

Department of Intercultural Literary Studies
Institute for Specialized and Intercultural Communication
Faculty of Applied Linguistics, the University of Warsaw

First call for papers for the international conference

**Strangeness and Literature:
Theories – Methods – Interpretations**

Warsaw, 15-17 October, 2015



<http://www.goethezeitportal.de/index.php?id=4389>

The phenomenon of strangeness is the object of investigation in several academic disciplines, such as philosophy, comparative literary studies, intercultural literary studies, sociology, and social psychology. Besides the differently conceived and defined concept of “strangeness,” those disciplines have also established the notions of “otherness,” “alterity,” or “the other,” which have been often understood as synonyms. The concept of strangeness has been frequently contrasted with that of “the familiar,” and the notions of “otherness” / “alterity” / “the other” – with that of “the same.” Such a variety of approaches to the phenomenon of strangeness corresponds with the variety of theories and methods of its analysis and interpretation. Literary studies and comparative studies, along with its subdiscipline – comparativist imagology –

have the longest tradition in this field. Comparative and/or imagological theories and methods of studying strangeness have been drawing their inspiration mainly from the research on stereotypes, myths and clichés, and from the philosophy of Paul Ricœur, Emmanuel Lévinas, Bernhard Waldenfels, Martin Buber, and Jacques Derrida. In parallel with the comparative studies and imagology, the recent decades have seen the development of such disciplines as intercultural literary studies and intercultural German studies (mainly in the German-speaking countries), and postcolonial studies (in the English-speaking world). Their assumptions derive from the philosophy of Bernhard Waldenfels, Jacques Derrida and Michel Foucault, and the writings of Edward Said, Homi Bhabha, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffith, and Helen Tiffin. All those disciplines pay particular attention to the problems of multi-, trans-, and interculturality.

Our conference is addressed to literary scholars and comparativists interested in the phenomenon of strangeness in literary texts, e.g. the strangeness linked with nationality, ethnic groups, or the experience of an “uncanny” strangeness “in itself.” We would like to initiate a discussion on the theoretical concepts and methods of researching strangeness, as well as its practical recognition and analysis in literary texts.

The suggested areas of interest for the conference include:

1. Theories and methods of researching strangeness in literature.
2. Comparativist imagology and intercultural literary studies with special regard to the phenomenon of strangeness.
3. Case studies (interpretations of literary texts – strangeness in the works of specific authors).

The conference will be held on 15-17 October, 2015 in Warsaw.

The venue will be the (new) University Library of the University of Warsaw and the Faculty of Applied Linguistics.

The languages of the conference are English and German. Each paper will be allotted 20 minutes, plus 10 minutes for discussion.

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:

Professor Franciszek Grucza, Społeczna Akademia Nauk (University of Social Sciences)

Professor Sue Vice, University of Sheffield

Please send in the registration form and an abstract of approx. 300 words by 22 May, 2015:

Abstracts in German should be sent to Prof. Małgorzata Świdorska and/or to Dr Reinhold Utri: fremdheit2015@gmail.com;

Abstracts in English should be sent to Prof. Krzysztof Fordoński and/or to Dr Tomasz Łysak: strangenessconference2015@gmail.com.

Authors will be notified on the acceptance of their proposals by 15 June 2015.

The conference fee is 400 PLN/ 100 €. The fee covers conference materials, coffee breaks, and the conference dinner. We are also planning the publication of the conference proceedings. The preliminary program of the conference, information on the method of payment and the accommodation will be available in June 2015.

The organizing committee

Prof. Małgorzata Świdorska

Prof. Krzysztof Fordoński

Dr Tomasz Łysak

Dr Reinhold Utri

Dr Orhan Wasilewski



<http://www.goethezeitportal.de/index.php?id=4389>