

This issue of *Opticon1826* is very much about textual expression, whether with the study of texts (and comparisons thereof), in the reconfiguration of social and political vocabularies, or given the illimitability of form. Raphael Calel, for instance, examines the semantic nuances in climate change policy. He suggests that regulatory terms be replaced by words inherently laden with social stigma, so as to shame rule-breakers into accountability. Matthew Owen, on the other hand, seeks to reclaim terms like ‘extremism’ from stereotype; he condemns what he deems to be a negative, parochial appropriation of the word ‘radicalisation’, recommending instead that it also account for beneficent intent. Meanwhile, language is also examined *per se*, with Michael Bintley’s consideration of the sinister woodland groves in *Beowulf* offering fresh evidence in the case for the poet’s familiarity with certain texts.

Yet it is not only language that is being examined or challenged in this issue; so, too, is methodology. Roger Wotton experiments with the latter by applying principles of biology to biblical text in his investigation on manna, whilst Yasmin Arshad considers what we can learn about the lives of Renaissance women by looking at two literary figures from the period: one historical, the other fictional. Textual forms are also foregrounded in this issue; Jessica Copley draws us into the recesses of comic strips and in between frames of film in her article on Art Spiegelman’s *Maus* and Orly Yadin and Sylvie Bringas’s *Silence*. She delves into undefined spaces that ‘pull the reader into unknown moments of horror and humour alike’, reminding us of the complexities of representing the Holocaust, and of the possible solutions offered by the art of animation. Ernesto Priego approaches graphic narrative from a different perspective, as he introduces the framework of cultural materialism that motivates his study on the unique language of comics.

Marlies Gabriele Prinzl refers to the use of the Internet for research purposes, which she explains ‘has only recently started to gain traction’ in the field of corpus linguistics. It is difficult to imagine scholarship without the Internet nowadays; it is a crucial tool, whether in terms of actual research or that of networking. The availability of *Opticon1826* online has led to entries being referenced beyond UCL, in fields other than that of academia; e.g. Catherine Sebastian’s article about the teenage brain, ‘The Second Decade: What Can We Do About the Adolescent Brain?’ (Issue 2), has been cited in an *amicus curiae* brief to the United States Supreme Court. It has also been brought to my attention that Duke University Press has reproduced Vita Peacock’s review of Karen Barad’s *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* (Issue 8) in promotional material for the book.

The new academic year has seen a number of internal changes on the *Opticon1826* editorial board; we welcome Lily Islam as our new Biomedical Sciences Editor, Georgia Panteli as Image Editor, and Urvashi Vashist as copyeditor. We all hope you enjoy this issue.

Yi Ling Huang
Editor-in-Chief