



TRADITIONS AND TRANSITIONS

Volume One

TRADITIONS
AND
TRANSITIONS

VOLUME ONE

Selected papers from the conference held
at St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia, September 2018

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FOREWORD

Traditions and Transitions: this double volume features selected papers presented at a conference of the same name, organized by the Department of English and American Studies at *St. Kliment Ohridski University of Sofia* in September 2018. The conference aimed to celebrate a double anniversary: 90 years since the study of English was established as an autonomous degree subject within the Germanic Studies Department in 1928, and 130 years since the founding of the University of Sofia in 1888, the first higher academic institution in Bulgaria, opened shortly after the country's liberation from Ottoman rule.

The conference brought together more than eighty academics from different generations, countries, and theoretical backgrounds. It offered a rich spectrum of topics and invited stimulating interdisciplinary and intergenerational exchanges. A year later, these two volumes present some of the most interesting and thought-provoking papers delivered in 2018.

Preserving traditions and honouring the past, but also looking into the future and embracing transition and change, the forty papers in the two volumes offer a wide range of theoretical and methodological perspectives. They have been organised into four parts. While strict boundaries between disciplines and themes are not easy to draw, multiple internal connections and shared themes are evident within each category.

Part I and Part II of the current *Volume One* follow the exact title of the conference: *Traditions and Transitions*. Part I is called TRADITIONS, HISTORY AND CHANGE and traces the historical development of the two major branches of the English department – Literature and Linguistics, a more recent one – Culture Studies, as well as the fruitful exchange programme with Leeds University amidst the Cold War era. The last two papers look at current issues from the field of Applied Linguistics and Semiotics. All papers in this part come from distinguished professors emeriti who have worked at the English Department at Sofia University, or have had a long-term connection with it.

Part II, TRANSITIONS, TRANSGRESSIONS AND PERFORMANCE, transgresses the often rigid disciplinary boundaries and explores trans-national, trans-lingual, trans-cultural, trans-human, and other aspects, well beyond the traditional scope of English Studies. Combining various interdisciplinary approaches and drawing on translation studies, culture studies, film and theatre studies, this part offers something of a counterpoint to the first part, focused on specific disciplines and historical development. It also serves as a kind of transition to the second volume, where *Language* and *Literature* are the two organising categories, although the boundaries between them are often fluid and permeable.

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