

**Call for Papers**  
**LITERARY MARGINS AND DIGITAL MEDIA**  
**Seminar of the Academia Europaea and the University of Wrocław**  
**15 – 17 April 2015**

The Academia Europaea Knowledge Hub Wrocław and the University of Wrocław invite young scholars (PhD candidates and postdocs), to take part in the Seminar *Literary margins and digital media* to be held in **Wrocław (Poland)** on **15–17 April 2015**.

### Context and rationale

Traditional elite culture is becoming increasingly marginalized, while forms of cultural expression which were seen as marginal during the first half of the twentieth century, or which, in the terminology of Bourdieu and Even-Zohar, were located at the periphery of the cultural field, have been gaining a more prominent place. The three vital factors that have played a crucial role in this phenomenon are the commercialisation of cultural life, democratic access to culture, and the development of the Internet and new media. The aim of this conference is to discuss the implications of these shifts for European literatures, and particularly for those of Central and Eastern Europe.

First, special consideration will be given to the evolution of literary genres which were until recently deemed marginal from the perspective of the traditional cultural centre, such as children's and young adult literature, popular literature and, in recent times, electronic literature. Second, a related issue to be discussed will be ways in which literature repositions itself with regard to contemporary technological and social developments. Of interest here is not so much the question whether traditional literary culture will be displaced by new media, but rather in what manner literature reacts to these developments and retains its significance either through a symbiosis with other modes of cultural expression or by generating new genres.

### Tracks

#### *Terminology and concepts*

- Do the existing terminology and traditional methods of literary analysis apply to analyzing electronic literature? Is there a need for developing new approaches?
- How does the transition from the book as an art object ('literature') to electronic literature occur?
- What new genres have emerged in cyberspace?

#### *Crossing boundaries*

- Is the division into high and low culture relevant in cyberspace? What are processes involved in textualisation of visual signs and visualisation of the text?
- How does literature exist in the nonlinguistic realm? How are the limits of language challenged?
- How do elements of subcultures move to the mainstream in the context of new media?

#### *Ethics*

- Stealing or recycling? How to define the use of traditional literature for digital purposes?
- What is the status of the author in cyberspace?
- What is the role of digital culture and new media in the preservation and dissemination of national cultural heritage?

#### *Age and media*

- How does age affect media preferences and use?
- Is the distinction between children's literature and adult literature still valid in the context of new media?
- What forms of cultural convergence are emerging within children's culture?

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### *Readers and consumers of popular culture*

- How does the evolution from the reader (of traditional print literature) to the active performer or player proceed?
- What alternative forms of sharing cultural experiences have emerged thanks to social media and participatory culture?
- What are possible methods of empirical research into readers and popular culture audiences?

### *Games*

- Are computer games a literary genre?
- What processes are involved in turning literature into games and games into literature?
- What is the aesthetics of alternative and artistic games?

### *Future: dangers & possibilities*

- What is the future of translation in view of instant translation available on the Internet?
- How to promote new media literacies among children and adults?
- What may be potential applications of popular culture and media convergence in education?
- What are possible uses of games in developing media literacies?
- Remediation – a new life for historical texts?
- How is children's publishing in Central and Eastern Europe being affected by multimedia?
- What is the influence of new media on the development and status of popular literature?

**APPLICATION:** The registration is available at: [www.acadeuro.wroclaw.pl](http://www.acadeuro.wroclaw.pl). Submit a 300-word proposal, a curriculum vitae with list of publications by **October 5, 2014**. All applicants will be notified about the selection of participants before **October 31, 2014**.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Presenters are required to submit a 3000-5000 word description or excerpt (i.e., chapter, article, etc.) for circulation to workshop participants by **March 1, 2015**. All workshop participants are asked to read these submissions prior to the workshop. The paper should be an unpublished one. Presenters who do not meet the submission deadline, will not be able to present their work.

**SEMINAR LANGUAGE** will be English.

**FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS:** The organisers will provide accommodation\*, part of travel expenses\*, conference fee, insurance and publication.

### **ORGANISING COMMITTEE**

Irena Barbara Kalla (University of Wrocław)

Justyna Deszcz-Tryhubczak (University of Wrocław)

Dorota Michułka (University of Wrocław)

Bogumiła Staniów (University of Wrocław)

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Siegfried Huigen (University of Wrocław)

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Aleksandra Nowak (Academia Europaea)

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\*up to 4 nights

\*\* Western Europe – up to 100 EUR, Central and Eastern Europe – up to 150 EUR

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