

EDITORIAL

Carpe diem—“Seize the day!”

Editor-in-Chief: Prof. Hong Shen

We are entering a new era of 5G broadband networks and enhanced artificial intelligence. The technological revolution in these two fields will inevitably bring new change and challenges to the study of art and the humanities in the contemporary world. Many professional positions of our time, such as radio broadcaster, television anchor, dancer, chess player, interpreter, taxi driver and courier, will very likely be replaced by robots one day. The rapid progress in computer-assisted translation, for instance, has brought fear to many college students of English major as to their future careers.

Crisis also brings opportunity. With change and challenges looming, education in the arts and humanities has become even more crucial. Although robots possess some extraordinary skills and functionality, it is still impossible to replace human beings in terms of emotion and consciousness. The development of artificial intelligence has thus prompted us to reflect on the originality and imagination of human beings. The more we are confronted by the impact of technology, the more we must strengthen our humanistic values, and pursue new breakthroughs in the fields of artistic creation and research. Some aspects of arts and humanities still lie well beyond the ability of artificial intelligence. Computer-assisted translation maybe efficient in rendering technical

writing, but when it comes to translating Shakespeare’s play or sonnets, with all their rhetorical devices, puns, and word-plays, as well as their literary, religious and historical allusions, the translational efficiency of computers is utterly inadequate and indeed beside the point.

Since Huawei has now taken the lead in the 5G field, the balance of new high-technology is beginning to favor the East. At the same time, the content of art studies and humanities is also changing, and the focus of art and humanistic studies is gradually shifting from the West to the East. Our mission is to follow this trend, accept the challenge, and work hard to find new research directions, as well as solutions to new problems.

In support of this mission, Syncsci Publishing Pte Ltd of Singapore has decided to sponsor an academic online journal entitled *International Journal of Arts and Humanities* (IJAH). Its current editorial-board consists of scholars from nine different countries: Australia, China, Iran, Italy, Malawi, New Zealand, Poland, South Africa and Spain. International cooperation of such kind among scholars in the fields of art studies and humanities is absolutely necessary. Together we can bridge the gap between East and West, and develop the wisdom that will allow us to meet the challenges before us.

Singaporean culture is in itself a mixture of western and eastern civilizations. IJAH provides an ideal platform for international scholars in the arts and humanities to work together. By studying issues of common concern, understanding and inspiring one another, can we truly surpass ourselves.

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We welcome this opportunity and will make every effort to promote international cooperation and cultural exchanges, and to address the questions in this brave new world.