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Uneven Worlds. Beyond the Canons of Cultural Representations

Issue 2/2024

Studia Universitatis Babeș-Bolyai Philologia

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In the context of capitalist globalisation and time-space compression (David Harvey), several socio-spatial theorists have analysed the relationship between the local and the global, as well as how certain regional representations are the product of cultural interferences and hybridisations. From this point of view, it is important to investigate the role played by regional and (semi-)peripheral cultures within world-systems and geographies of uneven development, and how they resist the false homogenisation implied by globalisation.

Whether or not we are drawn to global fictions that have emerged from postcolonial literary studies and that have employed tropes such as “hybridity, diaspora, transculturation, subaltern, hegemony, deterritorialization, rhizome, mestizo, Eurocentrism and othering” (O’Brien and Szeman 2001, p. 605), to world literature or to the “one, and unequal” world-literary system (Moretti 2004, WReC), a certain reminiscence of the Iron Curtain, an impossible translation, and a lack of porosity characterize the circulation of peripheral literatures towards the center. While writers such as Abdulrazak Gurnah, Shehan Karunatilaka and Mohamed Mbougar Sarr are recuperated in the central circuit of the Nobel, Booker and Goncourt prizes, but still living and culturally producing in the center, we would like to explore the mechanisms of resistance, the impossibility of translation and the subversive strategies of “cultural management” that export cultural models of the periphery. Is it through identification, deviation, exoticism or rather through a widespread critique of capitalism that they manage to impose their models? We are seeking contributions that undermine the reconciliation but also the crisis models of the Global Novel. We are also interested in receiving texts that propose new strategies of “cultural translation” in this unequal dialogue. From this point of view, the literature of migration could be explored in terms of the various forms of cultural hybridity it entails. Beyond the relationship between culture of origin and target culture, migration literature develops a strong geographical imagination, aimed at mapping various forms of identity-ideological transgressions.

Using archetypes (Braga) as figures of a possible renegotiation, we would like to analyze the ways in which periphery becomes “exportable” and genres become evanescent. Within world literature, an important area could be the investigation of pop culture genres and literary forms hitherto considered peripheral. The formation and dissemination of fantasy and science fiction literature could shed light on how certain cultural representations are negotiated globally, beyond the hegemony of high-brow literature that marked literary systems in the past. Papers in English and French should focus on, but are not limited to, the following topics:

- Evanescent genres
- Global crisis



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- Global novel
- Cultural hybridisations
- Migration studies
- Cultural translation
- Geocritical and transnational explorations
- Peripheral literatures
- Pop culture genres
- Cultural geographies of uneven development
- Literature and identity-ideological transgressions

Indicative Bibliography:

- APTER, Emily. *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability*. London and New York: Verso, 2013.
- BRAGA, Corin. "Anarchetype: Reading Aesthetic Form after 'Structure'", in Alexandru Matei, Christian Moraru, and Andrei Terian (eds.), *Theory in the "Post" Era. A Vocabulary for the 21st-Century Conceptual Commons*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2022, pp. 121-139.
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- GANGULY, Debjani. *The Cambridge History of World Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021.
- HARVEY, David. *The Condition of Postmodernity: An Enquiry into the Origins of Cultural Change*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1990.
- MARTIN, Theodore. *Genre, Historicism, and the Problem of the Present*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2017.
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- O'BRIEN, Susie, and Imre Szeman. "Introduction: The Globalization of Fiction/The Fiction of Globalization", *South Atlantic Quarterly* 100 (3): 603-626, 2001.
- O'GORMAN, Daniel, and Robert Eaglestone. *The Routledge Companion to Twenty-First Century Literary Fiction*. London and New York: Routledge, 2019.
- WESTPHAL, Bertrand. *Geocriticism: Real and Fictional Spaces*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- WOLFE, Gary K. *Evaporating Genres. Essays on Fantastic Literature*. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, 2011.
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Timeline:

- Deadline has been extended to **October 10, 2023**: 200-word abstract, 7 keywords, 5 theoretical references, 150-word author's bio-note.
 - 15 November 2023 – notification about proposal acceptance
 - 31 January 2024 – submission of full papers (Instructions for authors regarding formatting rules and style sheets can be found on the journal's webpage: http://studia.ubbcluj.ro/serii/philologia/pdf/Instructions_En.pdf)
 - 30 June 2024 – publication of the special-themed issue
- Please send your abstracts and papers to the following email addresses:
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