

FOREWORD

Immediately, I was made aware of the plans of this forthcoming journal and began writing its foreword, ABBA's 1976 hit song Fernando hit my subconscious. So I played it on YouTube as background to this writing. Anni-Frid Lyngstad & Agnetha Fältskog's unmistakable vocals kept me company as they sang that haunting, sentimental recollection of two freedom fighters from the Mexican Revolution. Mexican, I surmise, because they mention the Rio Grande. I think the song serves as a powerful symbol of collective memory on liberation and self-determination. It is a song that culturally resonates with you because the theme of **freedom is such a universal Experience. Human beings have such a shared Nostalgia towards symbols of hope and resilience. The song emphasises** the importance of human connection in the face of adversity. The lyrics are such a reflective collective memory of overcoming hardships and the resilience of the human spirit. Like the journal promises, the song is testifying to the eternal power of the narrative. Imagine flipping through the pages of its contents once it's out!

Relatedly, the promise of this forthcoming journal is poignant. Thus, I must pause and comb through my thoughts-they are many and faster than I can type. Eponymously named Mnemosyne Nexus. Its articles will cover the marriage of narrative, memory, and the collective human experience, what was and what is and between the individual and the collective universe.

I must begin with the socio-political context within which this journal will be produced. Globally, it is a dicey, divided season where literary voices are being silenced and books banned. And, just when I thought that it was over for the Literatis- a journal that is fighting back to reclaim our humanity. This journal is Activism. Acadetivism. A return to love. A return to community. A return to the collective.

In my opinion, this is the tenor of this journal. That our collective memories significantly shape humanity. That our collective memories are a resounding artistic response to the deliberate, dangerous false memories, misinformation, disinformation, and alternative facts being conjured up in this digital age.

Moreover, I love that the journal contravenes the traditional straitjacketed rules of academic publishing. The rules are normally intended to exclude certain voices that

can't find a home in the inflexible academic confines. Not so here. The journal will be a site for academic publishing freedom with contents drawn from both literature, novelettes, microfiction, Twitter fiction, blogging, and microblogging. In this way, untold narratives that could ordinarily only walk at the margins of society will find their way to the centre. This way, it will serve as a reflection of societal struggles, act as a catalyst for a deeper understanding of global literary and cultural shifts, and offer tangible progress toward a more equitable world.

Further, the journal will scrutinise the curious intrusion of English literature into the latest innovations in literary analysis, linguistic studies, cultural studies, suppressed voices, medical literature, engineering influences, ecocentric aspects, and sidelined historical convergences.

The other thing that I found fascinating about this journal is its promise to be interdisciplinary. Interdisciplinarity is such an important aspect in literary studies as it offers deeper, more comprehensive understanding of texts and human experiences by combining diverse perspectives and methodologies from other fields, such as history, psychology, sociology, and science.

Lastly, as Mnemosyne Nexus waltzes into the beautiful academic publishing world, my prophetic word is that its contents will transcend its current home and travel the world to offer a different but better understanding and interpretation of not just literary texts but also of the human experience.

Welcome home, Mnemosyne Nexus.