

**EDITORIAL**

This issue of *Synergy* journal includes a selection of thought-provoking articles in the four traditional sections of the journal, comprising very diverse areas of research: interdisciplinary and cultural studies, literature, applied linguistics, education and professional development.

Interdisciplinary and Cultural Synergies proposes to the readers a comprehensive article - **INDIA AND EUROPE IN THE PAST AND THE PRESENT: IMAGES AND REPRESENTATIONS** - which was one of the keynote speeches at the **Future of Europe Conference**, organized by the Faculty of International Business and Economics; the article deals with the many facets of India, past and present, and presents a series of personal readings of professor Sridhar Rajeswaran on synergies between historical details and present-day understandings of the tight links between India and Europe. The second article in this section, entitled **AUTHENTICITY AND SIMULATION IN POST-TOURISM** is a discussion on post-tourism and its mutations in the contemporary world. Adrian Solomon applies Baudrillard's theory of simulation and simulacra to demonstrate how tourist destinations have been commodified and (partially) stripped of their authenticity.

In the article **IN-BETWEEN SPACES: CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY AMONG FIRST AND SECOND GENERATION DIASPORICS IN MY BEAUTIFUL LAUNDERETTE**, Sambhaji Mahadev Sirsath looks into Hanif Kureishi's screenplay and at how some important issues such as diasporic consciousness of home, identity, first and second generation diasporics, racial and cultural clashes are tackled in it.

Teaching, Learning and Professional Development includes three articles on various ways in which learning foreign languages and professional development are dealt with nowadays. Mihaela Arsene (**THE '13,000-HOUR APPRENTICESHIP OF OBSERVATION' OR SELF-AWARENESS FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH IN TEACHER EDUCATION?**) reflects on teacher training and development and the role of introspection and self-awareness to one's personal teaching style. Virginia Mihaela Dumitrescu looks at the transition from a teacher-centric to a learner-centric and eventually to a connective education model and emphasizes the global interconnected aspect of teaching and learning practices (**LEARNING THEORIES, AND THEIR APPLICABILITY**

IN THE DIGITAL AGE). In the article **UNSER ÖKO-ALLTAG ZWISCHEN MARKETING UND DEUTSCHUNTERRICHT**, Lora Constantinescu examines how we could develop and raise ecological awareness through book-based and project-oriented approaches when teaching German.

The section on Applied Linguistics includes Part 2 entitled **LA DISLOCAZIONE E L'ENFASI** of Mariana Săndulescu's article **DEL TESTO COESO OSSIA DEL MANEGGIAMENTO DELL'ENUNCIATO. MECCANISMI COESIVI**, in which she analyzes and classifies the mechanisms of contemporary Italian which help create and manipulate enunciations using the morphologic and syntactic procedures of standard anaphora with a precedent in the discourse chain. Anca Pecican explores the vast field of the increase/decrease metaphors which she applies on Spanish and Romanian business media to highlight the similarities of their linguistic occurrence (**METÁFORA CONCEPTUAL Y REALIZACIÓN LINGÜÍSTICA: EL PAPEL DEL CONTEXTO LINGÜÍSTICO EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN DEL SIGNIFICADO**).

The volume included in the book review section, entitled **WHY NATIONS FAIL. THE ORIGINS OF POWER, PROSPERITY AND POVERTY**, by Acemoglu and Robinson, is a 500-page volume published in 2012 which introduces a new theory on the origin of economic disparities and their evolution. The book presents two thousand years of political and economic history, with examples and illustrations from the rise and fall of different empires and states. Interestingly for the Romanian reader, it also documents the situation existing in the Habsburg, Russian and Ottoman Empires, all relevant to our country's development.

In conclusion, we hope that this issue of *Synergy* is as interesting and challenging as usual and wish you enjoyable reading of the journal. Many thanks to all our contributors for their articles.

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