

Hot Articles

Arts & Humanities

July 2017



Title: Crop and wild plant exploitation in Italy during the Neolithic period: New data from Su Mulinu Mannu, Middle Neolithic site of Sardinia

Author: Ucchesu, Mariano and Sau, Silvia and Lugli

Journal: Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports

Volume: 14 **Issue:** August 2017 **Page:** 1-11

Doi: 10.1016/j.jasrep.2017.05.026

Abstract

This paper provides new data from Su Mulinu Mannu Late Middle Neolithic (ca. 4500–4100 cal BCE) open-air site, (Central-West Sardinia). The new archaeobotanical data from Sardinia provided us with information about an agricultural system based on the cultivation of different cereals, such as *Triticum aestivum/durum*, *Hordeum vulgare* var. *nudum* and *Hordeum vulgare*. Edible wild fruits, such as *Ficus carica*, *Olea europaea* subsp. *europaea* var. *sylvestris*, and *Pinus* sp. integrated subsistence in the site. In addition, seeds of typically Mediterranean trees and herbaceous plants such as *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Malva* sp., were also documented. This research provides the first evidence of the role of cultivated plants and wild fruit consumption in the diet of Middle Neolithic groups in Sardinia, in the broader framework of the Italian context.

Database: ScienceDirect

Title: [Dance/movement therapy in the treatment of post traumatic stress: A reference model](#)

Author: Rebekka Dieterich-Hartwell

Journal: The Arts in Psychotherapy

Volume: 54 **Issue:** July 2017 **Page:** 38-46

Doi: 10.1016/j.aip.2017.02.010

Abstract

Given the debilitating effects of psychological trauma, the development of effective treatments is critical. Current treatment trends are increasingly inclusive of body-centered and alternative techniques. Nevertheless, the creative arts therapies (CATs) continue to be underrepresented in the literature in their work with this population. In this paper I focus on the phenomenon of interoception in the recovery process from trauma and present a dance/movement therapy (DMT) application model that is grounded in empirical findings. In three steps, safety, regulating hyperarousal, and attending to interoception, I offer practical suggestions and guidelines for the treatment of trauma survivors in the beginning stage of their recovery. This model is not meant to be exhaustive. Instead, it is hoped that, as it hones in on the basic issues of physical disconnection and lack of interoception in trauma survivors, it might function as an initial building block for a more complete treatment model in the future.

Database : ScienceDirect

Title: [On the relevance of auditory-based Gabor features for deep learning in robust speech recognition](#)
Author: Angel Mario Castro Martinez, Sri Harish Mallidi, Bernd T. Meyer
Journal: Computer Speech & Language
Volume: 45 **Issue:** September 2017 **Page:** 21-38
Doi: 10.1016/j.csl.2017.02.006

Abstract

Previous studies support the idea of merging auditory-based Gabor features with deep learning architectures to achieve robust automatic speech recognition, however, the cause behind the gain of such combination is still unknown. We believe these representations provide the deep learning decoder with more discriminable cues. Our aim with this paper is to validate this hypothesis by performing experiments with three different recognition tasks (Aurora 4, CHiME 2 and CHiME 3) and assess the discriminability of the information encoded by Gabor filterbank features. Additionally, to identify the contribution of low, medium and high temporal modulation frequencies subsets of the Gabor filterbank were used as features (dubbed LTM, MTM and HTM, respectively). With temporal modulation frequencies between 16 and 25 Hz, HTM consistently outperformed the remaining ones in every condition, highlighting the robustness of these representations against channel distortions, low signal-to-noise ratios and acoustically challenging real-life scenarios with relative improvements from 11 to 56% against a Mel-filterbank-DNN baseline. To explain the results, a measure of similarity between phoneme classes from DNN activations is proposed and linked to their acoustic properties. We find this measure to be consistent with the observed error rates and highlight specific differences on phoneme level to pinpoint the benefit of the proposed features.

Database: ScienceDirect

Title: [Open data: Accountability and transparency](#)

Author: Matthew S Mayernik

Journal: Big Data & Society

First published: 4 July 2017

Doi: 10.1177/2053951717718853

Abstract

The movements by national governments, funding agencies, universities, and research communities toward “open data” face many difficult challenges. In high-level visions of open data, researchers’ data and metadata practices are expected to be robust and structured. The integration of the internet into scientific institutions amplifies these expectations. When examined critically, however, the data and metadata practices of scholarly researchers often appear incomplete or deficient. The concepts of “accountability” and “transparency” provide insight in understanding these perceived gaps. Researchers’ primary accountabilities are related to meeting the expectations of research competency, not to external standards of data deposition or metadata creation. Likewise, making data open in a transparent way can involve a significant investment of time and resources with no obvious benefits. This paper uses differing notions of accountability and transparency to conceptualize “open data” as the result of ongoing achievements, not one-time acts.

