

## **Preface**

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### **Resumen**

Prefacio del monográfico: Emancipación: La liberación del yo en la literatura, las artes, la religión y el deporte.

**Palabras clave:** Emancipación; Liberación del yo; Literatura; Artes; Religión; Deporte.

### **Abstract**

Preface of the monograph: Emancipation: Freeing the self in literature, arts, religion and sport.

**Keywords:** Emancipation; Freeing the self; Literature; Arts; Religion; Sport.

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This volume came about from scholarly work originally presented at James Madison University (JMU) in Harrisonburg Virginia, United States, in March 2013. The Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures at JMU hosts a conference annually with themes that reach across disciplines and resonate with scholars working in the humanities, social sciences and arts. As the first spring buds appear in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, the conference allows cross-disciplinary scholarly discussions to flower between professors, instructors, researchers, and students. The theme for 2013 was *Emancipation: the Struggle for Freedom and Equality*, to commemorate the sesquicentennial of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the fiftieth anniversary of the March on Washington, the largest Civil Rights demonstration of the 1960s. Thus the theme was timely but also timeless, because matters of equality and social justice are just as relevant today as they were 150 years ago. As the title of the volume suggests, the authors explore the theme of emancipation in literature, film, theatre, religion, and sport. The authors are professors, instructors, and students at JMU, most being housed in the

Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, but others coming from departments of religion, rhetoric, and theatre. It was my distinct pleasure to attend the conference, recognize that the scholarship would be of interest to the greater academic community, and find a fitting venue.

Many people contributed to make this special issue possible. The conference was funded with the generous support of the College of Arts and Letters at James Madison University and in particular the Dean, David Jeffrey. The faculty and staff of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures worked tirelessly to make the conference a success, most notably Giuliana Fazzion, chair and author of the introduction to this volume, and Barbara Monger, administrative assistant. Thanks are due to all the conference presenters and participants. As for the current volume, the authors are to be congratulated on their contributions, as is Erin Morin for her assistance with translation of the abstracts. Many thanks to the *Revista de Humanidades* for providing a unique opportunity to present this scholarship as a special issue of the journal. The reader's experience is no doubt enriched by being able to explore so many different perspectives on emancipation in one single thematic volume.