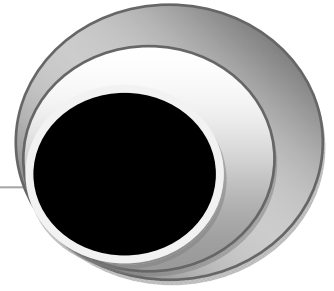


# A Prefatory Note

Márcia Lemos | University of Porto



This special issue of *Via Panorâmica* offers a selection of papers originally presented at “Relational Forms II: An International Conference on Literature, Science and the Arts”, held in December 2012 at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto. As its title suggests, this conference was the second in a series of academic events that reflect the research concerns of the eponymous research group (*Relational Forms*), based at CETAPS, the Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-Portuguese Studies.\* The conference meant to respond to the great interest that interdisciplinary and intermedial designs have obtained in many of the areas of study pertaining not only to literature and the arts but also to the sciences. Accordingly, it placed a significant emphasis on the ways in which the discourses of literature, film, painting, music and other such cultural practices become interwoven with the discourses of science; and, conversely, on the ways in which the practices and theories of science reach beyond their more conventional boundaries and into the fields of artistic creativity and the humanities. Additionally, the conference meant to commemorate the 350th anniversary of a major event in the history of science and scientific institutions: the granting of the Charter to the Royal Society of London by King Charles II, in 1662.

The articles gathered in this issue reflect, therefore, the conference’s broad scope. Indeed, while the opening article offers a detailed account of the life and legacy of Charles II, a man ahead of his time in his pursuit of science; the second paper persuasively demonstrates the contribution of Francis Bacon’s Theory of Idols to the emergence of the Royal Society of London and its core concerns. A significant number of papers interestingly explores representations of science and scientists in various literary texts, ranging from English early Tudor drama and John Rastell’s plays to contemporary fiction and the work of the Singaporean writer Catherine

Lim. A closing set of articles investigates the intricacies of artistic creation, providing valuable insights into the fascinating field of neuroscience.

\* See *Via Panorâmica* 3<sup>rd</sup> series I (2012)