**CROSSING BOUNDARIES:**

**RETHINKING THE HUMANITIES ACROSS DISCIPLINES**

International Conference organized by

the Department of English and American Studies,

Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology,

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

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**PARTICIPANTS**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:**

Ludmilla K. **KOSTOVA** is Professor of British literature and cultural studies at “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. She has published extensively on eighteenth-century, Romantic, and modern British literature, as well as on travel writing and representations of intercultural encounters. Her book *Tales of the Periphery: the Balkans in Nineteenth-Century British Writing* (1997) has been frequently cited by specialists in the field. Together with Charles Forsdick and Corinne Fowler, she edited *Travel Writing and Ethics. Theory and Practice* (Routledge, 2013/2014). Kostova also authored one of the book’s chapters, “Writing Across the Foreign/Native Divide: The Case of Kapka Kassabova’s *Street Without a Name* (2008)*.*” Together with Efterpi Mitsi (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens), Kostova edited a special issue of the *European Journal of English Studies* (EJES), entitled *Narratives of Religious Conversion from the Enlightenment to the Present* (Vol. 23, 1, 2019). Kostova’s recent publications include “The Reception of Blake in Bulgaria” (co-authored with Lubomir Terziev, *The Reception of William Blake in Europe*, ed. Morton Paley and Sybille Erle, Bloomsbury Academic, 2019) and “Upper-Class Travel with a Political Slant: The Destinies of Nations and Empires through the Eyes of Lord and Lady Strangford” (*Continental Travel, Travel Writing, and the Consumption of Culture, 1814 – 1900*, ed. Benjamin Colbert and Lucy Morrison, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020). Kostova isEditor of the journal *VTU Review: Studies in the Humanities and Social Sciences* (2017 – present)and member of the editorial boards of *Journal of Multicultural Discourses*, *Ad Americam: Journal of American Studies, Word and Text*. *A Journal of Literary Studies and Linguistics,* and *The Annals of Ovidius University* *Constanta* – Philology. One of her most recent interests is in writing in English by Eastern European migrant writers.

Miglena **NIKOLCHINA** is a Bulgarian poet, writer, and theoretician whose research interests involve the interactions of literature and philosophy. In English, her publications include numerous articles as well as the books *Matricide in Language: Writing Theory in Kristeva and Woolf* (2004) and *Lost Unicorns of the Velvet Revolutions: Heterotopias of the Seminar* (2013). She guest-edited a special issue of *differences* (2021, 32.1) on “The Undead of Literary Theory.” Her most recent book (in Bulgarian) is *God with Machine: Subtracting the Human* (2022).

János **KENYERES** earned his doctoral degree in Literary Studies in 2000. He is currently Director and Associate Professor at the School of English and American Studies (SEAS) at Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest, where he teaches English and Canadian literature and Canadian cinema. He has several publications in these fields, including the book *Revolving around the Bible: A Study of Northrop Frye* (2003). He became a habilitated doctor in Literary Studies in 2014 and is member of the Modern English and American Literature Doctoral Program at ELTE. He was Visiting Professor of Hungarian at the University of Toronto from 2005 to 2008, a position he also filled in March–April 2015, as well as in 2018–2019, where his work focused on Hungarian literature, cinema and culture. He also served as president (2009-2015) and vice president (2015-2018) of the Central European Association for Canadian Studies.

