

APRIL CONFERENCE FIFTEEN: PANEL SESSIONS

Medieval Studies and Medievalism

Convenors: Władysław Witalisz (Jagiellonian University), Krystyna Strzebońska-Cichorz (Jagiellonian University)

And even the man's own descendants, who might have been expected to consider what he had been about, were heard to murmur: 'He is such an odd fellow! Imagine using these old stones just to build a nonsensical tower! Why did not he restore the old house? He had no sense of proportion.' But from the top of that tower the man had been able to look out upon the sea.

J.R.R. Tolkien 'The Monsters and the Critics'

We extend a warm invitation to scholars and doctoral students interested in Medieval Studies and/or Medievalism to submit papers for a special thematic session of April Conference Fifteen.

Just like the kaleidoscope of colours, shapes and symbols in stained-glass windows of Gothic cathedrals, the various facets of the Middle Ages have always inspired the minds not only of scholars and antiquarians uncovering the mysteries of the past but also of authors who weave those mysteries into works of fiction. The aim of this session is to bring together and map the current scope of interests pursued by researchers dealing both with the study of the medieval period and with the various reinterpretations of the medieval past.

Paper proposals are welcome from all disciplines, since April Conference seeks to bring together various branches of English and American Studies and welcomes papers which are interdisciplinary in character.

Potential topics may explore but are not limited to:

- Old English and Middle English literature and culture;
- reinterpretations of the medieval past in later works of poetry and prose;
- various approaches to Medieval Studies across centuries.

Shakespeare 400 Years after the First Folio

Convenor: Agnieszka Romanowska-Kowalska (Jagiellonian University)

In autumn 2023 it will be four hundred years since the famous first edition of Shakespeare's collected plays entered the Stationers' Register. In his introductory poem facing Droeshout's portrait of the author, Ben Jonson encouraged readers to 'looke / Not on his picture, but his Booke,' and his call reverberated in the editors' letter

'To the great Variety of Readers': 'Reade him, therefore; and againe, and againe,' which we have done ardently right down to the present day.

The First Folio anniversary coinciding with April Conference Fifteen, the organisers hope to bring together scholars interested in discussing this panel's main topic: How do we read Shakespeare four centuries after the First Folio? Examples such as *Measure for Measure* or *The Rape of Lucrece* interpreted in the context of #MeToo Movement, Maggie O'Farrell's 2020 *Hamnet*—biographical fiction, which deals with nature, family and the plague, the BBC mini-series *ShakespeaRe-Told* (2005) or the Hogarth Shakespeare project (initiated in 2013), in which well-known writers retell selected plays as novels, testify that we continue to read Shakespeare in relation to the most topical issues, fears and challenges of our time. In this panel we welcome papers on all aspects of the contemporary reception of Shakespeare, both literary and theatrical. How have his plays, as well as non-dramatic poetry, been understood, interpreted, staged, adapted, and translated since the turn of the new millennium?

18th-Century Textual Transplant(ation)s

Convenors: Joanna Maciulewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University), Anna Paluchowska-Messing (Jagiellonian University), Jakub Lipski (Kazimierz Wielki University)

How and why would Gulliver travel to 21st-century Poland? Why did British authors appropriate Spanish narrative models without acknowledging their debt? What prefatory material would have been necessary to introduce Frances Burney's *Evelina* to an 18th-century Hungarian audience?

These questions prompt enquiries into the international currency of 18th-century British literature both then and now. They also point to the stimulative potential of bringing different cultures into contact across time. New explorations in the field of world literature and in adaptation studies have certainly demonstrated the generative impact of such exchanges. Building on this scholarship, we would like to investigate the ways in which texts of literature and culture evolved during the long 18th century as a result of cross-cultural fertilisations. Also, can an 18th-century literary text still trigger such evolutions now?

We seek proposals for contributions which explore cross-cultural literary transmission during the long 18th century. We also invite proposals which investigate modern non-Anglophone adaptations and appropriations of 18th-century British literature. The areas for analysis might include but are not limited to:

- imperatives and agendas behind cross-cultural literary translations, adaptations and appropriations;
- cross-cultural literary transmissions as a barometer of changing values and tastes;

- works of 18th-century British literature acquiring the status of universal archetypes through the processes of cross-cultural re-visions and re-mediations;
- works of 18th-century British literature bolstering the claims of modern publications, productions, or performances across cultures.

Narratives of Memory and Trauma

Convenors: Beata Piątek (Jagiellonian University), Michał Choiński (Jagiellonian University), Joanna Davis-McElligatt (University of North Texas), Frédérique Spill (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)

The aim of the session is to discuss a wide spectrum of literary texts which deal with the topic of trauma and memory in literature. We welcome papers which explore individual, as well as collective perspectives on trauma and its representation in novels, poetry, drama, as well as non-fiction writings. By drawing on various angles of trauma studies, memory studies, as well as literary analysis, we hope to comprehend more fully the factors which shape the perception of the past and its denialism, of narratives of power and exclusion, and of how a deeper understanding of trauma itself may serve to provide an insight into the cross-cultural understanding of community and identity.

