

## **Introduction**

by the Board of Editors

The journal *transcience* is an open access online-journal committed to “trans” in science. The term “trans” is hereby understood in a number of ways representing the mission of the journal. Firstly, the traditional boundaries between the academic disciplines are to be transgressed on purpose and in a meaningful way. Secondly, borders between countries, cultures and groups are regarded as something to transcend rather than something to respect. Thirdly, the ephemeral and transient nature of science is to be acknowledged against totalitarian and absolutist claims.

The three aspects of the journal’s mission are reflected in an institutional structure, to which the journal is intimately connected, the Global Studies Programme (GSP) ([www.global-studies.de](http://www.global-studies.de)), conducted jointly by the Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), FLACSO Argentina, Jawaharlal Nehru University (Delhi), the University of Cape Town and the University of Freiburg. Numerous other institutions are associated with the programme, which is devoted to the intercultural, intercontinental and interdisciplinary study of globalization. In the GSP, graduate students and teachers learn to see the world through perspectives that are not only multicultural, but also varied in terms of disciplinary and theoretical traditions. Globalization is a prime object for the multi-faceted approach favored by the journal as it defies the monolithic, universalist and totalitarian approach that has been dominant in the sciences for a while. However, the journal’s goal consists in expanding the institutional structure beyond the object of globalization and beyond the participating institutions and individuals.

The journal’s mission should be reflected in the articles submitted for peer review and publication. Papers should be scientific: seeking knowledge, open to criticism, relying on argument and referring to reality. They should also reflect the commitment to “trans” in the three meanings introduced in the first paragraph with an emphasis on originality.

The first issue, published in May 2010, is meant to exemplify the journal’s mission, if only in a random way, due to the open call for papers. The articles collected in the issue have not been solicited or edited to fit a certain pre-established notion of *transcience*. Neither do they reflect the editors’ opinions. They just happened to appear in the

open forum and were considered qualitatively good enough by the reviewers. Still, they reflect the journal's mission in their focus on a multicultural, multcentric and non-universalist world. Incidentally, the authors are from all world-regions and on different stages of their life-courses. These are features that hopefully will also characterize the second issue, projected to be online in September 2010.