Amelia **LICHEVA**, a poet, literary critic and theorist. Prof. Licheva graduated in Bulgarian philology at Sofia University. The topic of her PhD thesis was *The Female Voice as a Historical and Theoretical Problem* (2001). In 2007 she became an Associate Professor at the Department of Theory of Literature at Sofia University with a habilitation thesis on *Voices and Identities in Bulgarian Poetry*. Since 2013 she has been a professor in the same department and in 2019 she became a doctor of sciences with a dissertation on *Is the Nobel Prize universal?*. She edits translated prose and other texts in the humanities, she is also the author of research compendiums and books. She is the author of numerous literary studies, literary criticism, textbooks and dictionaries. She worked as an editor in “Literaturen Vestnik” (1995) and is its editor-in-chief since 2013. Since 2007, she has been the editor of the magazine “Literaturata” published by the Faculty of Slavic Philology of Sofia University, she has been a member of the editorial board of the “Foreign Language Learning” magazine since 2012. She was a literary observer of "Kultura" magazine (1999-2006) and columnist in the “Words Against Words” column. She worked as a book reviewer of newspaper “Capital” (2007–2008). Amelia Licheva debuted with poems in the magazine "Plamuk" (1988), at that time she also published in the magazine "Most" (1989). She was an emblematic representative of postmodernism in Bulgarian literature in the 1990s and also of the new Bulgarian poetical directions in the 21st century. As an artist, she mainly works in the poetic genre.

**PANELISTS:**

1. Mehrinigor Bahodirovna **AKHMEDOVA** , was born on September 28, 1982. She is an

Associate professor, PhD in philological sciences in English literature department, Bukhara State University. She has published more than 60 theses and articles, 5 books, 2 dictionaries. She has had teaching experience in around ten countries with ITEC program (Aptech University), Erasmus program (Erasmushogeschool University), SUSI for scholars program (New York University), KGDP (Chungbuk University), Istanbul Ticaret University (Turkey), Gottingen University (Germany), Delhi University (India) and others.

