

## STUDENT WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

The conference *New Paradigms in English Studies* has a special focus on students and young scholars, both through providing them with an opportunity to present their research, and by organizing a number of **workshops** specifically designed for students. There are also two **discussion panels**, as well as a number of interesting plenary sessions and presentations. Participation is free for students, but **signing up for the workshops in advance is important**, as the places are limited.

### WORKSHOPS (FOR STUDENTS AND JUNIOR FACULTY MEMBERS):

LITERARY TRANSLATION FROM BULGARIAN TO ENGLISH: PITFALLS AND BEST PRACTICES	Angela Rodel	Friday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30-13:00
WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM? THE GRAMMAR OF BLAMING	Mario Saraceni	Friday, November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 16:30-18:00
NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES: <i>studying language indexicalities in transnational music cultures</i>	Britta Schneider	Saturday, November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30-13:00
HOW TO USE DIGITAL TOOLS AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING	Paweł Frelik	Saturday, November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00-15:30

### Discussion panels for faculty and students:

ENGLISH STUDIES: PAST AND FUTURE	Chair: Emilia Slavova	Sunday, November 27 <sup>th</sup> , 9:30-11:00, Resource Centre
STAKEHOLDERS ON STUDENTS' SKILLS AND COMPETENCES	Chair: Georgi Nyagolov	Sunday, November 27 <sup>th</sup> , 11:30-13:30, Resource Centre

### Plenary speeches:

LINGUISTIC BORDER CROSSINGS AND THE BENEFITS OF DISORDER	Mario Saraceni	November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 10:00, room 243.
TEACHING ENGLISH IN AN AGE OF TRANSNATIONALISM	Britta Schneider	November 25 <sup>th</sup> , 14:00, room 243.
SCIENCE FICTION, COMICS, AND VIDEO GAMES: <i>Emergent disciplines and the thing previously known as popular culture</i>	Paweł Frelik	November 26 <sup>th</sup> , 9:00, room 243.

## LITERARY TRANSLATION FROM BULGARIAN TO ENGLISH: PITFALLS AND BEST PRACTICES

Angela Rodel

This workshop will be a hands-on seminar for students wishing to develop their English to Bulgarian literary translation skills. We will discuss the typical linguistic and stylistic pitfalls encountered by translators working in this direction, then put our discussions to immediate use in tackling a few example texts. No prior experience in translating literature from English to Bulgarian is needed!

## WHO DOES WHAT TO WHOM? THE GRAMMAR OF BLAMING

Mario Saraceni

November 25<sup>th</sup>, 16:30-18:00

Focusing primarily on newspaper texts, in this workshop participants will examine ways in which responsibility is attributed to social actors. The analysis will be based on comparing how newspapers report the same event differently, and how such difference is encoded in grammar. The analytical framework will be that of Transitivity, as understood in Functional Grammar. No prior knowledge will be required.

## HOW TO USE DIGITAL TOOLS AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR RESEARCH AND TEACHING

Paweł Frelik

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 14:00-15:30

In many ways, the title of the workshop is self-explanatory. I will *not* spend time convincing the participants that they should use digital tools and social media in their research and teaching. What I will do instead is suggest a number of specific solutions (tools, services, practices) and demonstrate how they can expedite and enrich academic practice in such areas as information collection and retrieval, citation management, and class assignments. Since there will be a separate workshop with links and suggestions, the participants may want to bring in their own notebooks, if possible.

*(N.B. Participants need to bring their own tablets or other electronic devices).*

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDIES:

*studying language indexicalities in transnational music cultures*

Britta Schneider

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-13:00



In this data-based student workshop, we will discuss the relationship of language and social categorisations in an age of transnationalism. To this end, we will first talk about the traditional links of language and nation or ethnicity. Afterwards, we will look at and listen to empirical data from different research contexts. Students will be introduced to examples of lyrics from different music styles and to some aspects of the cultural embedding and history of these musical productions. They are then asked to analyse the symbolic meanings and cultural ties the language choices in these lyrics express. Students will furthermore be asked to analyse data from interviews with members of Communities of Practice constituted through Salsa music and dance in which these talk about their language practices.

Both data sets will stimulate discussion on the question which indexical ties and symbolic meanings of language choices we find in cultural contexts that are not framed in national discourses. This leads to the question of language ownership and social functions of language in an age of globalisation. Students have to participate actively in this class – and will be rewarded with an inspiring and fun session in which their concepts and thoughts are of prime interest.

## DISCUSSION PANEL:

### ENGLISH STUDIES: PAST AND FUTURE

Chair: Emilia Slavova

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00, Resource Centre



Guided by our belief that it is in the dialogue between old traditions and new paradigms that academic vigour flourishes best, the panel aims to bring together two generations: the generation who carry the legacy of the English Philology department, who remember its history and have been the agents of change in previous decades, on the one hand; and the generation of current students who have their ideas and visions about the future of English Studies, on the other.

Each invited speaker will have about 5 minutes to tell a story related to the past or future development of English Studies, and to develop their vision about what should be retained and what should be changed in the field of English Studies. The presentations will be followed by a discussion with the audience. We hope to spark a lively intergenerational discussion and to establish a balance between continuity and innovation in our unending quest for development and improvement.

