

# A Prefatory Note

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Citation: Márcia Lemos. "A Prefatory Note." *Via Panoramica: Revista de Estudos Anglo-Americanos*, série 3, vol. 12, n.º 2, 2023, pp. 8-9. ISSN: 2182-9934. Web: <http://ojs.letras.up.pt/>. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.21747/2182-9934/via12\\_2pre](https://doi.org/10.21747/2182-9934/via12_2pre).

The current issue of *Via Panoramica* includes contributions on language studies, literary studies, culture studies and translation.


In the opening essay, Andrew Sampson presents a mixed-methods classroom study within the context of English as a Foreign Language courses with pedagogical recommendations aimed at maximising learning potential in different delivery modes.

With Rita Cipriano's text the focus turns to literature, particularly to the juxtaposition of author and character in *The Book of John Mandeville*. Cipriano concludes that: ". . . Mandeville was not only trying to give credibility to his narrative but also highlighting the role of the auctor in the process of creation" (39).

From the medieval times into twentieth-century literature, Beatriz Simões addresses gender issues and interracial relationships in Virginia Woolf's 1928 novel *Orlando*; and Miguel Alarcão analyses how a Catholic education and set of beliefs coexist with a sense of criticism in David Lodge's depiction of sexuality in the 1960s in *How Far Can You Go?* (1980).

Fernanda Bisi and Joana Ferreira Pinela both consider the role of women in the Beat Generation: while Bisi examines the absence of women Beat writers in the literary canon, Pinela provides a comparative analysis of Diane di Prima's "The Loba Recovers the Memory of a Mare" and Allen Ginsberg's "Howl".

Maria Teresa Castilho brings the volume into current times by reading Trumpism and its set of autocratic mechanisms "as a crisis of faith around the so-called American civil religion" (103), a crisis that, according to Castilho, may announce "the possible final collapse of an imagined American strongly sustained cultural identity" (103).



The issue is brought to a conclusion by Carla Morais Pires' translation of Zelda Sayre's "The Iceberg", a recently discovered prize-winning short story published in her school magazine in 1918.