1. Nevena **ALEXIEVA** joined the Department of English and American Studies in 1973. Senior Asst. Prof., now retired. She has taught BA and MA theoretical and practical Modern English grammar courses (Morphology, Lexicology, and basically, the Course in Syntax) and also two elective courses: A Cognitive Approach to Lexical Borrowing and Analyzing English Texts Syntactically. As the contributor for Bulgarian, she participated in an international lexicographical project (A Dictionary of European Anglicisms; English in Europe (OUP, 2001-02), involving 16 languages. She has taken part in many national and international conferences, where she has presented different aspects of the integration of anglicisms in Bulgarian and other languages in the light of a cognitive approach to inter-language lexical contacts.
2. Yana **ANDREEVA** is a Professor of Portuguese literature at the University of "St. Kliment Ohridski", where she teaches Portuguese and Brazilian literature. She is the head of the "Portuguese and Lusophone Studies" department at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philologies. She is the author of *Portugal Segundo a Bulgária*, 2020; *Literary Readings of Migration*, 2017; *Creator and Society in the Portuguese Writers' Diaries from the End of the Twentieth Century*, 2011; *Readings in Portuguese Literature*, 2010; *The Self as an Other: Discourses of Identity in the Autobiographical Work of Fernando Namora*, 2007, and also of numerous studies and articles in Bulgarian and foreign scientific journals. She has also compiled scholarly collections and three anthologies of Portuguese literature, published in Bulgaria.
3. Nozimjon **ATABOEV** I is an accomplished teacher with over 5 years of experience in teaching EFL. He has BA in Philology and Language Teaching (English) and MA in Linguistics (English) from Uzbek State World Languages University, Uzbekistan. At present, he is working at BSU as an associate professor in the English Literature Criticism Department and is the Dean of Foreign Languages Faculty at Bukhara State University. He has had research stays for short period of time in Spain, Russia, Malaysia and Indonesia. In 2020 he received his PhD diploma, with a thesisentitled "Functional characteristics of English corpora (on the example of COCA corpus)". He has published more than 35 articles according to my research.
4. Galina **AVRAMOVA**, PhD,is aSenior Assistant Professor teaching at theDepartment of English and American Studies atSofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria**.** She is lecturing and conducting seminars in Canadian Literature and Culture, and American Literature. Her research interests are in the fields of Modern and Postmodern Canadian and American literatures. Her PhD thesis is in Canadian Literature – *The Postmodern Identity: Timothy Findley’s ‘Pilgrim’.* She is founding member of the Bulgarian Chapter of CEACS (Central European Association of Canadian Studies), member of BASA (Bulgarian-American Studies Association), and member of BSBS (Bulgarian Society for British Studies). Galina Avramova is founder and executive editor of *Vox Litterarum*, a journal for culture, literary criticism and intercultural communication. She is also member of the editorial board of *Phililogia* journal.
5. Nouzha **BABA** is completing her PhD at Leiden University Center for the Arts in Society. In her thesis *Culturalism and Its Discontents: Comparative Studies in Rhetoric, Theory and Literature*, she undertakes an interdisciplinary comparative research about contemporary European socio-political rhetoric, cultural theory and literature of Moroccan migration in French and Dutch. Baba has participated in numerous international conferences and summer/winter schools and has published articles in edited books and peer-reviewed journals. Her articles include: “Caught in a Space of Dislocation: Cultural Hybridity Reconsidered in Tahar Ben Jelloun’s *Les Yeux Baissés* in the edited book: *W(h)ither Identity: Positioning the Self and Transforming the Social*, Wisschenschaftliche Verlag Trier, 2015; “Transcultural Reflections on Identity, Memory and Gender in Naima El Bezaz’s *Vinexvrouwen.*” In *Gendered Bodies on the Move: Re-undestanding Women’s Migratory Experiences*. Contemporary Medusa: International Journal of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies*.* Vol. 3. Issue 1. 2022.
6. Alexandra **BAGASHEVA**, PhD, is an associate professor of Linguistics at the Department of English and American Studies Sofia University. She teaches diverse linguistic subjects at the Department at the three levels of higher education, among which the interdisciplinary course Cognitive approaches to literature and culture. Her main research interests are in the fields of word formation, cognitive linguistics, cultural linguistics, semantics and the epistemology of linguistics. She has supervised a number of publicly funded PhD projects, has managed several other publicly funded research actions, and taken part in international and national research projects as both coordinator and participant. She has also organized several international scientific fora in Bulgaria and abroad since 2010. She is a member of the editorial board of *Contrastive Linguistics* and a member of the advisory boards of *ExELL, SKASE Journal of Theoretical Linguistics* and [*Zeitschrift für Wortbildung / Journal of Word Formation*.](https://www.peterlang.com/view/journals/zwjw/zwjw-overview.xml) Her major publications are in the fields of word formation, cultural linguistics and semantics, he is a regular reviewer for international journals. She has published papers in the field of word-formation and cognitive linguistics and reviews with Cambridge Scholars Publishing, de Gruyter Mouton, John Benjamins, Peter Lang, Brill, etc. She has been co-editor of both special journal issues and edited volumes.
7. Reneta **BOZHANKOVA** is a Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.She is the author the monographs “The Postmodern Russian Text” (2001), “Horizons of digital Literature” (2013), “Digital Humanities and the Study of Literature” (2018), and of more than 90 articles on literature and culture in the 20th and 21st centuries. Reneta Bozhankova has participated in national and European educational and research projects, she has specialized in Oxford Internet Institute - University of Oxford, UK, University of Saarland, Germany, and the University of Kansas, USA. Her research is focused on digital literature, cyberculture, e-learning, new methods and interdisciplinary approaches in the Humanities.
8. Milena **BRATOEVA,** PhD is a Professor of Indian literature and culture at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bulgaria. She delivers lectures on *Vedic Literature and Culture, Sanskrit Epic Literature, Contemporary Hindi literature, Cods and Symbols of the Traditional Indian Culture, Contemporary Indian Culture between Tradition and Modernity* etc. in the BA and MA-Programs in Indian Studies at Sofia University.

