We are pleased to announce the preparation of a special issue of the journal INDECS devoted to Esperanto. We are interested in receiving manuscripts related to all aspects of the phenomenon of Esperanto, particularly its function as a complex linguistic and cultural system.

Created in the nineteenth century as a language of hope, Esperanto has evolved in unprecedented ways. Initially, most Esperanto speakers were linguists and idealists. Nowadays, Esperanto is a worldwide movement, having developed its own culture, society and politics. Its modern speakers and followers originate from a wide variety of social and ethnic backgrounds, bringing with them to Esperanto their experience, knowledge, customs and desires. What is the nature of this community of speakers? We are interested in contributions on any aspect of the Esperanto movement.

We are also interested in the origins and prospects of the language. What made Esperanto the most widely spoken planned language? How has Esperanto enhanced the development of certain kinds of communication between people and between humans and machines? What can humanity learn from Esperanto’s heritage, and what are the prospects for the further development of the language?

Many claims have been made for Esperanto over the years. What do we know about their validity? How can it be used, for example, as a medium of communication in the international economic sphere, or as an aid to the learning of foreign languages, or as a means of cultural exchange?

The complex history of Esperanto has intersected with many of the intellectual, political and artistic movements of the past 125 years of its existence. What have scholars and others had to say about the language? And, finally (and perhaps most importantly), what about the specifics of Esperanto – its structure, its syntax, its stylistics, its literature? Is it optimal as a planned language? What are its shortcomings?

Authors researching answers to these and similar questions are invited to submit manuscripts for the consideration of the editors. We welcome preliminary inquiries and abstracts. Manuscripts, which should be in English and should not exceed 6000 words, including notes, should be submitted no later than April 15, 2014. Consideration of manuscripts will follow the regular review process of INDECS.

Please submit manuscripts to the editors at the e-mail address: indecs@esperanto.de.

Accepted articles will be published in the 2015 volume of INDECS.

Guest editors
Prof. Humphrey Tonkin
Veronika Poór, Ph.D.