

Editorial

I'd like to think of this issue, *Opticon*'s seventh, as architectural. As a truly multidisciplinary journal, *Opticon*'s task is to create bridges. So here, in the limited space of a carefully compiled issue, we have *Antigone* placed next to laser light, fairy tales next to drug use, and a trip to Victorian London is followed by a journey to ancient Egypt. A lot of unravelling occurs in this issue, as common portrayals of fairies are shown to be impossible, assumptions about sports psychology are challenged, environmental policy is scrutinised, the psychiatric system is exposed, and a popular science book is subjected to critical reading.

Here, as before, *Opticon* embodies the multivalent nature of academic work. The captivating photographic and pictorial images in this issue's gallery reveal how meaning can be located in every aspect of a research project. We hope that, by incorporating so many different ideas within one single space, *Opticon* accommodates differences while holding things together. This incorporation is like a form of joinery – like a structural joint, it ensures stability, yet the various articles, reviews and commentaries destabilize certain assumptions we might have about a given discipline. The goal here is not to close up a given space of thought, but to disclose new space for further discoveries. I hope this journal has gone some way towards bridging over C. P. Snow's 'gulf of mutual incomprehension'.

This is my final issue as editor-in-chief. I leave *Opticon* in the capable hands of Yi Ling Huang, who will surely take the journal into new territories! Hopefully some readers have already gotten a copy of the *Opticon* pamphlet. This small booklet, featuring eye-catching artwork and engaging extracts, and carefully designed by the wonderful team at UCL Communications, signals a new start for *Opticon*. We hope that this printed companion – as well as future ones – to the electronic journal will draw in more readers and contributors, and help establish an *Opticon* community within UCL.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank our indefatigable editors (most of whom are leaving the journal after this issue) and our reviewers. Without you, there would be no bridges! And many thanks to the Graduate School for their continuing support. I'd also like to express my gratitude to all the researchers, writers and artists who have ever contributed to our journal – you certainly provide the indispensable building blocks of this ongoing construction project.

Christine Lai
Editor-in-chief
On behalf of the Editorial Board