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1. Vesselin M. **BUDAKOV** is Senior Assistant Professor in the Department of English and American Studies at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia. He holds a PhD in eighteenth-century epistolary fiction. He teaches English Literature of the Enlightenment period and conducts seminars on American literature and Victorian Literature. His research interests and publications include “Dystopia: an Earlier Eighteenth-Century Use,” Notes and Queries 57.1 (2010), “Cacotopia: An Eighteenth-Century Appearance in News from the Dead (1715),” Notes and Queries 58.3 (2011) as well as studies on eighteenth-century epistolary fiction, travel writing, early science fiction, and utopianism. Along with Jonathan McCreedy and Alexandra Glavanakova, he co-edited *Swiftian Inspirations: the Legacy of Jonathan Swift from the Enlightenment to the Age of Post-Truth* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2020).
2. Adina **CIUGUREANU** is Professor Emerita of English and American Literature at Ovidius University Constanta, Romania. She was the Dean of the Faculty of Letters between 2004-2012 and Director of the Institute for Doctoral Studies at Ovidius University between 2016-2019. Her major interests range from Victorian literature to British and American modern fiction and poetry and popular culture. She has had numerous research grants to prestigious institutions such as Cambridge University (1996, 2002), Oxford University (2006), Baylor University (Armstrong Browning Library, 2007) a Fulbright grant to UNLV, Nevada (2001-2002) and a second one at UCSB, California in 2016-2017. Among her publications, mention should be made of *Victorian Selves* (Constanta: Ovidius University Press, 2004, revised version in 2008), *Modernism and the Idea of Modernity* (Constanta: Ex Ponto, 2004, republished in 2008), *Post-War Anxieties* (Constanta: Ex Ponto, 2006), *The Boomerang Effect* (Constanta: Ex Ponto, 2002), revised, translated into Romanian, and published in 2008 as *Efectul de bumerang* (Iasi: Institutul European). She has also published over 40 articles and essays in national and international volumes and journals, edited and co-edited 8 conference volumes (among which *National and Transnational Challenges to the American Imaginary*, Peter Lang, 2018, *Ideology, Identity, and the US: Crossroads, Freeways, Collisions,* Peter Lang 2020) and had numerous participations in international conferences, including keynote addresses. She has recently published a chapter in the volume *A Critical Compendium on Alejandro Morales: in the Crosshairs of Canon, Fiction and History*, edited by Marc García-Martínez and Francisco A. Lomelí (University of New Mexico Press). Currently, she is working on a study on cityspace and its representations in Los Angeles fiction.
3. Danail **DANOV,** PhD, DLitt., is a Professor of Media Studies and Media Pedagogy at the Faculty of Educational Studies and the Arts at Sofia University St. “Kliment Ohridski”. He has published extensively on digital literacy, media, journalism, PR, project management, training and education and media pedagogy and has participated in a number of international projects on media literacy. Over the last 15 years he has been consulting various media and communications related projects implemented by organizations such as BBC WS, Deutsche Welle, RNTC, Open Society Institute, GTZ, Fulbright International Summer Institute and the European Parliament.
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6. Irena **DIMOVA,** PhD, is a senior assistant professor at the Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She teaches courses in general and academic English as well as sociolinguistic courses in English as an international language and language and society. Her recent research interests concern the development of English as an international language and its implications for English pedagogy.
7. Orzigul **GANIEVA** is an accomplished teacher with over 20 years of experience in teaching EFL. She has BA in Roman-German Philology and MA in Literary Criticism (English) from Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan. At present, she is working at BSU as an associate professor in the English Literature Department and completed the teacher training course at the Metropolitan University, London, in 2013, the online course at London Imperial College in 2020. In 2021-2022 she ran the American Literature Club at BSU sponsored by US Embassy in Tashkent. In 2021 she received her PhD diploma on the topic “The Description of the Relationship between a Person and Society in John Steinbeck and Adil Yakubov’s Works". She has published more than 25 articles.
8. Konstantin **GEORGIEV** is a PhD candidate at the Department of Anthropology at Rice University, Houston, Texas. His doctoral research focuses on the post-Soviet environmental conservation and labor practices of scientist formerly employed at a now defunct scientific institute in Eastern Siberia. His research has been supported through grants and fellowships from the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the Society for Visual Anthropology at the American Anthropological Association, and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies. Outside of academia, he has worked in film-related fields. He has been writer and researcher for a number of film and TV documentaries and has worked as an archivist and curator of analog media at the Rice Media Center.
9. Georgi **GEORGIEV** holds an assistant professorship at the Department of English and American Studies at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. His interests lie in the typology of morphosyntax, understudied morphosyntactic phenomena and how these tie in with the