## DISCUSSION PANEL:

### STAKEHOLDERS ON STUDENTS' SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Chair: Georgi Nyagolov

Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 11:30-13:30, Resource Centre



Today, higher education institutions (HEIs) need to adapt quickly to a rapidly changing environment: the decline of the industrial economy and rise of the knowledge economy, the constantly changing demand for the skills of university graduates necessary for ensuring their employability, the increasing demand for new skills, the constant transformation of the concept of knowledge and the practices of using information and information technologies, the higher competition due to the increased mobility of students and staff and the globalization of education and research, the demographic decline. Taken at face value, all these developments may be perceived as threats, but if one accepts the challenge to compete and innovate they may also be converted into opportunities. A possible line of action in the latter direction is conceived as closer cooperation with as many stakeholders in the process of education as possible. The objective of this conference panel is to test the potential of this idea by bringing together representatives of key stakeholder groups, concerned particularly with the training of students in the field of English and American Studies (students, teaching staff, employers, members of NGOs interested in the development of civil society, representatives of the government of education) and asking them to discuss the skills and competences today's graduates in the field of English and American Studies should master in order to participate more meaningfully both in the labour market and in society as a whole. Furthermore, the work of the panelists will be directed to organizing these skills and competences into coherent packages that can be, in turn, converted into learning objectives and concrete pedagogies by educators. Finally, ideas will be exchanged on how to sustain such cooperation, involve more stakeholders, manage the information flow, and ensure that its results are taken into consideration by education policy makers, both at the institutional and at the national levels. Members of the audience will be welcome to share their thoughts and add to the discussion.

## WORKSHOP MODERATORS:



**ANGELA RODEL** is a professional literary translator living and working in Bulgaria. She holds a B.A. from Yale and an M.A. from UCLA in linguistics. She received a 2014 NEA translation grant for Georgi Gospodinov's novel *The Physics of Sorrow* (Open Letter 2015), as well as a 2010 PEN Translation Fund Grant for Georgi Tenev's short story collection *Holy Light* – the first time a Bulgarian-language work has received either award. Her translation of *Physics of Sorrow* won the National Book Center's 2015 Peroto Prize for best translation from Bulgarian and was nominated for the three most prestigious translation awards in the US: finalist for the 2016 PEN Translation Prize, the 2016 National Translation Award from the American Literary Translators Association, and Three Percent's Best Translated Book Award for 2016.

Angela's translations of Milen Ruskov's novel *Thrown into Nature* (2011), Zachary Karabashliev's *18% Gray* (2013) and Angel Igov's *A Short Tale of Shame* (2013) and Georgi Tenev's *Party Headquarters* (2015) have been published by Open Letter Books thanks to support from the Elizabeth Kostova Foundation. The UK publishing house Istros Books published her translation of Virginia Zaharieva's novel *Nine Rabbits* in 2012, which was rereleased by Black Balloon in the US in 2014. Her translation of the classic Bulgarian novel *The Wolf Hunt* by Ivaylo Petrov will be published in spring 2017 by Archipelago Books. Her translation of Ivan Dimitrov's play, *The Eyes of Others*, was performed at the Ohio Theater in New York City in September 2012. Her poetry and prose translations have also appeared in numerous literary magazines and anthologies, including *McSweeney's*, *Little Star*, *Ploughshares*, *Granta.org*, *Two Lines*, and *Words Without Borders*, among others. In 2014, she was awarded Bulgarian citizenship for her translation work and contribution to Bulgarian culture.

Angela Rodel is a former Fulbright scholar and currently serves as executive director of the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission.



**MARIO SARACENI** (PhD) teaches English Language and Linguistics at the University of Portsmouth, UK, where he has been since 2004. Prior to that, he was at Assumption University, Bangkok. His main research interest is in the ideological, political and pedagogical implications of the forms and functions of English as a global language. He has published extensively in this

area. His latest book, *World Englishes: A Critical Analysis* (Bloomsbury, 2015) has recently won the *British Association for Applied Linguistics* annual *Book Prize* for 2016. This is Mario's first visit to Bulgaria.



**BRITTA SCHNEIDER** (PhD) is a sociolinguist and **Primary Researcher** at *Freie Universität Berlin*, Germany. Her general research interests are the sociolinguistics of globalisation, English and transnationalism, multilingual social contexts, language ideology, language and music, language policy, linguistic ethnography and the epistemology of language.

She is currently working on language ideologies in Belize and on uses of English in the ‘expanding circle’ to study the symbolic functions of languages in contexts where ethnic communities and language choice are not congruent. She has been working in the field since 2004 and, besides various book chapters and journal articles, her publications include *Salsa, Language and Transnationalism*, an ethnographic study on language ideologies in transnational communities, published with *Multilingual Matters* in 2014, and *Linguistic Human Rights and Migrant Languages – A Comparative Analysis of Migrant Language Education in Great Britain and Germany*, published in 2005.



**PAWEŁ FRELIK** (D.Litt., Ph.D.) is Associate Professor in the Department of American Literature and Culture at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Lublin), Director of the Video Game Research Center at MCSU, and Visiting Professor of Audiovisual Culture at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. Educated in Poland and the United States, he has taught and lectured in Great Britain, Finland, Germany, and the United States.

His research interests include science fiction, video games, fantastic visualities, digital media, and transmedia storytelling. He has published widely in these fields, serves on the advisory boards of *Science Fiction Studies*, *Extrapolation*, and *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds*, and is the co-editor of the *New Dimensions in Science Fiction* book series at the University of Wales Press. In 2013-2014, he was President of the Science Fiction Research Association, the first in the organization’s history from outside North America, and now serves as Vice-President of the European Association for American Studies and as SFRA’s Immediate Past President.