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TOWARDS THE MAELSTROM THE DIGITAL HUMANITIES IN ACTION

Preface

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Executive Editor

It is with immense joy that a new issue of VIA PANORAMICA is published before the end of 2024. This has been a strenuous year for us all at CETAPS, but an enriching one as well. Like all research centres funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, CETAPS' team has felt the challenges of scientific evaluation. However, we have learnt to understand them also as a test of the relevance of our centre within Academia and as an agent within society itself. So many activities have been promoted within our research areas and our engagement with students and non-specialized audiences has grown exponentially. It is part of our mission here at VIA PANORAMICA to promote and divulge what new scientific research is being done at CETAPS as well as to think about what we can do to benefit a larger community than the academic one. The theme that informs this issue – Digital Humanities – combines these two dimensions by, on the one hand, fostering cutting-edge research methods and, on the other, by addressing the constant need to renew our research to confront our ever-changing needs as both social scientists and citizens.

It was with great expectation that I invited Luciano Moreira and Jaqueline Pierazzo, coordinator and manager of CETAPS Digital Lab respectively, to be this issue's guest editors. Those expectations were undoubtedly met and overcome. It is thanks to their dedicated work – as both Digital Lab leaders and guest editors – that this issue is such a well-rounded and interesting approach to the subject matter. My sincere gratitude to them both for accepting this challenge.

As executive editor, I hope this VIA PANORAMICA turns out to be a useful guide to Digital Humanities for our students and researchers as well as a testimony to the profound investment that CETAPS has done in finding new ways of doing literary analysis and creating science, while at the same time finding a new pathway to bridge our expertise and the concerns and interests of younger generations of students. As Carlos Ceia, CETAPS Coordinator, constantly says: “now is the time to be teachers and students all at once” (see the transcript of this great event which was the thematic roundtable of the 1st CETAPS Meeting on Digital Humanities, promoted by the Digital Lab). This motto has informed the conception and execution of this VIA PANORAMICA Winter Issue. However, it is a greater one to begin a new year.

THE THEMATIC SECTION

Inspired by Edgar Allan Poe’s tale “A Descent into the Maelström” (1841) about a man who survived a shipwreck and a whirlpool, our guest editors coopted the idea of turbulence and risk to describe the current resistance against digital tools within classic Academia. However, like in the story, what is a life-threatening event turns out to be also an awesome force impossible to avoid. There seems to be no other option but to adjust, fight and survive, or else succumb. In any case, in the end, we have a great story. Hence, let us find out. Read. Question. Research. Critic. Imagine. Critic again. Read again. And on we go... This subject matter is absolutely worth the effort.

This section has benefitted greatly from the work that has been done by CETAPS Digital Lab members. The articles, the review and the reports are the epitome of the team’s incredible enthusiasm and scientific commitment to their research. Although, as a researcher, I have had some experience with Digital Humanities during my PhD, I know now that the sort of work that these Digital Humanists have been doing is, in fact, much more complex and refined than I previously expected. Their contribution to this issue shows but the tip of the iceberg that is their actual work. I hope their words may instigate us to read and engage more, and finally witness Digital Humanities in Action.

THE VARIA SECTION

This section is a sort of calling card to the diverse research done in Anglo-American Studies from popular culture to canonical literature. In this issue, Miguel Alarcão delves into a study

of female stereotypes in popular music in his “Paper Dolls: Female Stereotypes in Anglo-American Music from the 1950s and the 1960s”. In “Pretty, Petite, Polite Dawn: Beauty Pageants, Housewifery and the Feminine Mystique in Philip Roth’s *American Pastoral*”, Diogo Oliveira also dedicates his research to the deconstruction of gender expectations in North American Literature. Separating these two articles, Joel Ramos Faustino addresses that marginal space, where fantastic(al) things may take place, in “The Great Between: Liminality and Liminal Aesthetics in the Filmography of Charlie Kaufman”. Music, literature and cinema, the magnificent triad.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This issue would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of the two guest editors, Jaqueline Pierazzo and Luciano Moreira; and the enthusiasm and unwavering commitment of CETAPS Digital Lab members and junior researchers. My special thanks to everyone.

I would also like to show my gratitude to the very large team of reviewers, who do not hesitate to accept to provide enriching feedback to the many authors. To the stars of the show – our authors – there are no words to describe the privilege (and responsibility) we feel to publish your research.

My final thanks to Professor Gualter Cunha, for his blind confidence and constant support.

HOW TO CITE

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