Joyce and Humanism / Joyce and the Human in the 21st Century

Convenors: Dirk Vanderbeke (Friedrich-Schiller-Universität), Katarzyna Bazarnik (Jagiellonian University)

Joyce as a humanist has been at the core of critical and scholarly engagement with the work of the Irish writer. From Judge Woolsey's verdict on *Ulysses* as 'a sincere and serious attempt to devise a new literary method for the observation and description of mankind,' through readings of Leopold Bloom as an expression of Joyce's liberal humanism, to Sean P. Murphy's underscoring 'Joyce's three-dimensional characters' as a proof of 'his humanist investment in the agency of the individual who is located within extensive networks of ideology and discourse,' Joyce's humanism has been persuasively argued for. Equally persuasively, the Irish writer has been posed or exposed as a radical-anti-humanist, as humanism's enemy, and harsh critic. The 'the observation and description of mankind,' however, also includes the human as a physical being, and Joyce's interest in, and concern with human biology, our bodies, but also our evolution, permeate his works. Hence, we invite papers revisiting the questions of 'Joyce and humanism / Joyce and the human in the 21st century.'

Escape into Nature

Convenors: Bożena Kucała (Jagiellonian University), Beata Piątek (Jagiellonian University)

The winter 2021 issue of *Orion Magazine* contains an essay by Tyler Orion, a trans writer and photographer, who explains his decision to move into a cabin in the wilderness of Vermont in the following way:

Out here in the wild, I feel human beyond identity. I experience being in community without judgement, embraced by all the rooted, furred, feathered beings around me. I am learning how to love myself from every tree, stone, and star. I feel unconditional acceptance in a way that no human knows how to offer ('Wild Embodiment').

We would like to invite fellow academics to examine the theme of escape into nature in contemporary literature in the English language. We do not want to limit the scope of our discussion to (post-)pandemic fiction, or to dwell on environmental apocalypticism, otherwise known as climate grief (not that we do not share these concerns, but rather because much has been said and written about them). Instead, we hope that together we will find inspiration and hope for the future in the areas of:

- nature's resilience and what humans can learn from it;
- nature as solace from grief, loss, trauma;
- the wild other, i.e. the encounter with animals and plants and what it can teach us about what it means to be human and what it means not to be human;
- the promise and challenge of finding meaning in the natural world;
- the moral lessons of the garden, the power of gardening;
- the pastoral mode in 21st-century fiction: can it adapt to our ecocentric consciousness?

Human, Humanity and the Posthuman in Drama and Theatre

Convenor: Katarzyna Biela (Jagiellonian University)

The session aims to bring together drama, theatre and performance scholars who wish to discuss explorations of the human and post-human on stage. We are not setting a specific time frame—we are rather interested in how the theatre of different epochs represents and redefines personhood and the human condition. We welcome papers on plays that deal with the human body as well as with experiences that make the characters and the audience aware of their individual and collective identity. We are also eager to reflect on crises of selfhood in local and global contexts, as represented in theatre. Furthermore, the session invites papers that consider how plays written before the 21st century are performed and adapted to explore the issues of humanity and individuality in a technology-driven world as well as papers on how playwrights, theatre and performance artists engage with posthumanism. We are likewise happy to

receive proposals about more general aspects that impact on playwrights and practitioners: publishing and staging policies, socio-cultural and political challenges that result in the rejection and rewriting of plays, theatre workshop practices and other phenomena related to playwriting and theatrical production that correspond to the above-mentioned themes.

The Reception of *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*

Convenors: Michał Palmowski (Jagiellonian University),
Krystyna Strzebońska-Cichorz (Jagiellonian University)

Amazon's recent production *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power* has generated a flurry of criticism from Tolkien's fandom, outraged at the liberties that the showrunners took with Tolkien's work. An animated discussion followed, mostly in the digital world. What some believe to be a necessary modernisation of Tolkien's vision, others denounce as yet another battle of the culture war that the progressive left is waging on the conservatives. Viewed in the context of transmedia storytelling, *The Rings of Power* raises important questions regarding the creators' freedom to alter the original storyworld (as Tolkien himself put it: 'The cycles should be linked to a majestic whole, and yet leave scope for other minds and hands').

The panel is addressed both to scholars and fans who would like to engage in a critical debate concerning merits and demerits of Amazon's production and their implications for the perception of Tolkien in the 21st century, transmedia storytelling, Hollywood/Amazon/Netflix politics, and many other aspects related to *The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power*.

Gender Studies, Masculinities Studies and Feminist Perspectives in Language and Literature

Convenors: Olga O'Toole (Jagiellonian University), Ewa Kowal
(Jagiellonian University)

This theme session invites papers exploring feminist approaches to literature and culture as well as papers interested in the theory and practical application of gender studies, masculinities studies and women's studies. We welcome papers offering literary, cultural and/or linguistic analyses of representations of broadly conceived issues related to gender and/or feminism in varied media: from diverse literary genres in fiction and non-fiction through film and television, to online content (and other texts of culture).

