

## A Note from the Interim Editor

**I**N MID-JANUARY 1991, DAVID WILLIS LEFT HIS position as editor of the *Quarterly* after fourteen years of stewardship. Soon thereafter, Scott Parris, who had served for two years as his talented associate editor, left as well.

This is, therefore, a moment of transition for the *Quarterly*. Yet, at its core the journal will remain unchanged, committed to the publication of thoughtful and intellectually rigorous analyses of the broad questions bearing on health and society. Articles on complex ethical issues will be joined by empirical analyses of health policy. Historical papers will share the pages of the *Quarterly* with epidemiological studies. No single discipline, paradigm, or philosophical approach can possibly capture the range of topics with which the *Quarterly* is concerned. And so it remains open to all, catholic, and opposed to orthodoxies that would impose limits on the methods of inquiry and styles of exposition of scholars concerned with the study of health and society. This is the important intellectual and editorial legacy of David Willis.

That much said, I would like to take this opportunity to announce two changes that I hope will strengthen and enliven the *Quarterly*'s pages. First, we will publish responses from readers to articles that have appeared on our pages. Such letters may be up to fifteen-hundred words in length and should focus on broad, substantive matters. To preserve an element of timeliness, we must restrict such responses to articles that have appeared within the prior three months. Second, we will begin to publish a limited number of book-review essays. Invited as well as unsolicited, these essays of between three- and four-thousand words will provide authors with an opportunity to use the occasion of the publication of a book or books to raise broad questions of a substantive, disciplinary, or methodological kind.

I look forward to working with you as authors, reviewers, and readers.

*Ronald Bayer*  
*Interim Editor*