

Editorial

Changing Times

The Journal of the Department of Behavioural Sciences (JDBS) is an online, bi-annual, open-access, peer-reviewed journal. It is a medium through which the Department of Behavioural Sciences at the University of West Indies (UWI), St Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago, can better disseminate its research and improve its connections with the wider public.

At heart, the university is a public institution. We are producers of common knowledge and culture; knowledge factories and culture industries if you will. In recent times as the neoliberal paradigm has spread across the world private corporations are increasingly becoming the gatekeepers of this knowledge and culture. Unfortunately, the values of many of these private corporations do not align well with certain intrinsic values of the university. The public role of the university in this situation for example has begun to suffer. Primarily this can be linked to the fact that much university research is now locked behind pay walls and common knowledge is becoming enclosed rather than shared.

In an effort to counter such a trend the JDBS embraces the online open-access (OA) journal model. Research done by Laakso, Welling, Bukvova, Nyman, Björk, et al. (2011) notes that:

OA journals are the growing trend in academic publishing. They exist alongside the pay-wall model that currently dominates in academic publishing and OA are growing in number year on year. It was estimated that there were around 19,500 articles published OA in 2000, while the number has grown to 191,850 articles in 2009. The journal count for the year 2000 is estimated to have been 740, and 4769 for 2009; numbers which show considerable growth.

One has only to look at the [list of journals currently using open journal software](#) to see that OA journals are an approach that is considered appropriate by many academics across the world and is growing in popularity with the public too. As such, the JDBS finds itself in good company. And as we grow and develop it is our hope that we will gain the support of our colleagues here at UWI and elsewhere in the continued production of knowledge and the dissemination of that knowledge.

In the 21st century the publishing paradigm is changing. New technologies, software development and website content management systems now align nicely with the skills academics have always had of editing, reviewing, writing and managing journals. The JDBS is part of this shift. The JDBS is an endeavour to reinvigorate the public role of the Department and the University. It is an opportunity for scholars both within the Department of Behavioural Sciences and outside it to reconnect and share their work with the wider general public and their fellow academics. In order to facilitate this move and promote high research standards the JDBS employs a double blind peer review system, staffed and managed free of charge by our editorial team. Without the time and effort of this team and also the labour of our contributors the journal would not be possible. With this in mind I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our peer reviewers and contributors for their hard work. I would also like to thank our two editorial

assistants Ms. Tanika Riley and Ms. Brionne Antoine for their hard work, and our web liason at the Alma Jordan Library, Mr. Khemchandra Persadsingh, as well as Professor Ann Marie Bissessar and Dr. Ronald Marshall for their support in the conception, development and execution of this first issue.

The subject of this first issue is “Debating Multiculturalism”. Whether it is in local ethnic, intra-national or inter-national politics, in recent times, debating Multiculturalism has taken centre-stage both inside and outside the academy. Discussion on the ideology, psychology and policy implications of what is Multiculturalism and how, if at all, it should be implemented in various organizational, institutional and cultural contexts have been widespread. Much dialogue and dispute over and across both the philosophy and politics of Multiculturalism is on-going and it has been shown comparatively across various fields that Multiculturalism is not a single doctrine nor does it represent an already achieved state of affairs. As such, Multiculturalism can be said to encompass a continuum of political strategies and processes that range from the dangerous and conflict-inducing to the promotion of tolerance and the production of empathy. This reality has made it clear that just as there are different multicultural societies, so there are different multiculturalisms. In what follows in this first issue of JDBS we use the wide-ranging debates around the concept of ‘Multiculturalism’ and its various definitions to understand the various political, social, psychological and cultural issues of living in a world defined by difference and ask what is the role of Multiculturalism – empirically, philosophically and ideologically – in producing the worlds we all live in?

Dylan Kerrigan
Editor

REFERENCES

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doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0020961