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This issue of *Modern Intellectual History* is dedicated by its editors to the memory of Michael O’Brien (13 April 1948–6 May 2015). His long service on the journal’s editorial board, like his contributions to its pages (up to and including his last and typically provocative review essay in this issue), as well as his warm and steady support for us behind the scenes, were just one part of a transformative career. His sustained scholarship over the course of a generation pointedly and dramatically reshaped the intellectual history of the American South.