

# Introduction to POROI 14.2

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# Introduction to *POROI* 14.2

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*POROI: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention*, Volume 14, Number 2 (Winter 2019) presents two timely essays on cutting-edge issues in rhetoric of science and one on the relevance to our own globally networked era of the rhetorical situation in which the international interlanguage Esperanto arose.

In “Scientific Futures for a Rhetoric of Science,” David R. Gruber (University of Copenhagen) and Randy Allen Harris (University of Waterloo) reenact their debate at the 2018 Rhetoric Society of America meetings. Their topic is new directions in which rhetoric of science should move. Gruber contends that rhetoric of science should no longer be limited to interpreting existing scientific texts, or even to helping scientists manage their messages to the public. It should work with members of scientific disciplines to design experiments showing how, like science itself, rhetoric brings about effects in the real world. Harris, a veteran of efforts to get rhetoric of science up and running and a previous contributor to *POROI*, offers some cautionary notes.

Michael Zerbe’s (York College of Pennsylvania) “Toward a Rhetoric of DNA” is highly resonant with Gruber and Harris’s discussion. It is about the quick, inexpensive, and virtually limitless ability of the CRISPR-CAS 9 gene editing system to target and alter DNA sequences. Addressing rhetoricians of science who in the past have viewed DNA as code, blueprint, or language, Zerbe argues that CRISPR shows that DNA has become text itself, with purposes, stakeholders, audiences, and material effects.

Alessandra Madella (Kunming College of the Arts) offers a detailed, informed account of the rhetorical situation in which the international language Esperanto arose and how it was received in other contexts. Devised in pogrom-ridden Russia by L. L. Zamenhof, a Jewish ophthalmologist, Esperanto’s ethical idea was from the start to foster diversity and tolerance among people of different nationalities. Citing high enrollment in Esperanto classes in present day China, extensive presence on the internet, and lively international conferences, Madella shows how this “internal idea” is still alive and well.

POROI is a biannual peer-reviewed electronic journal associated with the University of Iowa's Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry, the Obermann Center for Advanced Study, and the Digital Commons initiative of the University of Iowa Libraries.

POROI encourages and welcomes submissions on the rhetorical aspects of knowledge production and dissemination in and between fields and from fields of inquiry to public audiences. It is especially alert to the role of communication media, old and new, in this process.

POROI's high readership, currently averaging over 3000 downloads a month, offers a high-profile platform for your work. To submit use the "submit article" portal on the journal's homepage (<http://ir.uiowa.edu/POROI/>). We give timely, supportive, and helpful feedback. POROI is also open to suggestions for special topic issues.

The editors are grateful to our authors, manuscript reviewers, and to our editorial assistant, Amanda Axley.