Database : SAGE journals

Title: [A God's-Eye Perspective after Onto-Theology: Notes toward a Post-Modern Christian Culture](#)
Author: Bruce V. Foltz
Journal: Christian bioethics
Volume: 23 **Issue:** August 2017 **Page:** 100-118
Doi: 10.1093/cb/cbx002

Abstract

When the elite of German culture discovered that they no longer understood what the belief in God had been about, they earnestly set to work seeking an answer to this puzzle: what had once animated religious belief? What had been the point of it all? What had been its true meaning? The first answer came from Kant, who sought to show that religion, or at least what he considered the legitimate exercise of religion, had all along been about morality. A second answer came from Schleiermacher, who addressed the “cultured despisers” of religion to demonstrate that the true content of the Christian religion had been not propositions of morality, but certain kinds of intuition or feeling. And, yet a third answer came from Hegel, who concluded that revealed religion had been one of three cultural manifestations of absolute knowledge. In one form or another, these three reductions (morality, feeling, and culture) continue in various permutations to be the principal ways that religion is understood today, even by self-identified believers. With ongoing reference to bioethics as a sort of Rosetta Stone for deciphering secular culture, Engelhardt shows at length how the Enlightenment project—the attempt to lay a new foundation for morality and politics drawing upon a universal, secular, discursive rationality rather than the Experience of God—has failed so miserably that there can be no hope for its fulfillment. The secular project—the attempt to live “after God,” to find secular substitutes to which Christianity can be reduced—has failed miserably, even if the darkness from this failed star has yet to reach the enthusiasts of secular society: “Morality has been utterly deflated. Culture is cheap. Feelings are quarantined as matters of personal taste to be overridden by secular obligations. The only solution is to return to the ascetical disciplines of the Church of the Apostles and the Fathers, which aid in turning one from self-love to the transcendent God and to a noetic experience of his will” (Engelhardt, *After God*, 443 n. 14).

Database : Oxford journals

Title: [Plato's ideas had consequences: appropriations of Greek thought in the post-war conservatism of Richard Weaver](#)

Author: John Bloxham

Journal: Classical Receptions Journal

Volume: 9 **Issue:** 3 **Page:** 426-446

Doi: 10.1093/crj/clx001

Abstract

Now largely forgotten outside the American conservative movement, Richard Weaver's *Ideas have Consequences* (1948) was an important conservative work published after World War II, cited as a formative influence by a number of key figures on the Right. This paper examines an important but neglected aspect of Weaver's work: his choice of Greek models, including those he idealized, downplayed, or subverted. Weaver argued that the West has been in decline since the Middle Ages due to its rejection of Platonic philosophy. In Weaver's narrative, the consequent lack of moral absolutes epitomized modern liberalism. The symptoms of relativism were aggravated by urbanization and technological progress, and a reversion to the supposed simplicity of the past, physically and spiritually, was necessary for America's revival. Whereas Aristotle's ideas about democracies dominated by farmers better complemented Weaver's agrarianism, his influence on early science made him a deeply suspicious proto-modern thinker to Weaver. Instead, Weaver appropriated Plato's philosophy of absolutes and apparent elitism, but the seemingly communistic aspects of Plato's *Republic* made him an uncomfortable fit with Weaver's antipathy to the left. These complex classical appropriations shed significant light on a seminal thinker from the birth of modern American conservatism.

Database : Oxford journals

Title: [Culture and Identity through English as a Lingua Franca: Rethinking Concepts and Goals in Intercultural Communication](#)
Author: Marie-Luise Pitzl
Journal: ELT Journal
Volume: 71 **Issue:** 3 **Page:** 390 - 392
Doi: 10.1093/elt/ccx022

Abstract

The monograph *Culture and Identity through English as a Lingua Franca* is part of the series *Developments in English as a Lingua Franca (DELF)*, edited by ELF scholar Jennifer Jenkins and book author himself, Will Baker, and published by De Gruyter Mouton. As one would expect from a book in this series, Baker engages with English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) and ELF research, which, he argues, ‘has some major implications for our conception of the relationships between communication, language, identity and culture’ (p. 2). This, he states, is ‘not because there is something unique about communication through ELF [...] but rather because [...] ELF research provides a substantial body of knowledge documenting how cultures and identities are constituted and enacted in intercultural communication’ (p. 2). As the subtitle *Rethinking Concepts and Goals in Intercultural Communication*...

