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Editorial

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Each annual issue of *Digithum* represents an opportunity for reflection on our own progress and on developments in the context in which we work.

First, it represents the realisation of the goal of ensuring the continuity and periodicity of the UOC's oldest digital journal, which is positioned in the area of confluence between the humanities and the social sciences and a contemporary society featured by the new technologies. Secondly, it represents an opportunity to highlight new studies and thinking regarding the many issues raised by this confluence. Leaving aside those that focus on the programmes offered, the articles published in the upcoming issues of the journal outline and shape the work and analytical setting that the journal is committed to promoting as a platform for publication.

In this issue in particular, we have given over our dossier¹ to organised research activities implemented by different groups in the arts and humanities department. They are the main—but not exclusive—testimony of our work, which is not conducted behind closed doors in the UOC. Rather, our research, led from the UOC and incorporating researchers from other universities, has produced a series of results that are discussed and placed in context in the different articles, which also refer to the groups' main inspirations, goals and perspectives on the immediate future (seminars, conferences, publications, in-house or public competitively funded projects, etc).

The introductory article in the dossier, penned by those in charge of the journal, sketches a broad picture of the different kinds of research—implying very different disciplinary perspectives—being performed by our academics and ranging from individual initiatives to participation in research groups led by other institutions (including the initiatives referred to already). The overall picture

is one of a diverse and rich panorama that reflects the main areas of UOC research into the human and social sciences and that projects this vision beyond our immediate setting.

The Miscellany section includes four contributions which refer to different aspects of contemporary society from the perspectives of a range of disciplines and methodologies.

The first article, authored by Eduard Minobis and titled "The Famous on the Internet: A More Democratic Celebrity?", analyses and reflects on new kinds of celebrity, other than that associated with film, television and music. From empirical research, the author endeavours to characterise these new forms of celebrity and questions whether they represent a genuine democratisation of access to public visibility.

The second article, by Graciela de la Fuente and titled "ICTs in Relationships: Handling Distance and Proximity in Transnational Families", refers to a group of Bolivian women living in Barcelona who use digital communication technologies to keep in contact with their families and friends in Bolivia.

The third article, by Xavier Ortells and titled "A Third Way... Digitally: New Technologies and Creativity in Contemporary China", explores some of the repercussions in present day China of the communication technologies and the new social networking platforms, with a view to negotiating a highly sensitive social and political environment characterised by many constraints.

The final article, penned by Borja Pellejero, Natxo Sorolla and Marina Nogué and titled "The Language Dimension in Wikipedia and its Links to Social Elements'", discusses language presence in the internet as a means for observing and studying the world's languages and their evolution in terms of international expansion. Given the measurement difficulties, Wikipedia is used as the ideal base for an initial exploratory study of a kind of linguistic (digital) world order.

1. On this occasion, the dossier articles did not undergo double-blind peer review.



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Finally, it should be pointed out that the efforts of recent years to publicise the journal have borne fruit in the number of original articles received and in visits to our website. The fact that our compliance with the indexing criteria for the main digital journal

repositories and catalogues used to evaluate academics is steadily improving means that our journal is increasingly visible. This is undoubtedly encouraging news for our authors and potential authors.

