

Colloquium – New Philologies, the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, and The Alps-Adriatic-Rectors’ Conference (AARC)

present the 3rd AARC Conference

Language.Literature.Politics.

1918-2018. (Un)doing Nationalism and Resistance

Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria – September 20-22, 2018

First Call for Papers

The Open Access journal *Colloquium – New Philologies*, the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt and the Alps-Adriatic-Rectors’ Conference are happy to announce the 3rd AARC PhD Students’ Conference entitled: *Language.Literature.Politics. 1918-2018. (Un)doing Nationalism and Resistance*, to take place from Thursday, 20th to Saturday, 22nd September 2018 in Klagenfurt (Austria), at the Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt.

Although it may seem to many as a case of *déjà vu*, we actually bear witness to a cyclical turn of events in history. The world shortly after World War I seems very similar in many ways to the current state of affairs in the sense that another major push against multinationalism, multiculturalism, and globalism is clearly evident. Mirroring 1918 and the nationalist movements of the time, 2018 seems to bring a strong (or at least a loud) return to nationalism. After a long general movement into globalization, unification, and multiculturalism that has marked the period succeeding World War II, nationalism, particularly in the Western World, seems more pronounced today than any time in the last 70 years. It is particularly rampant in the political discourse of today. On the other hand, supranational entities such as the EU, seem to be deriving new motivation precisely from the revival of these nationalistic tendencies. A thorough look is hence needed into the **languages not only of nationalisms, but also of critique and resistance to them**, especially into their narrative, rhetoric, and argumentative strategies, as well as their use of metaphors, images, and other devices of communication.

As environments are linguistically classified in different ways, both culturally and cognitively, understanding the various experiences that influence these classifications is crucial for us to be able to account for the different modes of the human condition expressed by language that socially constructs us. The conference thus invites contributions in all of the disciplines of **linguistic, literary, and cultural analysis, and artistic installations focusing on studies of language as a vessel of negotiating nationalism in the various instantiations** it can take, especially in:

- literature;
- linguistics;
- media;
- politics;
- the arts (including popular culture and visual culture);
- sports;
- and the academic world.

We particularly welcome papers or posters reflecting on topics such as:

- language and identity;
- cultural identity;
- public political discourse;
- conceptual metaphors and nationalism;
- nationalism and citizenship;

- gender, sexuality and nation; and
- nationalism and social media.

We look forward to welcoming you to an inspiring scientific exchange in a very peculiar region. The **Alps-Adriatic region** is gifted and haunted alike by its very special historical and sociocultural situation as the point of intersection between three language communities, various systems of beliefs and thoughts as well as economic and political experiences. It is a region characterised by experiences of generations of the local population that **were able to navigate between these various linguistic, cultural, and political systems as part of their everyday lives, within and beyond existing national boundaries.**

Contributions may take the form of traditional paper presentations (20 minutes plus 10 minutes question time) or of standard poster presentations. Additionally, we are also featuring theory reading and discussion workshops (discussion groups organized around a previously set reader, particularly open to early career researchers). **Extended abstracts of approximately 800 words** (including a theoretical outline, the methodology employed, and the tentative results) are to be submitted as MS Word (.doc or .docx) file to aarc18@aau.at by 15th April 2018, while the notifications of acceptance will be sent out by 1st June 2018.

No conference fees apply.

There will be a limited number of travel and accommodation grants available. Further information will appear on the conference website.

Selected contributions will be invited for publication in a special issue of the Open Access Journal *Colloquium – New Philologies* (<http://colloquium.aau.at/>).

The official language of the conference is English.

Plenary speakers to be announced.

Further details will appear on the conference website: <https://conference.aau.at/event/150/>

Conference committee:

Cristina Beretta (Department of Slavonic Studies, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)

Nikola Dobrić (Department of English, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)

Angela Fabris (Department of Romance Studies, Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)

Thomas Hainscho (Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt, Austria)

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