philosophy of language, as well as in the theory and practice of interpretation. He is pursuing research on vocatives and their potential assignment to a dedicated feature other than the ones to which vocatives are traditionally considered to belong.

1. Alexandra K. **GLAVANAKOVA**, PhD, is associate professor in American Literature and Culture and Head of the Department of English and American Studies at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, Bulgaria. Her teaching, academic research and publications focus on the culture and literature of the USA; transcultural studies and identity; the major cultural shifts in literacy, education, and literary studies under the impact of digital technology. She is the author of two monographs: *Posthuman Transformations: Bodies and Texts in Cyberspace*(2014) and *Transcultural Imaginings. Translating the Other, Translating the Self in Narratives about Migration and Terrorism*(2016); the editor et al. of *New Paradigms in English Studies. Language, Linguistics, Literature and Culture in Higher Education* (2017) and *Swiftian Inspirations: The Legacy of Jonathan Swift from the Enlightenment to the Age of Post-Truth* (2020). She has been involved in several projects and publications on reading in the digital age and e-learning and has recently served as the editor of the special issue “Reading Modes in the Digital Age” of the Sofia University online journal for arts and culture *Piron* (2020). She received a Fulbright grant as a research scholar at UCSB on a project investigating reading literature online (Feb – July 2022).
2. Kiril **HADZHIKOSEV**, MA, is currently a PhD candidate at the department of English and American Studies at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.” He is interested in Modernist British and American literary art. The topic of his MA thesis was “Forms and Functions of Space and Time in James Joyce’s Ulysses” which he successfully defended at the beginning of 2021. Kiril participated in the XVIIIth Scientific Conference of Non-Habilitated Lecturers and Doctoral Students held by Sofia University where he presented a paper on Virginia Woolf entitled “Deconstructing Colonial Metaphors in Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*” published in 2022 by the Sofia University Press. The topic of his PhD dissertation is “Centre and Periphery in British and American Modernism: James Joyce, Djuna Barnes, Thomas Wolfe, Jean Rhys.” At Sofia University he collaborates on special occasions with Dr Jonathan McCreedy who also supervised his MA thesis.
3. Angel **IGOV,** PhD, is a Senior Assistant Professor and has graduated from Sofia University with a BA in English Studies, MA in Literary Studies, and PhD on *Fictional Models of the City in the Contemporary British Novel: Ian McEwan and Martin Amis.* He has also specialized at the UC Berkeley on a Fulbright scholarship. He teaches English literature and Translation at the Department of English and American Studies of Sofia University. His current academic interests are focused on comparative poetics and intertextuality. He is the author of *Flags and Keys: A Poetics of the Epigraph* (in Bulgarian), as well as three novels, two collections of short stories, and a number of publications in periodicals. He is a practicing translator of fiction and poetry from English, and holds several national awards for fiction and translation.
4. Alexandra-Maria **IVAN** is a PhD Candidate from Romania with a PhD thesis tackling, among others, alien depictions of society through language. She has attended several conferences in the past, dealing with both translation of science fiction as well as cultural analyses of futuristic societies in crisis, with articles both awaiting publication and already published. Notable past papers include “The Strain of Language in China Miéville’s Embassytown: between Multiculturalism, Oppression, and the Alien Society”, “Sonmi~451 and the Image of the Subservient Asian Woman ”, and  „The (Mis)Translation of Future English in Cloud Atlas: Sloosha's Crossin' an' Ev'rythin' After”
