

Call for Papers

Slavic studies now

Processes of remembrance, hybridization and transfer in Slavic languages, literature and cultures

(Reissue of the postponed conference of 2020)

Institute for Slavic studies, University of Graz

New date: 10th-12th June 2021

The Institute for Slavic Studies at the University of Graz celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2020 - an occasion to look back, to determine the current situation and to think about the future possibilities of the field.

Regrettably, the conference scheduled for June 2020 had to be postponed due to the Corona virus restrictions. We now hope to be able to welcome the participants of that conference in Graz in June 2021.

In addition, we announce a new call for papers on the topic *processes of remembrance, hybridisation and transfer in Slavic languages, literature and cultures*. The newly accepted presentations will be included as an integral part of the conference.

It took until the 20th and 21st centuries for cultural transfers and processes of hybridisation to be extensively theorized and encompassed as academical subjects, mainly in a follow-up to the different variations of post-colonial studies. Parallely, the research, categorization and description of diverse processes of reminiscence, which following the trails of *memory turn* and the establishment of the *memory studies*, aroused interest in remembrance and memory in various academic disciplines, such as history, psychology, literature, neuroscience etc., resulting in what we now call the *memory turn* and the establishment of memory studies.

What was locally achieved through *memory studies* has found a global correspondence in the wide reappraisal of processes triggered, modified and rethought by decolonization, democratization the increase in the mobility of people, goods, and information, the acceleration of cultural exchange and the transformation of media. Retrogressive tendencies, caused e.g. by the Coronavirus pandemic, are currently being researched and analysed as well. It would seem that migration, diversification or hybridity are phenomena of the late 20th century and the present, especially since Slavic literatures deal in a variety of forms with the experiences of the previous century such as war, totalitarianism, persecution, holocaust, escape and exile.

The Graz anniversary conference, however, chooses a wider approach: on the one hand, we would like to increase awareness of the fact that cultural processes in the countries and regions of Eastern, Central and Southeastern Europe have always been based on an interweaving and amalgamation of various elements, for example in the early modern period and even earlier, and that in fact they are and always have been this entanglement / amalgamation. On the other hand, we recognize that language and literature, as receptacles of both individual and collective memory, are at the same time carriers of changing, overlapping and interwoven world and life designs and thus themselves can be recognized as forms of cultural knowledge and cultural practice. This could be the common denominator of the topics brought together in this conference: in dealing with transfer, *translatio*, “remembering back”, alterity or hybridity, we are always dealing with processes that can be described both in temporal and spatial criteria. As Michael Rothberg notes, memory studies and postcolonial studies have grown separately from one another, but because of their inevitable overlapping fields they are moving ever closer to one another.

Furthermore, we want to explore practices and phenomena that cannot, or can only insufficiently be described with the available theoretical approaches (which were developed using the example of other cultural constellations). In other words, we are not only concerned with applying existing theoretical instruments to Eastern European contexts, but also with working towards developing new approaches and analytical models based on these concrete contexts. The Graz conference would like to take account of this development by not only opening up to contributions from all epochs, but also by temporarily suspending the boundaries between literary, cultural and linguistic studies: naturally, we also consider linguistic processes to be part of cultural change. In addition to literary and cultural scholars and historians, interested linguists as well as other disciplines are very welcome.

Conference languages are English, German, Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian and Slovenian.

Please send a presentation title to Sonja.Koroliov@uni-graz.at by February 3, 2021. Abstracts can be handed in at a later point.