One of the British Academy’s primary concerns is to communicate the value and significance of work done by scholars in the humanities and social sciences. This latest issue of the *British Academy Review* is an important contribution, highlighting a range of research undertaken under the auspices of the Academy. The humanities and social sciences have much to contribute to the life of the nation. This edition of the *Review* seeks to share with readers something of the variety and interest of recent work.

In it you can read about historical and contemporary issues, from east and west, from software to music, from philosophy to psychology, from Nazi Germany to recent UK defence decision-making. You can also read about several policy issues of concern to scholars and the Academy, including copyright and the decline in the study of modern foreign languages.

I hope you will find the articles in the *Review* interesting and thought-provoking. I am grateful to the authors and to Elizabeth Ollard, its editor.

Onora O’Neill

*President*