

2020

Introduction to Poroi 15.2: 45th Anniversary Edition

David Depew
University of Iowa, emeritus

Recommended Citation

Depew, David. "Introduction to Poroi 15.2: 45th Anniversary Edition." *Poroi* 15, Iss. 2 (2020): Article 1.
<https://doi.org/10.13008/2151-2957.1308>

Hosted by [Iowa Research Online](#)

This Introduction is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Poroi* by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

Introduction to *Poroi* 15.2:

45th Anniversary Edition

David Depew

*University of Iowa, emeritus
Iowa City, IA*



Poroi 15,2 (May 2020)

Poroi 15.2 celebrates the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Project on Rhetoric of Inquiry at the University of Iowa. POROI's writ remains today what it was in 1985: to press the case that the rhetorical dimensions of discourse in the arts, sciences and professions are considerable, illuminating, and consensus building. The issue presents two distinguished contributions to help our celebration.

Carolyn Miller, North Carolina State *emerita*, and Molly Hartzog, Frostburg State, Maryland, give us a comprehensive survey of the tree diagrams that have been used to represent life's diversity. Tree diagrams preceded Darwin, were used by him, and are still used today, although considerably changed. These diagrams play argumentative roles, the authors decisively show, and fall into four separate traditions of visualization: cosmological, logical-philosophical, genealogical, and materialist.

Miller and Hartzog's essay illustrates the point it is making. Its extensively researched use of visual representations shows their argumentative force. From its start, POROI anticipated the novel opportunities for visual rhetoric afforded by the digital revolution that is now fully upon us. In Miller and Hartzog's hands we see its fruit.

Our second celebratory offering is a colloquy between one of POROI's three founders, Deirdre McCloskey, University of Illinois at Chicago *emerita*, and eight interlocutors. (The other founders were Allan McGill, University of Virginia, and John Nelson, University of Iowa). Using as a springboard a previously published paper by McCloskey, the participants explore the contested relation between rhetoric, dialectic, and dogmatism, especially at the troubled boundary between economics, politics, and logic.

POROI's enduring institutions include the University of Iowa Faculty Rhetoric Seminar, in which academics help each other

improve the communicative reach of their writing across disciplinary lines and close the gap between scholars and the public; graduate classes in Writing Dissertations and Writing for Learned Journals that teach the same skills; a Graduate Certificate Program in Rhetoric of Inquiry that has awarded certificates to over sixty students; two book series, including one that contained the seminal collection *Rhetoric of the Human Sciences* (Nelson and McCloskey, Eds., University of Wisconsin Press, 1987); and *Poroi: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Rhetorical Analysis and Invention*. Since its inception, this peer-reviewed e-journal has published over 200 papers that have been downloaded across the globe some 270,000 times. We invite you to read and contribute by going to our website poroi/uiowa.edu.

We are grateful to the many authors and manuscript reviewers who have helped make the journal a success. We also thank our Editorial Associates, including our present Associate Amanda Axley.

Copyright © 2020 David Depew