ABSTRACTS: INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS
(*alphabetically*)

Imad Adjabi (University of Warsaw)
Sympoietic intimacy and queer ecology: Rethinking relationships in Ursula K. Le Guin's The Word for World is Forest

This paper explores Ursula K. Le Guin's The Word for World is Forest through the lens of queer ecology and sympoiesis, examining how Selver and Lyubov's interactions promote for the need for mutual survivability between human and nonhuman, individual and collective, and self and other. Drawing on the concept of sympoiesis as a mode of relationality that emphasizes the interdependence and co-creation of living beings and their environments, this paper argues that their relationship is a form of queer resistance to the colonial exploitation of the Athshean forest by human settlers and embodies a form of queer ecology that disrupts dominant narratives of human control over nature. This paper also considers larger systems of power and oppression that shape their relationship. It highlights how their interactions offer new insights into alternative ways of living and relating to the world that prioritizes symbiotic and mutualistic relationships. By exploring the intersection of queer ecology and sympoiesis in the Word for World is Forest, this paper substantiates the interconnected relationships between humans, nonhumans, and the natural world, thereby significantly contributing to the ongoing scholarly discourse surrounding the complex politics inherent in ecological thought.

Keywords: sympoiesis, queer ecology, The Word for World is Forest, Lyubov, Selver

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Anna Buncler (University of Warsaw)
(R)evolution of consciousness in language

Some words appear in language due to the evolution (or even revolution) of consciousness. Although in the last decades we have experienced a real revolution in technology, the same cannot be said about the consciousness of humans, which is still often based on primitive instincts of the reptilian brain. These basic instincts are predominantly based on fear – fear to survive. Fear that is often nowadays imaginary.
In my paper I will talk about the words and collocations that have appeared in language(s) only recently, and they reflect the (r)evolution of human consciousness – the significant changes in perceiving the surrounding world. Some of these words are totally new, although they describe very old and well known concepts that were not named before. The naming was possible only due to the (r)evolution of consciousness.
The main word I will focus on is *carnism*. This term was coined at the beginning of the XXI century by the social psychologist Melanie Joy. It is filling the missing, earlier unexplained gap in our perception of the world. It is revolutionary as it unveils the hidden and the invisible. Although the word itself is a revolutionary one, the recognition and absorbing its meaning might be an evolution as it requires the transformation of incorporated into us picture of the world and belief system. I will talk also about other words and collocations that have appeared recently, often independently from *carnism*, alhough they relate to the same notions and they mark as well the significant shift of the human perception.
I will also argue why nowadays, in the Anthropocene – in the times of the ecological crisis, the environmental devastation, deforestation, land degradation, water and air pollution, species extinction and loss of biodiversity – we desperately need such words as *carnism*.
The language shapes our identity, our identities shape our societies, and our societies shape our future.

Keywords: carnism, identity, social psychology, social norm, language

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Chiara Caiazzo (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)
Framing resistance: A postcard from Naples

This paper investigates the construction of the Neapolitan subject as subaltern within the hegemonic discourse portraying the South of Italy as Other from European civilization. The aim is to examine whether the South can be mobilized as a critical category to produce a counter-hegemonic discourse. Judith Butler's notion of framing provides an intriguing perspective to explore this topic, as she asserts that "subjects are constituted through norms which, in their reiteration, produce and shift the terms through which subjects are recognized."[1] It is essential to consider how existing norms allocate recognition differentially, as the frames through which we apprehend the lives of others as lost or injured are operations of power and, as such, they are politically saturated. Indeed, "if one is 'framed,' then a 'frame' is constructed around one's deed such that one's guilty status becomes the viewer's inevitable conclusion." [2] This idea is at the core of the constitution of the Southern subject, an image resulting from centuries of inequity and discrimination. Italy's "Orientalism in one country"[3] is often disregarded, although the Southern Question, first theorized by Antonio Gramsci around 1935, remains relevant and active today. [4] Significantly shaped by bourgeois cultures, imaginative geography poses the superior, rational, orderly, and civilized North against the inferior, underdeveloped, corrupt, and anarchist South. Orientalist discourses are always based on binary geographical axes that create a dichotomy, leading to the production of subalternity.[5] The subaltern is subjected to both belittlement and exoticization, and in the case of women, even sexualization. The exoticization of the South originates from the picturesque nature of Southern landscapes, the slow lifestyle (vita lenta) of its inhabitants, their local traditions, and dialects. The present research takes Naples as a case study, addressing the conceptual fusion between Naples and the South, where the first functions as a synecdoche for the second, an approach that erases the multiculturalism characterizing Mezzogiorno. [6] My inquiry will be organized into three sections. The first part is devoted to a historical survey of the origins of the Southern Question. Secondly, I will conduct an in-depth analysis of portrayals of Neapolitans from both Northerners and Southerners, focusing on contemporary photographic representations, while also dealing with the issue of internalized anti-meridionalism. Finally, I will explore possible strategies of resistance through the kind of politics described as "molar" [7] in the work of Deleuze and Guattari.

