

This Issue

EDITORIAL



Generations of thinkers before us have plucked the low-hanging fruit. The modern academic therefore pursues novelty down increasingly narrow paths. Life scientists toil to distill small portions of clarity from the vast complexity of life. Physical scientists focus on problems whose magnitude or minutia often outstrips conventional understanding. Social scientists analyze intricate human problems with increasingly sophisticated approaches. Art trends towards the more subtle, abstract, or outrageous. With this ongoing speciation of the academic community, novel findings are often seen and appreciated by only a small subset of people with the appropriate training. Esoteric language and the highly specific nature of most publications make it difficult for other academics and the public at large to understand the purpose and problems which drive progress in science and the liberal arts. It is with this in mind that *Akademeia* was conceived.

The overarching goals of *Akademeia* are threefold: To bring together specialized academic works under a common framework, to make published works more accessible to a lay audience, and to provide publishing opportunities for interdisciplinary works.

Akademeia's initial milestone, realized in this inaugural issue, is to gather a variety of specialty works from the academic community. All of the works presented in this issue are of sufficient quality to be published in specialty journals in their respective fields. We believe that the willingness of authors to submit work to *Akademeia* reflects the sentiment that the benefits of publication in a specialty journal can be superseded by the benefits of open access and multidisciplinary publication.

We believe that specialization need not be sacrificed in the interest of increasing readership. In every academic work, often hidden amongst technical details and sometimes pedantic vernacular, lies a problem or research question with wide-ranging significance. While the readership of a specialty journal can readily infer the significance of an academic work, the importance of such works cannot be inferred by the majority of academics in other fields. In our quest to make published works more accessible, we aim to create a unique content and organization structure for the journal. This structure will simplify technical details, draw links to thematically related knowledge in different disciplines, and discuss the impact and context of each work. We hope to implement our ideas for our second issue in the summer of 2012. As *Akademeia* matures we will strive to incorporate new ideas and procedures to better realize our mandate.

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Editors-in-Chief