Editorial

Thinking about Time

This special issue, guest edited by Andrea Nanetti, is dedicated to Fra Mauro and his world. It introduces an exciting project for the creation of digital histories with the help of new media—focal on a continuously reloadable historical landscape, where past, present, and future emerge as a democratized whole. While Nanetti's initiative may seem radical to conventionally trained historians, we at *ARWH* believe that writing history involves a strong dose of imagination while journeying into uncharted waters.

Nanetti *et al* are in the process of creating a web based user-friendly platform that would help historians to create, new, interactive global histories with the help of the new media in the future. Their cutting-edge programme interrogates authoritas through technology, the team believing that 'the real frontier research in world histories starts when we want to use computers to structure historical information, model historical narratives, simulate theoretical large scale hypotheses, and incentivise world historians to use virtual assistants and/or engage them in teamwork using social media and/or seduce them with immersive spaces to provide new learning and sharing environments, in which new things can emerge and happen.'

In addition, this issue carries an article by Hilde De Weerdt on comparative political histories of pre industrial empires, an essay that fits well with the space-time-object covered in this special issue.

We regret that this issue was greatly delayed through circumstances beyond our control but we are working hard to reduce the time gap. We record our gratitude to Professor Gerold Krozewski of Osaka University, who helped us at the crucial stage of copy editing.

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On the behalf of the Editorial Board