5. Lola **JALILOVA** is an accomplished teacher with over 20 years of experience in teaching EFL. She have MA in Roman-German Philology (English) from Bukhara State University, Uzbekistan. At present, she is working at BSU as an Associate Professor in the English Literature Criticism Department and completed the teacher training and professional development courses ​​(ESL / ESP expert), an active participant of international conferences, seminars and webinars organized by the US Embassy. In 2020-2022 she organized Speaking Club at BSU in collaboration with Wyoming University, USA. In 2019 she published the textbook “Practical methods of teaching a foreign language,” and in 2020 received an international copyright certificate for this manual from the Agency for Intellectual Property under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Certificate No. 3550). In 2020 she got my PhD diploma on the topic of “The Poetics of American Satiric Short Stories of the early XXth Century.” She has published more than 50 articles.
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10. Antje **KLEY,** PhD, is a Professor and holds the chair for American Literary Studies at FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg. Together with her colleague Prof. Dirk Niefanger (German Studies), she directs the Research Training Group “Literature and the Public Sphere in Contemporary Differentiated Cultures,” funded by the German Research Foundation. Her research interests focus on the theory, history and cultural functions of US-American prose fiction and life writing, ethics and aesthetics, media history and theory as well as literature and knowledge. In 2018 she published the volume, edited with Kai Merten, *What Literature Knows: Forays into Literary Knowledge Production*. She is currently working on a book project concerned with narratives of the end of life entitled *Death Becomes Us*.
11. Alexander **KOSTOV,** PhD, is a Senior Assistant Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski.” His primary interests are within the field of Canadian Literature and Anglophone African Literature. He also teaches Translation and Practical English Classes in the BA and MA programs. He is a BA, MA, and is aPhD graduate of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski,” Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology.
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13. Marija **KRSTEVA** holds a PhD degree in American literature from Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Bulgaria. Her areas of interest involves American studies, history, culture and literature mainly contemporary literature, life-writing and genre blending. She has worked at the University “Goce Delcev” in Stip, Faculty of Philology since 2012 where she teaches American studies. Marija Krsteva is a Hemingway Society fellow for 2017. She has published and presented a number of papers on academic conferences at home and abroad. She has written the book in literary theory *Towards life-writing: genre blending* (forthcoming, Routledge, 2022). She is also the author of children’s picture books and a translator.
14. Chi Sum Garfield **LAU** obtained her Ph.D in English Language and Literature from Hong Kong Baptist University. She is an Assistant Professor in Hong Kong Metropolitan University. She is responsible for courses in English Language and Literature. Her areas of interest include Modernism, Psychoanalytic Criticism and Comparative Studies.
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17. Louis **MENDY** is a professor of American Studies at Cheikh Anta Diop University in Dakar, Senegal. He was a Fulbright scholar at California State University, Fullerton and at Kent State University in Ohio. Prof. Mendy is the author of many scientific articles in American literature and a book entitled: *Survivances de la doctrine du puritanisme dans l'Amérique moderne.* He is the director of the Journal (REAC) of American and Caribbean Studies of Cheikh Anta Diop University. He participated in two Erasmus teaching programs at the University of Wurzburg (Germany) and the University of Huelva (Spain).

Prof. Mendy is also a Human Rights activist. He chaired Amnesty International, Senegal for some years, before joining the international board of the Organization in London for three years.

1. Jonas **NABBE** is a master’s student of history, anthropology, and critical theory at the University of Bologna. He received his bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts & Sciences from the Erasmus University of Rotterdam. His work focuses on transnationalism and takes a critical approach to Eurocentrism and methodological nationalism. His other interests include social movements, political philosophy, and musicology.
2. **Lorraine NASSER** is a PhD candidate in Rhetoric at Tel Aviv University. Her research is focused on classical rhetoric in contemporary literature as expressed in fiction and nonfiction texts.
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