Keywords: Postcolonialism; Orientalism; Hegemony; Subaltern; South

Judith Butler, Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable? (London: Verso, 2009), 3-4.
Butler, Frames of War, 8.
Jane Schneider (ed.), Italy's "Southern Question": Orientalism in One Country (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 1998).
Antonio Gramsci, La questione meridionale (Rome: 4Punte edizioni, 2022).
Edward Said, Orientalism (London: Penguin, 2003), 42.
Nelson Moe, The View from Vesuvius: Italian Culture and the Southern Question (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 40.
Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2001), 213.

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Ewa Glapka (University of Szczecin)
Creolization of South African colouredness as an example of changes in postcolonial identities and postcolonial humanities

This paper presents part of a qualitative, critical discursive research on postcolonial identity processes in today's South Africa. The identity processes selected for this analysis are the consequence of the changes which followed the fall of apartheid in 1994. The dismantling of its institutionalized racist violence and divisions, as well as the accompanying idea of creating a multiracial 'rainbow nation', were revolutionary. However, the socio-cultural changes which followed the revolution were rather evolutionary, which I present on the basis of the creolization of South Africa's second largest racial group – coloureds. Coloureds posses a racially and ethnically complex, African, Asian and European, heritage. They emerged from colonial violence and a continuing stigmatization as South Africa's 'racial residue', a 'neither-whitenor-black' mix (Adhikari, 2009; Erasmus, 2000, 2001; Holtzman, 2018). In most recent academic debates, this stigmatization of colouredness is defied by means of the notion of creole, of which coloureds – for the very reasons of their origins and status – are a great example (Erasmus, 2001). Creolization, crudely, concerns the rise of Subaltern, culturally, racially and/or ethnically ambiguous, subjectivities from colonial cohabitation and systemic oppression. Here, the conceptualization is operationalized empirically, in a critical discursive analysis of interviews with young coloured women. The creole subjectivity which they negotiate shows that recasting the coloured subject as a cultural hybrid, rather than the 'racially mixed' people, allows acknowledging the imprint of slavery and apartheid on the coloured community, but rejects the biologist reductionism of the social engineering that positioned coloureds as the country's 'third race', the 'Other'. Concluding the study, I observe a significant decolonizing and anti-essentialist potential of creolization theory, I point to its conceptual strength and to the applicability of its ideas in empirical research.

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Pirtle, W. (2021). 'Able to identify with anything': racial identity choices among 'coloureds' as shaped by the South African racial state. Identities Global Studies in Culture and Power https://doi.org/10.1080/1070289X.2021.2005919

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Jana Hallová (Masaryk University)
Memetic (r)evolution - A momentary trend or the way of the future?

The project focuses on the use of memes on social media, their prevalence in conversation and their usage based on the age of the contributors. The main research question it asks is whether the use of memes in computer-mediated discourse is a momentary trend (a revolution in online talk) or whether it exhibits signs of language evolution.
A quantitative linguistic study is employed to answer this question within the scope of the project. The subject of the study, the social media platform analyzed, is Facebook, mainly for the fact that its users often include indicators of their age on their profiles. The project then looks at three most popular pages on Facebook and their three most recent posts. With the use of an online software (Exportcomments.com), the top 5000 comments (if available) along with the responses to them were selected and searched for memetic elements. Out of 16 760 comments, the results include analysis of 2837 memetic posts in total, which are then subjected to categorization according to the age group that their posters belong to, based on their provided public profile data. The specific personal data remains

anonymous within the study, but the work does demonstrate the distribution of the use of memetic elements by different age groups in the selected posts.

