

## **MAPPING THE ANGLO-AMERICAN VISIONS AND REVISIONS AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY**

**IX International Conference on English Language and Literary Studies, Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić,  
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The ninth international conference, entitled *Visions and Revisions: Mapping the World of Anglo-American Studies at the Turn of the Century*, which was held from 3rd October to 5th October, attracted linguists, philologists, experts of diverse linguistic and literary profiles. The conference was held at the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić, University of Montenegro, and attended by scholars from Montenegro, Serbia, Croatia, neighbouring countries and beyond (UK, USA, France, etc.). Since the Faculty of Philosophy is located in right in the heart of Nikšić, the participants were also given the opportunity to visit numerous fantastic places of historical importance.

This conference was marked by the extraordinarily warm and generous hospitality and cordiality of its organisers, Professor Marija Krivokapić and Professor Aleksandra Nikčević-Batrićević. However, I must mention that many helpful English Department staff members also made sure that everything functioned in the appropriate manner. Not surprisingly, this was also the case since staff members were excited, honoured and proud to see that it is their Department where an international conference takes place. Nevertheless, more than stimulating and lively atmosphere was further improved by the presence of distinguished guests, delivery of intriguing lectures and informative presentations.

The welcome address was delivered by Professor Blagoje Cerović, the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić. And then, Professor Aleksandra delivered a welcome address on behalf of the English Department. During the conference, three plenary lectures were given: the first and second one on Thursday 3rd October, whilst the third was on Friday 4th October. The first plenary session took place immediately after the official opening of the conference. We were privileged to hear Professor Daragh Downes (School of English, Trinity College, Dublin) deliver a lecture on enduring mysteries accompanying *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The second keynote lecture was delivered by Professor Nicholas Grene (School of English, Trinity College, Dublin) who provided a descriptive account of Ireland and the imagination of Russia. The third plenary, Professor Martin McQuillan (Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Kingston University, London), captivated the audience with a fascinating lecture on sexual lives of contemporary philosophers.

Apart from the three plenary lectures, about 40 papers, dedicated to common interest areas of linguistics, literature and English language methodology, were delivered during the conference. Both language and literature sessions were rather heterogeneous and rich, covering a breadth of different research interests. However, this is hardly surprising given the fact that the conference topic embraced miscellaneous mappings of Anglo-American language and literary studies.

#### Conference Review

Fiona Tomkinson (Yeditepe University, Turkey) considered visions, revisions and revisitations in twenty-first century Gothic focussing on three domains: 1. Reading and teaching the classic Gothic texts today, 2. The ways the Gothic genre has continued in Anglo-American literature, 3. The ways we should define the new field of global Gothic. Stipe Grgas (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia) gave paper on the American literary studies at the turn of the twenty-first century, Petar Penda (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina) outlined the continuum and discontinuum of modernist literary perspectives, and Svetlana Kalezić-Radonjić (Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić, University of Montenegro) considered the specific poetic image as a communication media type in the concrete poetic output of Seamus Heaney.

Brankica Bojović (Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić, University of Montenegro) explored the interrelationship between translation and artistic discourse, Željka Babić (University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina) presented her findings in the area of cyberpunking, and Ana Sánchez-Muñoz (California State University, USA) outlined numerous narratives of code-switching and their roles in shifting identities process. Miloš D. Đurić (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia) analysed mostly semantically certain English and French compounds in electrical engineering discourse, revealing some computational linguistics possibilities. We were privileged to hear Professor Igor Lakić, the Dean of the Institute of Foreign Languages (Podgorica, University of Montenegro) deliver a lecture on typical syntactic, grammar and lexical errors in students' translation of varied legal texts. Bledar Toska (University of Vlora, Albania) gave a paper on metadiscourse in presidential debates between Obama and Romney.

Armela Panajoti (University of Vlora, Albania) reconsidered the aspects of promotional discourse illustrated by means of Whitman's Song of Myself, Sabina Osmanović (University "Luigj Gurakuqi", Shkodra, Albania) analysed the old age crises in Philip Roth's The Dying Animal, and Branko Crnogorac (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina) gave a presentation on Forster's Italy in William Trevor's After Rain.

