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
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Report on a Scientific Conference Transformations: Time in Culture, Literature, and Language, 30–31 March 2023, Ignatianum University in Cracow, Poland

As the world today faces various contingencies connected with the results of the global pandemic, multiple economic challenges, military conflicts, and a major environmental crisis, the University Ignatianum in Cracow has offered a new academic platform to exchange opinions and ideas regarding the transformation occurring in the contemporary world. In this spirit, the Organising Committee (dr Sylwia Janina Wojciechowska; dr Agnieszka Cierpich-Kozieł; and dr Aleksandra Kamińska), with the assistance of the Advisory Board (dr hab. Anna Bugajska, prof. AIK; dr hab. Krystyna Zabawa, prof. AIK; dr hab. Gerard Kilroy, prof. AIK; dr hab. Grażyna Maria Teresa Branny; dr Dominika Ruszkiewicz; dr Marek Liszka), as the staff members of the Institute of Modern Languages UIK, had the pleasure to introduce a new series of international conferences to be held cyclically at the University Ignatianum in Cracow. The Transformations Conferences will provide a discussion platform for literary and culture scholars as well as linguists specialising in the field of Anglophone studies, with each edition centred around a different topic.

On March 30–31 2023, during the inaugural conference Transformations: Time in Culture, Literature, and Language, the participants looked at transformations through the lens of time. More than twenty speakers from Poland and abroad took part in the academic debate whose focus was placed upon change in the broad sense, conceptualised as both an abrupt revolution and a gradual, evolutionary process affected over time. It was argued that while the former often thematised crisis, the latter might evolve imperceptibly, sometimes connoting atemporality, with the final transformation registered as a dis/continuation of certain trends, attitudes, or currents. With those perspectives in mind, the scholars reflected upon caesuras and continuities as well as diachronic and synchronic views on culture, language, and literature.

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After the due welcome addresses delivered by the authorities of the University Ignatianum in Cracow, dr hab. Beata Topij-Stempińska, prof. UIK, Vice-Rector for Scientific Affairs, and dr hab. Anna Królikowska, prof. UIK, Dean of the Faculty of Education, as well as by the Director of The Institute of Modern Languages, dr hab. Anna Bugajska, prof. UIK, the conference was opened with a plenary lecture, “Time and Transformation in Autobiography: Candia McWilliam’s *What to Look for in Winter: A Memoir in Blindness*,” held by prof. Jarmila Mildorf from the University of Paderborn, Germany. Thus inaugurated, the conference continued in two parallel sessions that addressed the diachronic transformation within a variety of genres and modes of expression in literature and other media. Several cultural and social aspects of transformation also attracted academic attention, alongside the nuances of its proper rendition within literary texts. The first day was closed by another plenary lecture, “The Septuagint – a Translation that Changed the World,” delivered by dr hab. Alexander Gomola, prof. UJ (Jagiellonian University in Cracow) who discussed change and time in the canonic text for civilisation, that is the Bible.

The second day began with a reflection centered around social issues and inspired by prof. Mirosława Buchholtz’s (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń) plenary lecture, “Literary Responses to Social Transformations: Henry James and *The Princess Casamassima*.” The major pivot of this day was the life and legacy of Henry James’ friend and fellow writer, Joseph Conrad. Two sessions were exclusively dedicated to the figure of the Polish-British novelist, with the presentations held by several members of the Joseph Conrad Society Poland, among them its deputy president, dr hab. Agnieszka Adamowicz-Pośpiech, prof. UŚ (University of Silesia), and its secretary, dr hab. Joanna Skolik, prof. UO (University of Opole). The discussion regarding various aspects of transformation and globalisation discernible within the cultural and literary legacy of the famous Pole inspired a vivid exchange of ideas between both Poles and foreigners, as well as between the Conradian scholars and the audience. The broadening scope of the two parallel sessions also thematised dramatic and cinematographic adaptations, not only of Conrad’s works, but also of those by Caryl Churchill and Tadeusz Kantor.

As the conference proved a success, a circle of researchers ready to closely co-operate in the future was established. An immediate, tangible outcome of the academic exchange is the forthcoming publication of the papers selected for a Special Issue of *Perspektywy Kultury* (2/2/2024: “Transformacje: czas w kulturze, literaturze, języku”) planned for publication in the first half of 2024. Moreover, a second edition of the Transformations conference is scheduled to take place within the next two years,

with its title already announced as *Transformations: Space in Culture, Literature, and Language*. We hope that the discussions held during the on-coming event(s) will lead towards certain re-formulations and novel conclusions that will turn our academic attention towards new paths and directions in scholarly discussions.

For a complete photo coverage, please visit the English Philology Facebook site at:

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Sylwia Janina Wojciechowska – works as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Literary Studies at The Institute of Modern Languages at the Ignatianum University in Cracow. She holds a degree in Classical Philology from the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń in addition to one in English and Italian Philology from the University of Stuttgart. Her interests include British modernist works, idyllic literature, nostalgia studies and the pastoral mode. In addition to numerous articles, Wojciechowska has published two monographs: *Re(Visions) of the Pastoral in Selected British and American post-Romantic Fiction* (2017) and *Nostalgia as a Mode of Reflection in the Autobiographical Narratives of Joseph Conrad and Henry James* (2023). She was the editor of the volume, *Colossus. How Shakespeare Still Bestrides the Cultural and Literary World* (2018). She is a member of the British Comparative Literature Association, the Polish Association for the Study of English, the Joseph Conrad Society (UK) and the Polish Conrad Society.

