

Editor's Welcome to *PORTAL* vol. 5, no. 1 2008

The first issue of *PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies* for 2008 is a special issue with the title "Hyperworld(s): Language, Culture, and History in the Latin American world(s)," guest edited by Jeff Browitt and Paul Allatson (University of Technology Sydney). The issue—comprising related essays and cultural works—evolved from the 2006 biennial conference of the Association of Iberian and Latin American Studies of Australasia, "Hyperworld: language, culture, history," held at UTS in September 2006.

The issue, like the conference before it, explores the place of Latin America in what the editors call "hyperworld(s)." The term connotes acceleration and hyperactivity on social, economic and financial levels, the intensified commodification of most aspects of human life, the time-space compression of communication and much cultural production, the re-ordering of social relations themselves over-determined by technology wedded to capitalist market values, and, as a result, the re-ordering of daily life, cultural expression, human desires, and political activism for individuals and communities across the planet. These processes and intensities mean that new modes of reading the interactive and contradictory discursive fragmentations of the current age are required. Thus, rather than regarding cyberspace as the age's technological hallmark or dominant trope, the special issue asks how we might make deeper sense of hyperworld(s)—the bracketed plural implying myriad intersecting worlds within 'the' world, those worlds including various Latin Americas—by identifying how the interactive logics of virtuality suggest narratorial entry points into contemporary lived historical-material and imagined complexities and potentials in the Latin American world(s).

This issue of *PORTAL* also contains two essays in its general section, both dealing with Turkey. The first, by Ariane Bogain and Florence Potot, "From the Stereotypification of the Non-European Other to the Prototypification of the European Self: A Case Study of Turkey's Membership to the European Union from the French Perspective," utilizes French media coverage to dissect the ambivalences and stereotypes inherent to the ongoing attempt by Turkey to become a member of the EU. The second essay, Iain Smith's "The Exorcist in Istanbul: Transnational Processes of Intercultural Dialogue within Turkish Popular Cinema," discusses a 1974 film by Turkish director Metin Erksan, an unofficial remake of William Friedkin's *The Exorcist* (1973). Smith argues that the film, and its reception, calls for a reading based on a more nuanced model of cross-cultural exchange, dialogue and interaction, as befits the broader interstitial relationships through which cultures, and their cinematic and popular cultural productions, meet and interact in Europe today.

Finally, I would like to draw readers' attention to the call for papers that follows, a special issue on contemporary Italian cultural Studies, scheduled for July 2008.

Paul Allatson, Chair, *PORTAL* Editorial Committee

Call for Papers

'Italian Cultures: Writing Italian Cultural Studies in the World.'

PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies is seeking articles for a special issue on Italian cultural studies. It aims at updating existing scholarship and scoping the proliferation of interests in this growing field. It recognizes that cultural studies practitioners write multiple Italies within Italy itself and from provincialized Italies, with a perspective that is both global and informed by specific local knowledge. In particular we seek articles that map how processes of social change and identification are negotiated, imagined, explored and contested in relation to the following (but not exclusively) themes:

- Belonging
- Body
- Cinema
- Consumption
- Design
- Digital cultures
- Everyday
- Fashion
- Food
- Language
- Media (new and old)
- New writing
- Place
- Sport
- Visual cultures

Portal has built into its editorial protocols a commitment to facilitating dialogue between international studies practitioners working anywhere in the world, and not simply or exclusively in the 'North,' 'the West' or the 'First World.' The journal's commitment to fashioning a genuinely 'international' studies rubric is also reflected in our willingness to publish critical and creative work in English as well as in a number of other languages: Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese, Croatian, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Serbian, and Spanish. *Portal* provides open access to all of its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. If you are interested in submitting a paper please read the Author's guidelines and information about the submission process *Portal's* homepage, <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/portal>.

Deadline: 1 March 2008.

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Portal, Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies, numero speciale: 'Italian cultures: writing Italian cultural studies in the world'.

Portal, Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies sta raccogliendo articoli per un numero speciale sugli studi culturali che trattino tematiche legate all'Italia con lo scopo di aggiornare la ricerca esistente e produrre una mappatura della proliferazione di interesse in quest'area in espansione. *Portal* riconosce che una molteplicità di Italie viene generata dai ricercatori che lavorano nell'ambito di cultural studies all'incontro di prospettive globali e saperi locali, sia come panorama interno all'Italia sia come provincializzazioni dell'Italia. In particolare questo numero è interessato (ma non limitato) a testi sulle seguenti tematiche:

- Cibo
- Cinema
- Consumi
- Corpi
- Culture visive
- Design
- Culture digitali
- Lingua
- Luoghi
- Media (vecchi e nuovi)
- Moda
- Processi di appartenenza
- Quotidianità
- Scrittura creativa
- Sport

Portal include nei suoi protocolli editoriali l'impegno a facilitare il dialogo tra studiosi e studiose di studi internazionali che lavorano in qualsiasi parte del mondo, e non solo nel 'nord', nell' 'ovest' o nel 'primo mondo'. L'impegno della rivista a creare un clima genuinamente 'internazionale' si ritrova anche nella decisione di pubblicare testi critici e creativi non solo in inglese ma anche in bahasa Indonesia, cinese, croato, francese, giapponese, italiano, serbo, spagnolo e tedesco. *Portal* garantisce libero accesso a tutti i testi pubblicati sostenendo così la libera circolazione, creazione e lo scambio di saperi. Le avvertenze per gli autori sono pubblicate nel sito della rivista <http://epress.lib.uts.edu.au/ojs/index.php/portal>.

La scadenza per la presentazione dei testi è il 1 marzo 2008.
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