

Emergence

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Editor's Introduction

The articles presented in this volume were all delivered as papers at a conference held at the University of Southampton on 31 March 2014. The theme of the conference, 'Adaptation and Assimilation', yielded a diverse range of contributions and, in the present volume alone, authors reflect upon the adaptation and assimilation of technologies, ideas, behaviours, cultural norms and language.

The first two articles in this journal consider the positive outcomes resulting from the assimilation of innovative technology. Dan Spencer examines the ways in which new gun technology was adapted for the purposes of defence in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. He demonstrates the importance of gunpowder weapons at Roxburgh Castle, an English stronghold close to the Scottish border. Ultimately, he suggests that existing fortifications at Roxburgh might not have required significant adaptation in order to assimilate these new technologies.

Moving into the twenty-first century, Alistair Galt explores some of the technologies introduced by archaeology's 'New Generation'. He suggests that the Xbox Kinect, the drone and the game 'Minecraft' could solve some of the problems faced by archaeologists today, helping them to identify, record and protect a larger number of sites. The technologies may also serve to modernise the discipline of archaeology, bringing it to a wider audience.

The next two articles look at the ways in which human behaviour has adapted under the pressure of external influences. Victoria Hinks-Sleep examines the impact of Darwin and other evolutionists upon nineteenth-century Christian faith. She suggests that the Victorians tended to respond to this worrying scientific ferment in one of two ways: by assimilating some of the tenets of 'spiritualism', or by turning to the alternative belief system of Ancient Egypt. She uses Guy Boothby's novel *Pharos, the Egyptian* (first published in serial form in 1898) to explore some of the ways in which this ancient belief system might have offered consolation to nineteenth-century society.

Next, Holly Dunbar reflects upon the role of the press in constructing an ideal vision of Irish 'femininity'. She uses the debate surrounding female smoking, played out in the pages of the *Irish Independent* between 1919 and 1921, to highlight the manner in which women's behaviour was prescribed and adapted during the revolutionary period in Ireland. She suggests, however, that the smoking debate lent a number of women a forum for presenting their own version of femininity, and for thereby resisting the assimilation of traditional female norms and behaviours.

The final two articles focus upon the spoken and written word. Anna Augustyniak explores the role of the Basque language in aiding the assimilation of modern migrants within a new culture. She compares the official stance on language integration advocated by Spanish immigration documents with the perceptions of migrants themselves; in both cases, the speaking of Basque seems to be regarded as an important factor in helping migrants familiarise themselves with Basque culture and society.

Finally, Heather Hawkins undertakes a close reading of William Barnes's 'Woak Were Good Enough Woonce' and Thomas Hardy's 'Silences' in order to demonstrate the poets' contrasting responses to the urbanisation of rural life (caused by the enclosure system and the mechanisation of farming). She argues that the poets' use of dialect reflected their responses to these significant cultural adaptations, although the two poets' responses were very different: whilst Barnes hoped to preserve details of the rural culture through his poetry, Hardy seems to have acknowledged that this traditional lifestyle had largely disappeared.

It is clear, then, that the notions of adaptation and assimilation feature within the Humanities in a number of different ways, and represent the key concerns of scholars from a range of disciplines. All societies and individuals must at some point face new or altered circumstances. As the articles in this volume demonstrate, the manner in which they respond – by adapting existing structures and ideologies, or by assimilating new ones – can reveal much about that society or individual's character, convictions and priorities.

I would like to thank all those involved in producing this volume, including the authors and the editorial team. Particular thanks are also due to Daniel Hunt and Minke Jonk for helping with the final proofreading and design.

Elena Stevens
PhD Candidate, History
Editor of Emergence (2013-14)

Foreword

I am delighted to write this Foreword for the current issue of the Faculty of Humanities postgraduate journal *Emergence*. As in previous years, the essays published in this issue are revised versions of papers delivered at the Annual Postgraduate Conference which is organised by the Humanities Graduate School Network, GradNet, and takes place in the spring. This year eighteen delegates representing different disciplines across the Faculty as well as several students from other universities presented fascinating papers that engaged in highly imaginative ways with the conference theme of ‘Adaptation and Assimilation’. Topics ranged from issues of translation and cultural adaptations to linguistic assimilation and the role of adaptation in modernity.

The six essays contained in this volume offer a flavour of the richness of the conference programme. They include a discussion of the role of dialect in nineteenth-century English poetry, an investigation of the adoption and adaptation of new technologies in archaeological and historical research, an appreciation of the importance of language learning for the integration of migrants, an outline of the adaptation of women’s behaviour in the popular press in early-twentieth-century Ireland and an insight into the transformation of Ancient Egyptian ideology into contemporary thought in Victorian English literature.

It was good to see a number of external conference participants, from the University of Exeter. This was especially pleasing as, together with Exeter, the Faculty of Humanities now participates in the AHRC-funded South West and Wales Doctoral Training Partnership. This new DTP which is worth £14.2M over five years and will fund around 200 studentships across the Consortium will also provide our postgraduate students with a much extended research environment, greatly enhancing their development and employment prospects.

I am proud to be the Director of the Graduate School which six years ago pioneered both this student-lead conference and the journal, and which is still the only Graduate School in the University to host these initiatives. Organising a conference and editing a journal are not only important experiences through which students acquire professional skills; they also allow the next generation of Humanities researchers to ‘network’, to develop valuable contacts with their peers at other UK universities. In addition, these initiatives significantly contribute to enhancing the research culture of the Faculty of Humanities.

Professor Andrea Reiter
Director of the Graduate School
Faculty of Humanities

Humanities Graduate School Student Network (GradNet)

The Humanities Graduate School Student Network (GradNet) is an inclusive, student-led community for all postgraduates in the Faculty of Humanities. It strives to create an atmosphere in which students are able to connect, both as individuals and as developing professionals.

We aim to:

- Build and maintain a vibrant postgraduate community for the students, by the students.
- Cultivate identities as academic researchers, both individually and collectively.
- Engage in current academic debate.
- Nurture the acquisition and development of transferable skills for future careers.
- Provide opportunities for social interaction.

In order to achieve these aims, we:

- Offer discussion-based, peer-reviewed seminars led by current students.
- Organise social and cultural events.
- Organise an annual conference.
- Produce an annual journal, *Emergence*.

Emergence

Our most recent conference was held on 31 March 2014. *Emergence* is a peer-reviewed journal that builds upon the achievements of this conference, as all the articles are drawn from papers presented on the day. This year, the Call for Papers was sent out nationwide, and this has led to a broad, insightful journal that showcases the research possibilities of the Humanities. The journal helps postgraduate scholars to develop their skills as academic researchers and writers, thus building their academic profiles for the future.

Get Involved

If you are interested in participating in any of the GradNet activities, you can join our mailing list or Facebook page, or follow us on Twitter. There is no joining fee, and you are welcome to attend as many or as few of the events as you wish. Alternatively, if you wish to join the GradNet Committee and become involved with organising our next cultural event, conference or journal edition, please email us: GradNet@soton.ac.uk.

Humanities Graduate School Student Network:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/graduate_school.page.

Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/hpgc.soton](https://www.facebook.com/groups/hpgc.soton).

Twitter: twitter.com/GradNetSoton.

Anne Holdorph
PhD Candidate, History
Chair of GradNet Committee (2013-14)