

preface



It was my privilege and pleasure to serve as the host for the 10th Annual Meeting of The Society for Phenomenology and Media, which took place in Puebla, Mexico, from February 21-23, 2008. That conference marked 10 years since the founding of the Society and brought together scholars from Mexico, the United States, and Europe on the theme, "McLuhan and Beyond." Many of the papers presented in Puebla then are included in this edition of *Glimpse*.

I want to take this occasion to congratulate and thank the authors whose papers are included in this issue of *Glimpse* for their contributions, not only to this publication but also to the work of The Society for Phenomenology and Media. Readers will form some idea of the creative thinking and lively discussion which took place in Puebla last year – as well as the previous year in La Jolla, California – as they study the papers selected for this issue of *Glimpse*.

Let me also thank my university, the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, for its generous support for the work of the Society. The University hosted the conference in 2008 and together with CONACyT (National Council for Science and Technology), project number 58995 (Philosophy of Technology: The Case of New Media) both made possible this publication. I speak not only for myself as a professor of the University, member of the Society, and editor of *Glimpse*, but also for the president and other officers of the Society, all its many members around the world, and those who shared their scholarship and exchanged ideas in Puebla and La Jolla – ideas reflected in this edition of *Glimpse*.

Several University officers and colleagues deserve special mention. Among the University officers, let me thank the Rector, Enrique Agüera Ibáñez; the Secretary General, José Ramón Eguibar Cuenca, and the Vice Rector for Postgraduate Research and Studies, Pedro Hugo Hernández Tejeda. As a professor of the Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, I am proud of the contribution these educators and leaders have made, on behalf of our university, for scholarship in philosophy and media studies. I have to mention that, the 10th Meeting of the SPM took place as part of the annual activities planned by the Colloquium for Aesthetics and Technology, which is associated with the Master Program in Aesthetics and Arts. In particular, I thank

my colleagues Professor Gerardo de la Fuente Lora, Professor Renato Prada Oropeza, the PhD Student, Marco Antonio Calderón Zacauala, and the postgraduate student, Mónica S. Martínez for their active support. I would also like to thank our coeditor Professor Chris Nagel at California State University as well as our invited coeditor Professor Gerardo Rivas López. There are others, colleagues and students, whose names I do not mention now who helped greatly with the conference and this publication. You too have my gratitude and that of my colleagues in the Society.

My friends at the University should know how welcoming Society members found the university officers, staff, and professors they met at the conference and how conducive to their discussions they found the facilities of the University and the people and environment of the city of Puebla.

Paul Majkut – founder of The Society for Phenomenology and Media, Professor at National University in La Jolla, California, and host to the ninth conference whose papers are included in this *Glimpse* – deserves very special recognition. The Society has grown and prospered since its founding by Professor Majkut. Paul Majkut's outreach to scholars with diverse approaches to the media and his readiness to extend the scope of the Society world-wide account for much of its success. The quality and distinctive look of this and other issues of *Glimpse* is a tribute to Paul Majkut as well.

In the Introduction which follows, the Society President, Dr. Dennis E. Skocz, offers a synopsis of the papers published in this edition of *Glimpse*. For my part, as a host for the Puebla conference and participant in the previous conference in La Jolla, I can attest to the quality of papers selected for publication here. They, and others not selected for publication, inspired animated conversation during conference sessions and afterwards. A philosophical and interdisciplinary approach to the media seems to engage the creativity and best research of scholars around the world. The papers are evidence of the value of a sustained interdisciplinary and international conversation about the impact of media on contemporary existence.

I invite members of the Society and other readers of this *Glimpse* to engage with the ideas represented in the papers of this issue. We in the Society welcome your participation in future conferences and in publications of *Glimpse*.

Alberto Carrillo Canán
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