The War in Ukraine: Stance, Identity, Leadership

Convenors: Magdalena Szczyrbak (Jagiellonian University), Anna Tereszkievicz (Jagiellonian University), Valentyna Ushchyna (Lesya Ukrainka Volyn National University)

The session aims to bring together linguists, discourse analysts and communication scholars exploring various facets of discourses on/of war and war-related communication. It is conceived as a discussion forum for participants who adopt diverse research perspectives, including discourse analysis, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, critical discourse studies, media studies, multimodality and social semiotics. We welcome contributions addressing the concepts of stance, identity and leadership in discourses on/of war, but submissions focusing on the war in Ukraine are particularly encouraged.

Suggested areas of scholarly discussion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- construction of identity and leadership in war-related discourse;
- war-related stance-taking practices in public discourse and social media;
- conceptualisations of crisis, conflict and aggression and their discursive manifestations;
- war and emotion-sharing on social media;
- evaluation and authority in war-related discourse;
- rhetorical strategies in pro-war and against-war discourse;
- war narratives in online and offline settings;
- war rhetoric, political propaganda and manipulation;
- risk communication in times of war;
- individual and collective beliefs about war and peace;
- war and multimodal communication.

Language Spread and Language Contact: English in the Communication of the Modern Era

Convenors: Marta Dąbrowska (Jagiellonian University), Elżbieta Mańczak-Wohlfeld, (Jagiellonian University)

The diffusion and spread of English, its growing acceptance as a lingua franca of the contemporary world, its adoption and adaptation in global and local contexts as well as its contact with other languages have led to numerous and complex linguistic developments, which can be studied from various angles. The present section, therefore, invites papers which will explore such linguistic phenomena as English as a global language, the impact of English on other languages, code choice and code-switching, translanguaging, multilingualism and superdiversity, linguistic landscape, linguistic imperialism, and other manifestations of the use and spread of the English

language in the offline and online world in order to attain a better understanding of current communication trends.

Health Knowledge and Online Communication

Convenors: Anna Tereszkievicz (Jagiellonian University), Magdalena Szczyrbak (Jagiellonian University), Ramona Bongelli (University of Macerata), Ilaria Riccioni (University of Macerata), Alessia Bertolazzi (University of Macerata)

Our session aims to bring together linguists, discourse analysts, and communication scholars exploring various facets of online health communication and medical discourse. The session is conceived as a discussion forum for participants who adopt diverse research perspectives, including discourse analysis, conversation analysis, pragmatics, sociolinguistics, media studies, multimodality, social semiotics, and psychology.

Suggested areas of scholarly discussion include, but are not limited to, the following:

- health communication in online contexts;
- doctor-patient interaction in online contexts;
- textual and multimodal identity creation in online health communication;
- health narratives in online settings;
- epistemic negotiation in online health communication;
- (un)certainly of medical knowledge;
- evaluation in online medical discourse;
- evolution of medical genres;
- reconfiguration and recontextualisation of expert knowledge in online contexts;
- popularisation of medical knowledge;
- cross-linguistic differences in online health communication practices.

Academic Literacy and Oracy: Teaching and Researching

Convenor: Monika Kusiak-Pisowacka (Jagiellonian University)

Academic literacy and oracy are crucial for scholars in the light of a necessity to participate in academic events and publish papers in international journals. The following topics can be discussed during this thematic session:

- defining and analysing academic discourse;
- research paper as an academic genre;
- teaching skills of reading academic texts and academic writing;
- publishing papers in international journals;

- developing academic competences by university students and experienced scholars;
- comparative analyses of academic texts;
- academic competences as developed by representatives of different academic disciplines;
- other types of competences important in academic education, such as digital literacy, research skills.

Contributors from different countries and different academic contexts are welcome.

English Language Teacher Competences

Convenors: Maria Camino Bueno Alastuey (Public University of Navarre), Marcin Kleban (Jagiellonian University)

Recently, we have witnessed the evolution and expansion of the competences required from English language teachers. Acting as professional language providers and educators is no longer sufficient, as English teachers must be able to perform the roles of intercultural guides or supporters of students' communication skills and (digital) literacies. This requires a wide of range of competences which go far beyond the command of the language they teach or second language pedagogy.

The rapidly evolving landscape of English language teacher competences is taken as the backdrop for stimulating this session's debate on the challenges of teacher professional education and development. We welcome contributions related to all fields of language teacher education, continuous professional development, or language pedagogy. The session, organised by the participants of Teachers of English for Future Europe (TEFE) project (<http://tefe.online>), is addressed to researchers, scholars, language teacher educators, teacher trainers, and practitioners who wish to share their views on any of these broadly defined issues.