The aim of the 2008 Rhizomes IV Conference held at the University of Queensland was to provide an opportunity for scholars working within the Humanities and Social Sciences to engage in an interdisciplinary dialogue on the theme of Power, Violence and Language. It sought to encourage the elaboration of varied perspectives on one or more of these themes from a range of disciplines in order to offer an opportunity for in-depth collective discussion of issues, questions and outlooks.

Such was the aim of the conference and in its execution it must be said that expectations were not left wanting. The range of disciplines which were presented was both extensive and fascinating.

In a hope of avoiding redundancy, rather than outline the papers here, for which I could not do justice to the works within, I would much rather mention some of the people without whom the conference or this Issue could not have been possible.

Firstly, I have to extend my gratitude to Annie Pohlman, without her help and experience there would not have been a Rhizomes Conference in any shape. To the rest of the Organising Committee and to the staff at the School of Languages and Comparative Cultural Studies, a warm thank you for all your help.
Secondly to the editorial board of Crossroads, for their dedicated efforts to bring this Issue forth, especially to Julie Washington, Sheldon Peters and Matt Lamb.

Lastly I have to thank all of those who attended the conference, and the authors who contributed their work to this issue. It was a real pleasure to meet many of you.