

CALL FOR PAPERS Study Day on Science and Humanities

ISSHJ April 12, 2018



In *The Two Cultures and the Scientific Revolution*, English novelist and physical chemist Charles Percy Snow lamented about the existing gulf between science and the humanities :

A good many times I have been present at gatherings of people who, by the standards of the traditional culture, are thought highly educated and who have with considerable gusto been expressing their incredulity at the illiteracy of scientists. Once or twice I have been provoked and have asked the company how many of them could describe the Second Law of Thermodynamics. The response was cold : it was also negative. Yet I was asking something which is the scientific equivalent of: *Have you read a work of Shakespeare's?*

As John Brockman (1995) later argued, time reduced the cultural divide Snow noticed, and was superseded by interdisciplinary studies in the 21st Century, but it was not removed entirely. Although interdisciplinarity between scientific disciplines such as Neurosciences and Psychiaty or humanistic disciplines such as History and Literature largely developped during the last decades, 'broad interdisciplinarity' or 'the collaboration of disciplines that are far removed from each other on epistemological and/or cultural levels'¹ such as, for instance, Quantum Physics and Theology, are still rare or totally absent from everyday academic discourse.

The Higher Institute of Humanities in Jendouba opens the debate on the disciplinary character of sciences as opposed and/or complementary to the humanities to explore the

¹ Interdisciplinarity and the 21st Century Research Intensive University, LERU, 2016, p71. <u>http://www.leru.org/files/publications/Interdisciplinarity_and_the_21st_century_research-intensive_university.pdf</u>

reasons behind the educational and institutional priority of one over the other while highligting the importance of sciences, arts and the humanities, as well as their complementarity for a better understanding of the modern world. Humanities need science for the exploration and analysis of small or large scale data, research replication, control over subjects, global collaboration and research sharing tools. Sciences, on the other hand, are meaningless without the virtues of critical thinking, reflective thought, flexibility, and the imaginative and creative nature inherent to arts and the humanities. Science and humanities thus merge together to fill the gap left by each other to revisit established understandings of visible and invisible worlds and the interaction between them.

We are interested in receiving abstracts for 15-minute presentations. Abstracts should be 250 words long and include affiliation and a short biography.

Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- Digital Humanities
- Objectivity and Subjectivity in the Humanities
- Quantum Physics in the Humanities
- Data Analysis Challenges
- Neurosciences and Linguistics
- Linguistics and Literature
- Science and Literature
- Science and Aesthetics
- The Scientific in Science-Fiction
- Cognitive Sciences in the Humanities
- Distance Education
- Science and Arts in Education
- Science and History
- The Scientific and the Political
- Political Sciences and the Art of Political Discourse.
- The Scientific and the Spiritual
- Science and Non-duality
- Science and Translation
- Scientific Manifestations of Artistic Creations

IMPORTANT DATES :

Deadline for abstracts: **January 28, 2018** Notification of acceptance: **February 18, 2018** Contact : **scienceandhumanities2018@gmail.com**

Scientific committee :

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