



## *Centaurus*: Continuing as an Open Access Journal

This is the 64th issue of *Centaurus*, and the first with a new subtitle: *Journal of the European Society for the History of Science*. With this issue, the official journal of the ESHS continues in Open Access (OA) form. It has found a new publishing home at Brepols, an international academic publisher with a distinguished record in history of science. The transition to OA is a pioneering move on behalf of the ESHS and Brepols. Its aim is to make *Centaurus* accessible to the worldwide history of science community, at no cost to its authors or readers. The publication of a high-quality journal does not come for free, though. Brepols and the ESHS intend to fund the journal via the “Subscribe to Open” model, which relies on library subscriptions to cover publication costs.<sup>1</sup> The long-term viability of *Centaurus* as an OA journal will thus depend on the willingness of its authors and readers to reach out to their libraries and institutions and convince them to support it.<sup>2</sup>

Under its partnership with Brepols, the ESHS will have full and exclusive control over the scholarly profile and content of its official journal, and thus be able to oversee and steer its development. For now, *Centaurus* will continue with the same editorial policies as they were established by its editor-in-chief in 2018.<sup>3</sup> The distinguished editorial board will remain in place; the journal will continue to welcome contributions across a broad chronological and thematic spectrum of the history of science, medicine, and technology, from well-established and early career scholars alike; it will retain the same format and structure, including research papers, historiographical

- 1 Subscribe to Open (S2O) is an innovative model that uses the classical subscription model to convert gated journals to Open Access. See, for example, Crow, Gallagher, & Naim (2020). Details about how this model works for *Centaurus* can be found at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/aclUDiX1DbS17/#subscribe-to-open>
- 2 Information about the subscription procedure and the benefits for subscribing libraries can be found at <https://spark.adobe.com/page/aclUDiX1DbS17/>
- 3 Cf. the editorial by Vermeir (2021), announcing the change of publisher, and the ESHS contribution Vermeir (2020), sketching the evolution in *Centaurus*' editorial policies from 1950 till 2018.

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essays, book reviews, and special thematic issues; it will abide by the same demanding scholarly standards and foster academic excellence by securing fair, prompt, and thorough refereeing; it will promote pluralism by encouraging a diversity of historiographical approaches; and, finally, it will renew its commitment to mentoring and supporting younger scholars. We thereby hope that the official journal of the ESHS will continue to attract first-rate research in the history of science, technology, and medicine, and in the process strengthen its position as one of the premier and widely respected journals in the field.

The first issue, a Spotlight Issue guest edited by Erica Charters, studies how historical epidemics have ended. This issue is published exactly at the moment when claims of the end of the COVID pandemic abound. It is often unclear, however, what such an “end” would mean, who can call such an end, and how this end would be determined. This spotlight issue examines these questions through multi-disciplinary case studies, comparing different methodologies and analyzing previous epidemics within their social and cultural contexts.

In closing this brief editorial, we would like to thank the deputy editor, the assistant editors, the book review editors, the communications editor, the members of the editorial board, and the copy-editor of *Centaurus* for renewing their commitment to serve the journal and enable its further flourishing. Last but not least, we would like to thank our colleagues at Brepols for their collaborative spirit, their deep commitment to meeting the needs of the academic community, and their enthusiasm for entering into a joint publishing venture with the ESHS.

## References

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