

Editorial

The papers in this edition of *Glimpse* Volume 22 emerged out of contributions made to the 22nd International Conference of the Society of Phenomenology and Media, which was initially scheduled to be held at the University of Tallinn, Estonia, but which for the contingent situation created by the novel Coronavirus, had to be cancelled. SPM board members and advisors, including Tonu Viik, who was organizing this year's conference at Tallinn, had to attend to queries round the clock and reverse the effects of a very late cancellation. A barrage of inconveniences and disruptions marked the period following the cancellation of this conference, much to the disappointment of all members and patrons of the SPM who wanted to go to Tallinn. Flight reservations had to be cancelled, communications had to be sent out and answered, arrangements for a virtual edition of the conference had to be made. Colleagues Marleni-Reyes and Alberto Carillo at the Benemerita University of Puebla in Mexico coordinated with the Directors of the SPM, and founder Paul Majkut at San Diego, California, to pull off a ZOOM conference for paper presenters from all over the world. In a remarkable act of co-ordination and synchronization the ZOOM Conference of June 2020 was able to create a very meaningful interactive space for the range of activities expected in a real conference: paper presentations, questions, sessions and discussions. Though a virtual conference lacks the benefit of immediate human engagement, which is characteristic of all polemical argument from the time of Athenians, it was not less rewarding to see that the papers could be communicated with the help of structured and organized audio-visual presentations that inform the real-space conferences of the modern academy. This year's conference proceedings were not substantially different from those of the other years except so far as the speakers were not placed within the same

spatial ambit. Philosophical debate loses its ardor in the absence of physical presence, probably because of the lack of the deictic moment of a speech. Animated discourse brings the body and soul to respond together in a manner which is not possible through mediated format. Speakers confer to listeners in a space or arena. A conference is by definition an act of cogent presentation directed to all levels of reception and yet one bearing out the central reasoning to each listener who personalizes the information in a typical way. The Tallinn conference might have satiated this need. Yet, the virtual conference also created a perfect approximation of that intellectual theater.

The papers in this edition of *Glimpse* are in line with the kind of phenomenological deliberation that is traditionally visible in the SPM conference. This volume includes essays ranging from reflective discourse, to study of specific texts and language games, to very innovative writing on the present state of media, arts and the mediatic achievements of recent years. On both sides of the Atlantic, as well as in Asia, Africa and the Middle East the media continues to sway and determine a complex set of human behaviors. The impact of media has been a question of obsessive interest and it has justifiably engaged the attention of many of the contributors. Notions of speculative continental philosophy has been either accepted or rejected not just in terms of looking at instances of media practice or entertainment consumerism, but also in terms of what such theoretical standpoints now have to offer to the world that is trying to cope with a pandemic whose scale confounds the imagination. Many of the apprehensions voiced in apocalyptic genres became a reality in an instant of knowledge, yet as the essays in this issue show us, there is hope and salvation in the assertion of human dignity even in a rapidly altered scenario.

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