Database : Oxford journals

Title: [Pure taste in popular music: The social construction of indie-folk as a performance of “poly-purism”](#)

Author: Niels van Poecke

Journal: American Journal of Cultural Sociology

First published: 12 July 2017

Doi: 10.1057/s41290-017-0033-y

Abstract

This article examines the social construction of indie-folk as a genre, defined not primarily as an aesthetic category but as a tool and resource of social differentiation. Drawing from 48 in-depth interviews with musicians, gatekeepers, and audience members, the discourse of indie-folk is analyzed, focusing on how Dutch community members draw social and symbolic boundaries. Analysis shows that they are “poly-purists,” a type of cultural omnivores who consume a broad variety of musical genres yet by staying within the confines of the indie music stream rather than adopting a politics of ‘anything goes.’ By transposing the aesthetic disposition to the historically lowbrow phenomenon of folk music, community members distinguish ‘authentic’ folk from mainstream pop and dance, lowbrow country, and highbrow jazz and classical music. Simultaneously, they choose within these and other genres those items that match their ‘quality’ taste. Therefore, this study classifies indie-folk as a rising genre and contributes to existing research on cultural hierarchy and diversity, arguing that the emergence and institutionalization of indie-folk is part of the ongoing historical narrative of a Kantian aesthetics emphasizing the disinterested nature of artistic evaluation.

Database : Springer Link

Title: [Evaluating rater accuracy and perception for integrated writing assessments using a mixed-methods approach](#)
Author: Jue Wang, George Engelhard, Kevin Raczynski, Tian Song, Edward W. Wolfe
Journal: Assessing Writing
Volume: 33 **Issue:** July 2017 **Page:** 36 - 47
Doi: 10.1016/j.asw.2017.03.003

Abstract

Integrated writing (IW) assessments underscore the connections between reading comprehension and writing skills. These assessments typically include rater-mediated components. Our study identified IW type essays that are difficult-to-score accurately, and then investigated reasons based on rater perceptions and judgments. Our data based on IW assessments are used as formative assessments designed to provide information on the developing literacy of students. We used a mixed- methods approach with rater accuracy defined quantitatively based on Rasch measurement theory, and a survey-based qualitative method designed to investigate rater perceptions and judgments toward student essays within the context of IW assessments. The quantitative analyses suggest that the essays and raters vary along a continuum designed to represent rating accuracy. The qualitative analyses suggest that raters had inconsistent perceptions toward certain features of essays compared to the experts, such as the amount of textual borrowing, the development of ideas, and the consistency of the focus. The implications of this study for research and practice of IW assessments are discussed.

Database : ScienceDirect

Title: [Investigation of the relationship between electroglottogram waveform, fundamental frequency, and sound pressure level using clustering](#)

Author: Andreas Selamtzis, Sten Ternström

Journal: Journal of Voice

Volume: 31 **Issue:** July 2017 **Page:** 393 - 400

Doi: 10.1016/j.jvoice.2016.11.003

Abstract

Although it has been shown in previous research (Orlikoff, 1991; Henrich et al, 2005; Kuang et al, 2014; Awan, 2015) that there exists a relationship between the electroglottogram (EGG) waveform and the acoustic signal, this relationship is still not fully understood. To investigate this relationship, the EGG and acoustic signals were measured for four male amateur choir singers who each produced eight consecutive tones of increasing and decreasing vocal intensity. The EGG signals were processed cycle-synchronously to obtain the discrete Fourier transform, and the data were used as an input to a clustering algorithm. The acoustic signal was analyzed in terms of sound pressure level (dB SPL) and fundamental frequency (f_0) of vibration, and the results of both EGG and acoustic analysis were depicted on a two-dimensional plane with f_0 on the x-axis and SPL on the y-axis. All the subjects were seen to have a weak, near-sinusoidal EGG waveform in their lowest SPL range, whereas increase in SPL coincided with progressive enrichment in harmonic content of the EGG waveforms. The results of the clustering were additionally used to classify waveforms across subjects to enable inter-subject comparisons and assessment of individual strategies of exploring the f_0 -SPL dimensions. In these male subjects, the EGG waveform shape appeared to vary with SPL and to remain essentially constant with f_0 over one octave.

Database : ScienceDirect