

Conference

Unlearning Monolingualism in the Philologies: Concepts, Methods, Literary Practices. Bratislava, 8.-9. October 2026

Organized by Marianna Deganutti (Slovenská Akadémia Vied / Bratislava), Esther Kilchmann (Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel), and Dirk Weissmann (Université Toulouse-Jean Jaurès) within COST Action *MultiLiLiTrans – Literary Multilingualism and Social Transformations in Superdiverse Societies*

The first conference of Working Group 1 brings together scholars of literary multilingualism from fifteen countries to address the continued dominance of monolingual and national paradigms in the philologies and to explore how critical concepts, methods, and multilingual practices can reshape literary studies. A connected workshop will focus on developing a multilingual knowledge base for research on literary multilingualism, with particular attention to terminology, comparison across languages, and the challenges of asymmetry and untranslatability.

Program

8 October

9.00: Greetings by Róbert Gáfrik (Slovak Academy of Sciences)

1. Slot: Unlearning Monolingualism by the Rules of the Poetic

9.30 – 10.45

Inputs (15'), followed by Panel Discussion

-Esther Kilchmann (Kiel/D): Multilingualism, Materiality, Poeticity: On Autonomous Literary Structures

-Barbara Siller (Cork/IR): 'Glossa. Glossare. Glossom' and fanesTM.textverarbeitende manufactur– Anti-Conventional Writing and Publishing Practices in Multivoiced Writings

-Dirk Weissmann (Toulouse/FR): Archives und literary multilingualism. On Frank Wedekind and Paul Celan.

Coffee break

2. Slot: Concepts and Terminologies for Multilingual Literatures

11.15 – 12.15

Inputs (15'), followed by Panel Discussion

- Jan Kühne (Jerusalem/IL): Liminal Listening: Translingual Homophony as Literary Device and Hermeneutic Strategy

- Dora Rusciano (Napoli/IT): Reconceptualising translation to move beyond monolingualism

Lunch Break

14.15 – 15.15

Inputs (15'), followed by Panel Discussion

- Mónika Dánél: (Eötvös Loránd University/HU): The Poetics of Accents: Multivocality and Multifocality in a Nonexclusive Male Bildung (Károly Molter: *Márton Tibold*, 1937)

- Adetola Elizabeth Umoh (Barcelona/ES) / Samuel Uwen (Czech Academy of Sciences/CZ): Decolonization, African Philology, and the Challenge to Linguistic Exclusion in Literary Studies

Coffee Break

16.00 – 17.30

Roundtable: Slovakia at the Crossroads: Multilingual Dynamics in Central Europe
Dobrota Pucherová, Lucia Molnár Satinská, Milan Samko, Adriana Schwarzbacher
(Slovak Academy of Sciences)

9 October

3. Slot: Multilingual Revision of Literary History and Canonization

Inputs (15'), followed by Panel Discussion

9.00 – 10.30

- Edlira Gugu / Milaim Delija (Elbasan/AL): The Multilingual Literary Canon: *Structural possibilities and alternative models to traditional national canons*

- Jana Mende (Halle/D): How do you Model Multilingual Literary History? Bratislava and Beyond

- Sandra Vlasta (Genova/IT): Canon and Literary History – Multilingual? The current state of the art and some suggestions

Coffee Break

11.00 – 12.30

- Fatma Jale Gül Çoruk (Ankara/TR): Armeno-Turkish Texts and the Problem of Script: Language, Alphabet, and Communal Affiliation in Ottoman Turkish Writing Practices

- Doğanay Eryılmaz (Ankara/TR): Rethinking Armenian Literary History through Diaspora and Multilingualism

- Paola De Picante Vicin (Zürich/CH): Border Identities and Plurilingualism (Grisson)

Lunch Break

14.00 – 15.00

Inputs (15'), followed by Panel Discussion

- Ana Toroš (Nova Gorica/SL): Linguistic Trauma / Literary History (Minority Languages, Conflict Zones)

- Liudmyla Harmash (Kharkiv/UA, Tours/F): Multilingualism Without Equivalence: Configurations of Disjunction and Integration in Wartime Literature and Songs (Ukrainian)

Coffee Break

15.30 – 17.30 Workshop: Unlearning Monolingual Categories: Towards A Multilingual Glossary for Literary Multilingualism Studies

18:00 – 19:00

Literary lecture and talk with Anna Siedykh, moderation by Renata Pavlova

Conference venue: Malé kongresové centrum SAV, Štefánikova 878, 811 06 Bratislava / Slovakia

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