The study distributes the comments into four different age groups (Senior, Adult (Working/University), High School and Younger) and an additional group of Unspecified results for the profiles that do not provide enough public information about the user's approximate age.

Based on the quantitative results, the project considers whether the use of memetic elements rises exponentially the lower the approximate age of the user. The most recent demographic studies of Facebook are employed and compared to the quantitative results to surmise whether the result is representative of a language evolution.

Keywords: multimodality, social media, quantitative analysis, memes, demographics

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Karolina Janczukowicz (Gdańsk University)
The emergence of human identity in the context of the evolution of language

The paper presents a proposal for perceiving the development of human consciousness and human sense of identity as related to the evolution of human speech. It discusses the development of language as well as the sense of self in evolutionary terms, relying on the theory of mind mechanism (TM) (Premack and Woodruff 1978) and the mirror neurons (Mirror System Hypothesis) as its foundations (Arbib 2008). The sense of self and the sense of identity, though not synonymous are presented as closely related concepts, both reliant on human consciousness and human language. The crucial shift from 'me' to 'I' (as discussed by James 1890) is shown as a vital step in this evolution. Next, the emergence of speech (as understood by Chomsky (2002)) as well as gradual changes, resembling in principle, the processes of biological evolution, are compared and used in order to account for the appearance of human sense of self. Furthermore, the notions of self and of identity are discussed in terms of (1) human consciousness relative to types of memory (Tulving 1985), (2) the relation of an individual to him or herself or to the world outside (Janczukowicz and Wenzel 2011). Lastly, the importance of the sense of identity in social coexistence will be shown as part of the general discussion of human consciousness (Janczukowicz and Wenzel 2021).

Keywords: Self, identity, consciousness, coexistence, evolution of language, Theory of Mind, mirror neurons

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Agnieszka Kałdonek-Crnjaković (University of Warsaw, Poland), Mutsumi Iijima (Gunma University, Japan), Zrinka Fišer (University of Slavonski Brod, Croatia), Asli Lidice Göktürk Saglam (University of South-Eastern Norway)
Jasenka Čengić (University of Zagreb, Croatia), Elisa Díaz Prada (University of Seville, Spain), Nataliia Scherba (Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University, Ukraine)
Do English language pre-service teachers feel ready to teach students with ADHD? Voices from Croatia, Japan, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine

Students with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) may be challenging to teach because of complex behaviours that stem from inattention, hyperactivity and impulsivity. In this study, we investigated self-reported efficacy in six hypothetical classroom situations related to ADHD-like behaviours of sixty-six pre-service English language teachers from six different countries: Croatia, Japan, Poland, Spain, Turkey, and Ukraine. Quantitative and qualitative data were gathered using an online questionnaire with open- closed-ended questions using a Likert-type scale. The research questions we asked were as follows: To what extent do the participants feel efficient when dealing with classroom situations related to the behaviours that stem from the specific presentations of ADHD – inattention and hyperactivity/impulsivity?; What actions would the participants take in specific situations and how do they relate to the self-reported efficacy?; Will there be any country-specific differences? Overall, the findings suggest that participants feel quite confident with dealing with presented situations, especially when the student does not pay attention to details and makes careless mistakes, talks extensively or interrupts others, and has organisational difficulties or when their written and spoken work is incoherent and incohesive. However, there were country-specific differences. The actions taken by the participants were specific and in line with the recommendations in the literature on teaching students with ADHD. The findings have strong pedagogical implications, which we will discuss in reference to language teacher education in each participating country.