Lili Karapetyan (Yerevan State University, Armenia) outlined some causes of relevant pragmatic failures in cross-cultural communication. Joanie Andruss (Lesley University, Cambridge, MA, USA) analysed critical literacy and social justice in the light of interpreting literature through multiple perspectives. On the one hand, metacognitive strategies were investigated by Marija Mijušković (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Montenegro), whilst, on the other hand, Aleksandra Izgarjan and Diana Prodanović-Stankić (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad) emphasised the function of humour in the ELT integrating process within the American literature course.

Elonora Hodaj (University of Vlora 'Ismail Qemali', Albania) considered Saul Bellow's Neo-Transcendentalism fused with European Modernist literature and American literary tradition, and Benjamin Keatinge (South-East European University, Macedonia) revealed one new perspective of Beckett studies in the realm of the new millennium. Esmeralda Subashi (University of Tirana, Albania) lectured on Shakespeare's universal and timeless world in his artistic output. Maja Muhić (South-East European University, Macedonia) reported on various aspects of culture, power, and solidarity of the subjects in action, whilst Ksenija Kondali (University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina) presented her analysis of postcolonial memory and the legacy of transatlantic slavery in Twenty-First Century English Literature. Jeanine Belgodere, (La Havre University, France) explored Bob Haozous' Sculptural Works in the context of romanticised vision of Native Americans. Shpetim Madani (Defence Academy, Tirana, Albania) gave talk on political freedom

dimension in Bernard Malamud's Novel *The Fixer*, Arben Bushgjokaj (University of Shkodra, Albania) revealed extremely interesting hybrid identities in Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*, and Sanja Čukić (University of Novi Sad, Serbia) reported on the power of narration in *The Woman Warrior*, paying special attention to the subversion of both history and tradition. Loran Gami (University of Tirana, Albania) presented the ways of reading reductionism in Beckett's plays; Nada Buzadžić-Nikoaljević (University of Novi Sad) showed some intersections of literature and visual arts in contemporary American narrative. Bavjola Shatro (Aleksandër Moisiu University, Albania) implemented a comparative approach in order to explore images and metaphysics in the poetry of Luljeta Lleshanaku, thus providing a comparison between American contemporary literature and Albanian culture. Finally, the literary session was closed by the lecture delivered by Miloš D. Đurić (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia) who gave a unified account of Toril Moi's reading of Simone de Beauvoir's *L'Invitée* (*She Came to Stay*), in which he fused computational linguistics and literary perspectives.

In the ELT Methodology session we were privileged to hear the lecture of Professor Draganja Jeftić (Faculty of Philosophy, Nikšić, University of Montenegro) who captivated her audience by one professionally delivered presentation laden with concrete examples from her vast EFL, ESL, EAP teaching experience. Professor Jeftić impressively described the position of foreign language teaching in the first decade of the twenty-first Century. This session comprised two more presentations, the first one being a product of the cooperation of co-authors Violeta Stojičić (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Niš, Serbia) and Radmila Bodrić (Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad, Serbia) whose aspirations were driven by contemporary systemic-functional perspectives of genre pedagogy, whilst the second presentation was delivered by Petraq Buka (University of Tirana, Albania) who analysed theoretical and practical aspects of effective classroom management.

The social highlight of the conference was the evening dedicated to David Crystal, held at the Faculty of Philosophy, and moderated by Ljiljana Mijanović. The introductory part about the life and work of Professor David Crystal was provided by Miloš D. Đurić (Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Serbia), while the focus of the evening was on the first translation of Crystal's *Internet Linguistics* from English into Montenegrin, carried out by Goran Drinčić (Institute of Foreign Languages, Podgorica, University of Montenegro). In addition to this, a number of conference participants visited relevant sites of Montenegrin immense cultural and historical heritage. Professors Krivokapić and Nikčević-Batrićević took the advantage of extremely good weather conditions and organised a lovely excursion to the Adriatic coast.

As can be seen from this modest review, the academic standard of presentations was very high. Furthermore, presentations in the domain of language and literary studies proved to be splendidly and meticulously prepared. Topics were heterogeneous and dynamically fused in one logical whole, always pertaining to the general thread of mapping the Anglo-American language and literary studies. It goes without saying that the conference was wonderfully organised and that it abounded in a wide range of high quality academic contributions. Professor Marija Krivokapić and Professor Aleksandra Nikčević-Batrićević once again provided more than extensive social programme, thus enabling the conference participants to converse and socialise easily, which all generated pleasant and friendly atmosphere throughout the conference. I am inclined to assert that all of us who attended this beautiful conference are looking forward to visiting the Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić in 2014.