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Issue Theme:

Sardines Philosophy

*How to rethink ourselves inside
and outside the technological black
box: Our Least Common Multiple*

Editor in chief:

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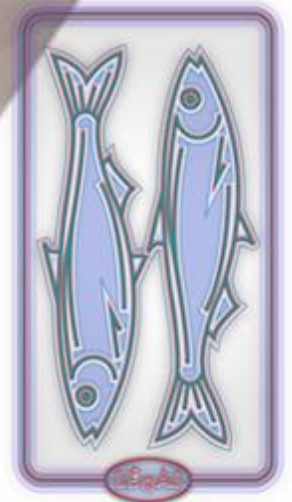
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The journal accepts original papers, reports, and reviews, and book reviews written in English.

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Preface

السردين *Sardines Philosophy:* *How to rethink ourselves inside and outside the technological black box:* *Our Least Common Multiple*

In the increasingly digitalized world we live in, the metaphor of the sardine provides a compelling lens that examines their resilience, adaptability, and collective movement, embodying the challenges and possibilities inherent in maneuvering the technological black box. It is this metaphorical framework that unites the contributions in this special issue, "*السردين Sardines Philosophy: How to Rethink Ourselves Inside and Outside the Technological Black Box: Our Least Common Multiple*," published in the *Journal of Studies in Language, Culture, and Society (JSLCS)*, Vol. 7, Issue 2, October 2024.

The volume invites readers to deeply go through diverse themes that put focus on intricate relationships between technology, language, culture, and society, using the humble 'sardine' as a powerful metaphor for our collective experience in the digital age. Just as sardines maneuver the depths of the sea, adapting to currents and evading predators, we too must learn to move fluidly through the digital realm, balancing connectivity with individuality, adaptation with resistance. The metaphor of the sardine serves as a unifying thread throughout this issue, representing both the universality of our digital experiences and the resilience required to thrive in this new environment. It encloses the dynamics of digital networks, the pressures of conformity, and the potential for collective movement and change. As we explore being "inside and outside the technological black box," we challenge readers to reconsider their relationship with technology and its impact on our shared cultural and social landscapes, and more importantly on our «humanity». Our special issue brings together a diverse array of perspectives from scholars across disciplines, reflecting the multifaceted nature of the *Journal of Studies in Language, Culture, and Society (JSLCS)*. In fact, *JSLCS* has long served as a platform for cutting-edge research in linguistics, cultural studies, sociology, psychology, education, art, and related fields, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and promoting a holistic understanding of the complex interplay between language, culture, and society. This special issue continues that tradition, with a particular focus on the transformative role of digital technologies and artificial intelligence which makes the world in permanent and fast transformations. The articles presented here explore several key themes that are at the forefront of contemporary discourse on technology and society.

To sketch the content of the issue, we would gladly describe each paper briefly.

To get started, the editors opted for an introductory paper by Philippe Boisnard who offers a phenomenological approach to transpassibility. Through his article, he explored the intersection of human experience and artificial intelligence. His work highlights the shifting boundaries between the human and the digital, raising questions about how AI transforms our sense of agency and interaction.

As a follow up of Philippe Boisnard's reflections, Fatima Zohra Sehlaoui examines AI's revolutionary impact on university language teaching, presenting an perceptive analysis of its applications and future potential. Her research reveals both the promises and the complexities AI introduces into pedagogical practices.

As for the authors Amira Sarra Hiouani and Nor El Houda Khiari, they put focus on AI tools in Master's dissertation writing, where they offer a detailed exploration of how EFL graduates are integrating these technologies into academic processes. Their study shed light on the drivers behind AI adoption and its implications for research methodologies.

With the raise of AI, the concept of chatpots emerged dramatically. Ali Belabbes and Fatiha Hamitouche focused on critical media analysis using AI-powered chatbots, particularly in EFL classrooms. Their work addresses the pedagogical opportunities and ethical considerations tied to AI integration in media studies.

