

## Special Issue

# Artistic Imagination and Social Imaginaries–Polysemous Readings of Historical Travelling Accounts

### Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue of *Arts* (ISSN 2076-0752) investigates the history and legacy of colonialism by gathering researchers, artists, and activists to read medieval traveling accounts together. The chosen texts document a period when European theologians, missionaries, and merchants encountered peoples and lands that were new to them and show an early Western impetus toward Eurocentric scientific universalism regarding materiality, the environment, and embodiment (Pratt 2008; Carter 2023; Jennings 2017). We pose questions such as the following: What can be learned from descriptions of encounters with “the Other” and unknown lands, creatures, and places? How can we engage with the minority or silenced voices in these colonial accounts? What role can various artistic practices play in reimagining different worlds and retelling “lost” stories? Through these polysemous readings, we aim to investigate new and innovative ways for past narratives to support the acknowledgement of present-day power imbalances.

### Guest Editors

Dr. Laura Hellsten

Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology, Åbo Akademi University,  
20500 Åbo, Finland

Dr. Eduardo Abrantes

Department of Communication and Arts, Roskilde University, DK-4000  
Roskilde, Denmark

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (15 February 2025)



## Arts

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

Impact Factor 0.3



[mdpi.com/si/218991](https://mdpi.com/si/218991)

*Arts*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[arts@mdpi.com](mailto:arts@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/](https://mdpi.com/journal/)

[arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)





# Arts

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 0.3



[mdpi.com/journal/  
arts](https://mdpi.com/journal/arts)



## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

*Arts* welcomes scholarly contributions that address fundamental issues in the arts, broadly conceived, from any meaningful perspective—theoretical, historical, interdisciplinary, and global. Submissions are expeditiously and rigorously reviewed by peers, in order to insure the highest scholarly standards. Because *Arts* is an online journal, articles reach their desired audiences more quickly and reliably than its print media peers. The future is digital, and *Arts* combines the stringent scholarly standards of traditional journals with the easy accessibility afforded by digitalization.

---

### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Andrew M. Nedd

Department of Art History, Savannah College of Art and Design,  
Savannah, GA 31402, USA

---

### Author Benefits

#### Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

#### High Visibility:

indexed within ESCI (Web of Science), and other databases.

#### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 37.3 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 6.8 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).