

Preface

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In human and social sciences, the area of research is so very diverse and vast that it is sometimes difficult to perceive a common thread linking the various themes. Nevertheless, at the core of each individual research study lies the most fundamental of problems, that of man and society within the movement of time. This issue, the third in the series, again takes up the theme of fragmentation.

As always, that which is fragmented is considered to be in opposition to the ‘other’. Yet, that which is fragmented can be integrated into or differentiated from the other. Threatened, turned away, put down or expelled by the other, it can mutate, becoming enemy or monster. Still, to the contrary, that which is fragmented can also become a member of a community, showing great solidarity and loyalty. So seemingly that which is fragmented, unable in any event to maintain its specific characteristic, must change, transform or evolve. Is this not deeply resonant of the present condition of our global world?

To turn then to the more particular problems examined in this issue; the two articles presented here, each take up an aspect of fragmentation with specific import on society, its actuality and its historicity.

In ‘*je t’aime* Revisited’, Remi Camus examines the language sequence *Je t’aime* through a comparison of the original French with translations in Hungarian and Japanese. At first sight an ordinary, common expression, *Je t’aime* appears from this study, to have three distinct interpretative patterns with their own grammatical features and even pragmatic outcomes. In other terms, it is an isolated sequence that relates to the outside world in three very different manners: as a slogan (a statement to society without an utterer); as a declaration (stating that which is); and as a narrative (the statement which itself becomes an event). Through this study, Remi Camus has established how a language sequence can contact and impact on the world.

In ‘Chance and History’, Thierry Martin considers the differing understandings that man has of events that take place over time in the world. Is an event an isolated occurrence, or a product of chance, or can it be traced back to an origin, a cause? However, stepping aside from the traditional discussion of fatalism as opposed to contingency, this article examines the works of the French philosopher Augustin Cournot (1801-1877) which attempt to reconcile historical determinism and contingency of historical events.

For the research forums and notes sections of this journal:

The Euro-Japan Academic Networking for Humanities Project, a major ongoing research forum, reports on the seventh forum held at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, France, in March 2015. This forum took up the issues of fragmentation and divergence through the prism of the specific themes of environment and landscape, social justice and equality beyond violence, disaster and civil society, demography and immigration, impact of art and culture, and intercultural dialogue and education. The outcome will be presented in detail in the form of full articles, discussions and commentaries in the forthcoming special edition of *Inter Faculty*.

Under the Inter Faculty Education & Research Initiative ongoing research studies, Irena Srdanović presents the ‘Research Project on Language Resources for Learners of Japanese’. This postdoctoral research project addresses the phenomenon of (un)predictability of collocations and aims to develop language resources for learners of Japanese as a foreign language.

Finally, under the Comments and Discussion section, in ‘Research Metrics for the Rest of Us’, Jun Ikeda and Yukihiro Morimoto propose a new method, which they term Diversity Factor (DF), for evaluating academic publications in human and social sciences. Unlike present methods, the DF can be applied to any field of study as well as to journals of any language as the DF quantifies the varieties of contributors per issue in terms of affiliation and international distribution.

As ever, *Inter Faculty* is an interactive journal which questions man, his society and the contemporary world, it is a journal which proposes new and original ideas, but above all it is a forum for exchange and as such we welcome comments and discussions from researchers of all domains.



Saburo Aoki
Inter Faculty Co-Editor-in-Chief
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