitled “Open Access: Dilemmas and Challenges”. The negative associations of OA stem from the activities of various obscure, low-quality journals that promise fast publication times in exchange for money. These journals, sometimes called “predator journals”, have damaged the reputation of OA publishing, although OA publishing is nowadays an option offered by many “reputable” journals – in exchange for money. However, NJMR and many of the OA journals published by Versita De Gruyter are completely free of charge for the author, while securing double-blind peer-review system for all authors.

Attending the 8th Munin conference “Entering the Next Stage” (25–26th of November 2014, Tromsø) on academic publishing made it clear that OA is no longer controversial at a political and administrative level and that it will in some way or other affect the future working day also for researchers in the human and social sciences.

In the current transition period where in some countries funding from the national research councils is being relocated from the university library e-journal subscription costs to “publishing expenses” (“Author pays” – which in practice means that the individual institutions should have funds available for employees to publish), it is particularly important to avoid “double dipping” (meaning that the journal receives funding from both subscriptions and from “Author pays”). We sincerely hope that also in the future, Nordic Research Councils will continue to see the importance of journals such as NJMR which are truly OA and do not receive funding from author pays or from subscriptions.

The year 2014 will bring two important changes to NJMR. The journal will adopt an electronic submission system later in the year, which will make the production process more secure and efficient. The other significant change regards the journal’s editorship, which officially changes with this issue. Hakan G. Sicakkan who was one of the founding editors of the journal and has been working as the editor-in-chief since 2011 first with Tuomas Martikainen and then with Lena Näre has stepped down from the position and given space to Synnøve Bendixsen from the University of Bergen and Uni Rökkansenteret. Hakan G. Sicakkan has been working hard in the running of the journal and in developing and keeping the journal’s international standards high. The editors-in-chief, the NJMR editorial

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board and the NMR Board members are highly appreciative of Hakan G. Sicakkan's continued commitment towards the journal.

Synnøve Bendixsen has already since autumn 2013 contributed with editorial work for all the upcoming NJMR volumes planned for publication in 2014. Synnøve is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Bergen, Department of Social Anthropology. She joined the Department in 2014 after having been a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Uni Rokkansenteret, and a Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), University

of Oxford. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from Humboldt University (Berlin) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) (double diploma). Synnøve's research interests include politics of exclusion and processes of marginalisation, local configurations and expressions of religiosity, Muslim youth in European societies, political mobilisation of irregular migrants, border processes and subjective experiences of non-citizen subjects. The current editorial team and the NMR Board welcome Synnøve to this new challenge and look forward to the future collaboration.