

Editorial

The Lusophone Journal of Cultural Studies was born of both a dream and a necessity. The dream was to gather - from the same epistemological field and in a journal format – the vast amount of research which has been produced in this area, in a diversity of contexts. Despite the diversity of the themes of investigation, contexts, research methods and motivations, several shared characteristics were identified.

Amongst these shared characteristics, in terms of cultural themes, we highlight the idea of complexity (Morin), the emphasis on contextual production, the multi-dimensionality and contingency of knowledge ('the place where we speak'), and above all, the civic and political commitment (participation in the polis), with a view to construct socially relevant knowledge with a commitment to Culture and Democracy.

On the other hand, research in the area of Culture frequently appears to be extremely fluid, and is thus dispersed in a variety of different publications in a diversity of fields, which does not allow for a more systematic and complete source for the vast amount of research that has been conducted in recent years in this area. Thus, there was a necessity to create this journal, the first in Portugal to be specifically dedicated to Cultural Studies.

We are delighted by the establishment of a Doctoral Programme in Cultural Studies, the birthplace of this electronic publication, and with the lecturers and students involved in the programme, who hail from various Lusophone countries, particularly Brazil, Cape Verde, Mozambique and Angola. However, we wish to establish and strengthen links between other academic communities and researchers – both within and outside the Lusophone community.

Thus, we aim to act as a gateway between the Lusophone community and the well-established international Cultural Studies community, by always striving to publish both in Portuguese and in English. This will allow for a greater knowledge transfer, create epistemological bridges and deepen the cultural and academic interaction between various countries and communities.

In recognition of the need to create this journal, the University of Minho and the University of Aveiro – partnering institutions – joined forces, in their desire to dream the same dream. In addition to the natural differences between the partnering teams, they believe that these pluralities could better articulate diverse viewpoints and provide invaluable human and material resources. Thus, this partnership allows these two great Portuguese institutions of learning and research to capitalize in favor of Cultural Studies.

Therefore, we can confidently present our own Journal, which, due to its intrinsically plural, hybrid nature promotes critical thinking, in addition to encouraging constructive and productive debates.

Although this publication is positioned in the realm of Cultural Studies, we represent it as a ‘post-disciplinary’ area, as it is interdisciplinary, intra-disciplinary, non-disciplinary and above all, non-disciplinary. On the contrary, we see Cultural Studies as an area which is unstable to the point of being undisciplined.

Articulating the practical, creative and interventive - all of which are inherent in Cultural Studies - with projects in both academic and university formats, is one of the great challenges for this Journal. In conjunction with the Doctoral Programme in Cultural Studies at the Universities of Minho and Aveiro, the journal aims to publish research of excellence in this area.

Imbued with this spirit, we invite all Cultural researchers, writers and philosophers, specialists in any area of social sciences, human sciences, visual or performing arts to submit their papers to our refereeing body, combining the academic tradition of investigation in each specialisation of the most profound rational and scientific freedom, which is crucially tempered by the necessary theoretical and methodological rigor involved in the construction of cultural knowledge of all that matters to us as human beings.

The Directors,

Moisés de Lemos Martins

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