

**EDITORIAL: ISSUE 8, SPRING 2010**

The propelling force behind Opticon1826 has always been the idea of the ‘new’ - new ideas, new heights, and, numbering amongst the ranks of our contributors, new academics. However, while it is easy for us to get excited over unprecedented discoveries, we should remind ourselves not to overlook the continuous aspect of change. In this issue, our contributors remind us – and themselves – of the constant need for re-defining one’s work and re-assessing one’s field. Elise Aru proposes the notion of translating as a ludic activity, rather than the systematic approach one might expect, while Hande Gurses explores how Orhan Pamuk’s shifting definitions of space and self negotiate the borders of genre. Ronan McFadden takes to task moral judgements of Jonathan Littell’s Holocaust novel, *The Kindly Ones*, while Ilias Trispiotis poses a more global question of accountability, in the realm of socio-economic rights. The latter’s article is concerned with the praxis of change, as is Miriam Fine-Goulden’s piece on the viability of vaccination policies in the UK. Of course, obverse reflections on the ‘new’ are not neglected in this issue, as Asimina Kiourti explores a key development in biomedical telemetry, and Lewis Dartnell reports on advancements in astrobiology, highlighting, in particular, research conducted at the UCL Centre of Planetary Sciences. The editorial board offers its many thanks to the academic reviewers who have taken time out from their busy schedules to assess submissions to the journal.

Opticon1826’s reception has been encouraging, both within UCL and outside it. Professor Roger Wotton’s article from the previous issue, [‘Angels, Putti, Dragons and Fairies: Believing the Impossible’](#), was discussed at length by Graeme Paton in The Telegraph ([‘Angels can’t fly, scientist says’](#), 22 December 2009). We are also proud to publish the winning entries of the Graduate School Review Competition in this new issue; our congratulations go to Anna Kanakova (1<sup>st</sup> Prize), Simon Pawley (2<sup>nd</sup> Prize) and Vita Peacock (3<sup>rd</sup> Prize).

Spring 2010 marks Opticon1826’s eighth issue, four years after its conception. In this time, the journal has been under the guidance of very assiduous helmsmen, including Christine Lai, who has left behind some impressive shoes to fill; I can only hope to be equal to the challenge. The Opticon1826 team has seen many other changes, as we welcome Marlies Gabriele Prinzl (Arts & Humanities) and Michael Freitas Molhalletm (Laws) to the editorial board, Roman Spesyvtsev as Webmaster, and Georgia Panteli and Urvashi Vashist in the brand-new positions of Copy Editor and Image Editor, respectively. My sincerest thanks to them, as well as to more familiar faces, for all their hard work.

Yi Ling Huang  
*Editor-in-Chief*