

Review of Julian Costa's Talk entitled *Coming of Age While Technology Came of Age*

Reviewer: Dr. Zheng Zhu

On October 24th, Prof. Julian Costa delivered an engaging talk about how technology has evolved and affected his life. Inspired by Susan Bonser's books that described and reflected on how different types of artifacts brought important meaning and memories into our lives, Prof. Costa began his own journey of exploring the process of evolution in technology, and how the major transformations in computer technology, video production, and digital recordings, have shaped his life, studies, and career. For example, Prof. Costa recounted the Basic Word Processing function of a computer in the early 90s, the use of overhead transparencies in classrooms, and his growing interests in digital photography. These important forms of technological advancements at the time inspired Prof. Costa to become a teacher at a young age.

Further, the rapid development of media technologies, such as the emergence of Cable TV, imovie, DV Editing, drove Prof. Costa to develop a strong interest in fields that centered around communication and technology. When he was in college, Prof. Costa was actively involved in a variety of school and professional activities that required one's familiarity with different types of technologies, such as Adobe Programs on the iMac, DSLR Photography, Adobe Premiere and Final Cut Pro. It is through these valuable learning and working experiences, Prof. Costa truly discovered the link between the effective teaching and the effective use of technologies. Especially with the current and fast technological developments in cellphone, social media, online interactive sites, and many other platforms that affect the processes and outcomes of human communications, it is crucial that we understand how our life and ways of communication have been shaped by the changing forms of technologies. Such concern was evidenced by a quote from Neil Postman, who famously stated "am I using this technology, or is it using me?"

At the end of his talk, Prof. Costa played a beautiful song written and performed by his Grandma Joni Costa. The song's title is "Too Late." Prof. Costa called our attention to the importance of preserving technologies, or "things" and "items" that can represent the important stages or moments in our human life and experiences. Prof. Costa's talk was highly informative and provided an in-depth look at the complex and ever-evolving process of technologies.