

PREFACE TO THE EDITION

The forthcoming issue of the **International Journal of Arts and Liberal Studies (IJALS)** presents a rich and intellectually expansive collection of articles that collectively illuminate the evolving contours of the arts and liberal inquiry in a rapidly transforming global context. The contributions in this issue traverse disciplinary boundaries, engaging with pressing questions of creativity, identity, knowledge production, and social responsibility, while foregrounding the continued relevance of the arts and humanities in shaping critical and imaginative futures.

A central theme that emerges across several articles is the transformative impact of technology on artistic and intellectual practices. The exploration of artificial intelligence and creative authorship critically interrogates long-held assumptions about originality, agency, and ownership, proposing collaborative human-machine paradigms as the future of artistic production. Complementing this, the study on digital humanities demonstrates how computational methodologies are reshaping literary studies, expanding both the scale and scope of interpretive possibilities while raising important epistemological questions.

Equally compelling is the issue's engagement with the arts as instruments of social critique and transformation. The analysis of theatre as a medium of resistance highlights its enduring power to address contemporary challenges from climate crises to social inequities—through participatory and dialogic forms of performance. Similarly, the discussion of public art in multicultural societies underscores its role in negotiating collective memory, identity, and belonging, revealing how aesthetic expressions intersect with political and spatial dynamics in urban environments.

The issue also foregrounds the critical importance of education and curriculum in shaping inclusive and holistic societies. The examination of music education provides robust interdisciplinary evidence of its cognitive and emotional benefits, advocating for its recognition as a foundational component of learning. In parallel, the article on decolonizing liberal arts curricula challenges entrenched Eurocentric frameworks, calling for epistemic plurality and the integration of diverse knowledge systems to make education more globally responsive and socially just.

Adding a distinctive dimension to this collection is the investigation into the peopling of India through genetic data, which bridges the sciences and humanities by offering insights into human migration, identity formation, and historical continuity. This inclusion exemplifies the journal's commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue, demonstrating how scientific inquiry can enrich broader cultural and historical understanding.

Taken together, the articles in this issue reflect the vibrancy and diversity of contemporary arts and liberal studies scholarship. They invite readers to reconsider established paradigms, embrace methodological innovation, and engage critically with the social, cultural, and technological forces shaping our world. As IJALS continues to foster such interdisciplinary and globally relevant scholarship, this issue stands as a testament to the enduring significance of the arts and humanities in navigating complexity, nurturing empathy, and envisioning more inclusive futures.

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Chief Editor

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