

A Prefatory Note

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The 2016 issue of *Via Panorâmica* is divided in two sections. The first, composed of two articles, represents the traditional output of the journal. In the first of these, Ana Cristina Mendes addresses disguises and cross-dressing in Tennyson's *The Princess* (1847), the means by which the feminist protagonist of Tennyson's poem, Ida, is transformed into an "angel of the house". This is not, however, done without a number of ambiguities and contradictions which subvert a linear interpretation and make the construction of identity turn upon an experience of Otherness. On the second essay, Joana Caetano discusses three contemporary dystopias on film, *V for Vendetta* (2005), *Oblivion* (2013) and *The Giver* (2014) as sites where cultural memory can be estranged and rethought through the medium of science fiction. These three films describe a number of futures which have forgotten their past and in which the preservation of memory thus becomes a subversive task. As documents of their own times, such films can therefore be said to alert to the importance of the Humanities, the Social Sciences, and the Arts in a moment in which these are under attack in a society increasingly focused on technoscience.

The second section represents a new addition to the journal, resulting from its collaboration with *JRAAS - Junior Researchers in Anglo-American Studies*, a platform newly created by current and former Masters Students of the Department of Anglo-American Studies of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Porto (<http://www.cetaps.com/?id=24>). Less than a year old, this platform has already organised an impressive number of events - including a monthly series of seminars and a film cycle - and it publishes a monthly newsletter, called *Work in Progress...* (<http://www.cetaps.com/?id=25>). On July 27, 2016, the First JRAAS Seal Colloquium took place, in which the JRAAS Seal of Quality was attributed to the best Masters theses in the area of Anglo-American Studies presented in 2015 at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Porto (FLUP) and at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences of the New University of Lisbon (FSCH-UNL). This award entailed the publication of an article in *Via Panorâmica* and it is therefore with great pleasure that the journal includes these five articles by young scholars, in a collaboration that will surely be long lasting and rewarding to all.

In the first of these, Ana Xavier discusses the role and potentialities of assessment of English language skills and the content of curricula in Early Bilingual Education (EBE)/Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) at early primary level. Carla Ulisses then analyses and makes several proposals regarding the didactic use of images in developing intercultural skills in English and Spanish language classes. Both articles are based on field work and contain valuable contributions towards the improvement of language learning in the classroom. The third essay, by Daniela Mano, focuses on the impact of Barack Obama's presidency, at the end of one cycle and the

beginning of another, and problematises Obama as an agent of social change, especially as his vision of a post-racial society clashed with a reality still deeply characterised by racial prejudices. João Santos, on the other hand, addresses the role of wands in the popular Harry Potter novels, and in particular turns to the Elder Wand, one of the main objects of the last novel in the series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, as a way to reflect on the role of magic and the imagination in the Harry Potter books. Finally, Rui Rato offers a reading of Thomas Harris' *The Hannibal Lecter Trilogy* via a series of narratives to be found in Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, whereby themes such as love, desire and transformation in Harris' novels are metamorphosed and brought into a different light.

This series of articles thus bring into relief some of the best Masters work being done by young scholars in Anglo-American Studies at both FLUP and FSCH-UNL. *Via Panorâmica* is proud to be supporting and divulging this work, in what we are confident will become a standard section of the journal in the future.