Another important aspect raised by Assia Azzoui is the contribution of theoretical insights into online collaborative learning, emphasizing innovations in educational approaches that support digital platforms to enhance student engagement and collaboration.

Meryem Kehal came to relate AI to creative research in Algerian universities, which is a salient theme that emerges with the rapid revolutionary growth of this technology. The paper sheds light on faculty perspectives regarding the integration of AI tools into academic research environments. Her study marked the transformative potential of AI in fostering creativity.

Given the open facilities Open AI has offered since 2021, ChatGPT remains one of the most widely used chatbot in Algeria. In this, Naimi Amara, Yaqot Elbechir, and Aissa Hanifi investigate students' perceptions of ChatGPT in academic writing at Chlef University. Their findings highlight the tool's impact on writing practices and its role as an essential academic resource.

Always withing academic writing, but this time using technology, Lina Sabbah comes to explore the use of computer-based interactive videos to develop learners' comprehension skills in scientific texts. Her case study of Tamazight students at Akli Mohand Oulhadj University in Bouira offers a significant perspective on digital tools in higher education.

From education to arts, Simone Hélène Sirven presents an evocative reflection on the aesthetics of the sardine, linking this humble fish to contemporary artistic and philosophical observations. Her contribution demonstrates how metaphor informs aesthetic and cultural discourse. The paper is followed by a metaphorical analysis of connectivity and saturation dynamics in digital ecosystems, authored by Hafida Slimani and Rachid Saim. They examine the use of the sardine as a lens to examine the pressures and potentials of digital networks.

Expanding on the theme of metaphor in digital contexts, Selma Mokrani investigates cultural references and metaphors in programming, focusing on variable names and code comments. Through surveys and content analysis, her research highlights how mythology, literature, and cultural artifacts are integrated into coding practices to enhance readability and foster team cohesion. Her study accounts for the symbolic and narrative dimensions of programming, and tries to bridge technical functionality with human creativity.

Always within the same lines of thoughts, Marc Veyrat reflects on landscape and digital transformations, presenting an experimental exploration of human and technological convergence through his uniquely symbolic framework.

A theme taking ground on scholarly discussions is privacy, dealt with in this paper by Yasser Sedrati and Maria Wiam Sidi Athmane. They offer a critical analysis of digital totalitarianism through the metaphor of cookies, providing a sobering look at surveillance, privacy, and control in the digital age.

One of the aspects of the digital landscape, communication comes at its centre. Jimoh Junior Braimoh examines texting language as a digital symbolic current, accentuating insights into its implications for pragmatics and intercultural communication in the digital age.

In a more in-depth experience, Mariem Guerniche and Lamia El-Mechta share a collaborative auto-ethnography of three PhD students' experiences with online platforms during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. Their narrative highlights both the challenges and opportunities of digital learning environments.

One cannot evoke all the aforementioned themes without the notion of virtual reality. This theme is displayed by Emery Jordan Fraser who explores virtual reality experimentation in queer media, deconstructing traditional media paradigms and re-imagining the possibilities of embodied experience in digital spaces.

To end the issue, the editors chose to come back to the human aspect and expression through art spicing it with immersive technology. Philippe Franck, hence, reflects on XR Bury, drawing inspiration from Pol Bury's artistic legacy to investigate the convergence of immersive technologies and creative expression.

These contributions form a mosaic of perspectives that interrogate the ethical, cultural, and technological dimensions of our increasingly digitized existence. The metaphor of the sardine serves as a guiding thread, inviting readers to consider how resilience, adaptability, and collective movement can inform our floating on digital seas.

This issue reflects JSLCS' commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and advancing critical inquiry into the intersections of language, culture, and society. We extend our gratitude to the authors for their valuable contributions and to the editorial team (reviewers, secretary) for their dedication to this endeavor. It is our hope that this collection inspires further reflection and dialogue, offering pathways toward a more inclusive and ethically grounded digital future.

The Issue' Editors
Nadia Idri & Marc Veyrat
10/30/2024