

Comment

JCOM — FIVE YEARS IN THE FUTURE

The Art of Science Communication

Alessandra Drioli

ABSTRACT: The science&art research played an important role in the topics covered by JCOM because actually the convergence of languages and themes of art and science increasingly continue to act synergistically in the most diverse knowledge fields.

I have been asked to be part of the Editorial Board of JCOM in 2008. The motivation of this invitation was to take care of a particular area of interest of this journal: the investigation of the relation between art and science and within the scientific and artistic communities themselves. It's exactly about this specific line of research of the journal that I would like to make some considerations. At that time I was really happy to receive the proposal from the Editor in Chief of JCOM because for me was to see recognized by one of the most significant journal on science communication in Italy a specific attention to the theme of all possible relations between art and science. It was an already very fashionable topic, but rarely examined in deep and in really significant publications. The articles published during this period have captured the essence of the art&science concept at large. Some of their key strengths have been the consideration of a large range of topics and of different points of view. The articles have been, mainly focused on the contemporary debate on art&science more than on an historical perspective. They contained a good balance of artistic and scientific contents. The theme of investigating the artistic languages to explore scientific fields is very well focalized and artists and researchers have been strongly involved in a large part of the articles published. Looking at the whole number of articles published during the last 5 years it's evident a scenario extremely rich and varied. We can say that what emerges is that contributions can be divided by certain categories. They can also help us to understand how these issues have been addressed and then think about how to go on for the future. The main categories are the following:

- Specific scientific themes (climate change, fractals,...) interpreted by the artists.
- Analysis of science events or science exhibition where artistic elements played an important role.
- The meeting between artistic languages (theater, comics, visual arts,...) and scientific communication

The last topic can be considered the most explored.

One common point of almost all articles published during these years is that, at certain point of the text, there is the author's comment that detects the lack of literature on the chosen topic and the difficulty, therefore, to build comparative studies to substantiate the thesis and analysis with other critical studies.

This comment shared by almost the majority of authors should stimulate to go on in this line of research for the journal and to reinforce it.

What else can be added or changed for the next five years?

Let's start from some very simple comments related to the interface and the way of functioning of the review.

- When we speak of artistic languages, we have most of the time the support of visual or acoustic signs. They can be images, video, comics, designs, photos, theatre pieces, sounds or what else. If an article refers to some of these languages, making examples of artistic works, it's important to have the possibility to look at them or in some way to at least guess how they appear and work. Since now JCOM have published only texts without any images, video or sound except for few exceptions of articles on the role of comics and drawings in science communication. It would be great to implement these tools, offering a more dynamic, attractive and exhaustive approach, including the homepage, without losing the level of detail that always had the articles published in JCOM.
- I would also try to create a most structured and visible way to organize the articles. At the moment, there is a very effective "search tool" that allow the reader to make search in the archive of JCOM. I think that it can be reinforced, creating a subdivision of articles for thematic. It means to have a much more complex system of storage of the articles but it would help a lot finding articles on specific themes which are not always easy to identify with the current search system. It would also mean to give more visibility to the contents that is possible to find in this journal, capturing the attention of new readers, curious, researchers and artists.

From a point of view of the contents, I hope only that this line of research continues to have a strong role in the topics covered by JCOM because actually the convergence of languages and themes of art and science increasingly continue to act synergistically in the most diverse knowledge fields.

HOW TO CITE: A. Drioli, *The Art of Science Communication*, *JCOM* **12**(01) (2013) C02.