Keywords: ADHD, self-efficacy, pre-service teachers, teacher education

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Marcin Kołakowski (University of Warsaw)
Social-exclusion-related themes in contemporary Spanish, Argentinian and Polish gay narrative

Despite the fact that Spain and Argentina introduced same-sex marriage in 2010 and 2005 respectively, gay literature in those countries and in Poland (no same-sex marriage) continues to deal with issues related to the social exclusion of the LGBTIQ+ community. This kind of discrimination has been the subject of studies and encompasses social attitudes ranging from contempt and aversion to hatred and aggression towards sexual dissidence (Castadeña, 2000; Bimbi, 2017). These studies point to key social, political and cultural problems of the LGBTIQ+ community: common experiences of exclusion (homophobia within basic social structures, institutionalized homophobia, coming out, etc.), overcoming self-hatred (internalized homophobia) and struggle for equality (Mira, 2004; Bergman, 1991; Warkocki, 2007). Thus, the present study aims to syntactically outline the main themes addressed by Spanish, Argentinean and Polish gay authors in novels published in the 21st century. The social problems and discrimination codified in the works of authors known and read within and outside the LGBTIQ+ community of all the three countries will be analyzed and will encompass authors such as Ángel Hernández (Spain), Tomás Ortiz (Spain), Óscar Hernández (Spain), Facundo R. Soto (Argentina), Peter Pank (Argentina), Gael Policiano Rossi (Argentina), Marcin Szczygielski (Poland) and Mikołaj Milcke (Poland). The syntactic thematic and comparative analysis will follow the guidelines of thematology that classifies themes according to their structure and considers them as socio-cultural conjectures and reference points of cultural continuity (Trousson, 1965). The final objective will be to

deliberate on the thematic discrepancies and similarities present in the gay narrative in all three countries.

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Paweł Kornacki (University of Warsaw)
Lapun Topio i save long independence, or what the old man Topio learned about 'independence.' A cultural semantic look at Melanesian words for new meanings in Manmato Uvako's early prize winning Tok Pisin story

Positioned against the popular background of early Independence era of Papua New Guinea indigenous writing (see Ellerman 2004; May 2004), this paper relies on methodological tools of cultural semantics (Goddard 2018, Goddard and Wierzbicka 2014) to examine a prize-winning Tok Pisin story *Lapun Topio i save long independence* 'The old man Topio learns about independence' by Manmato Uvako (1975:16-18)
The text of the story has been morphosyntactically annotated and translated into English with Toolbox (SIL) linguistic data management and analysis tool (Buseman and Buseman 2007) with an aim to identify salient collocations which shed light on the contextual meanings of the then newly introduced Tok Pisin vocabulary item *independens*, a soundalike of the abstract English noun 'independence.' (see Mühlhäusler 1985)
It is argued that text-internal semantic evidence gleaned from the analysed Tok Pisin story which encompasses the registered verbs of doing and saying (cf. Goddard 2018:194-229) in particular, allows for retrieving some of the same culturally specific Melanesian social scenarios linked to the core Melanesian cultural vocabulary postulated by Franklin (2007) On a broader cultural linguistic level the paper zooms in on Iteanu's (2015) notion of 'recycling of values,' surfacing as the characteristic linguistic phenomenon of imperfect synonym pairs highlighted in Melanesian Creole languages by Mühlhäusler (1985)

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Małgorzata Kowalcze (University of the National Education Commission, Kraków)
Diffractive Narrativity. The Narrative Dimensions of New Materialism

My paper explores the potential of interdisciplinary border-crossing between narrative theory and new materialism in the field of literary studies. Based on a broad definition of text, as not limited to the realm of language, but encompassing the whole of matter, my inquiry considers selected tenets of both positions and their applicability to the study of literature from a non-anthropocentric point of view. It focuses on diffractive reading, the approach to literary studies inspired by Karen Barad's theory of agentive realism, which is characterized by inclusivity and interdisciplinarity; it does not represent a rigorous research method, but rather a specific way of perceiving literature as an integral part of the ontological/material structure of reality. In that approach a literary work is construed as a dynamic space of intra-action between both human and non-human factors, rather than an independently human phenomenon. The paper discusses contemporary narrative theory positioning it within the framework of the paradigm shift currently taking place within the humanities (Domańska). It is informed by the concept of the creativity, fluidity and dynamism of meaning which narrative theory proclaims (Ricoeur). The objective of my scrutiny, however, is to expand the scope of its application. The paper arrives at a conclusion which states that narrativity is not a distinctly human cognitive faculty, but the inherent existential quality of both human and non-human entities (Iovino, Thiele). Not only is narration "a primary act of the mind transferred to art from life", as Barbara Hardy asserts, but it is indeed a primary act of matter whose identity, just like the identities of literary characters, is created in the intra-active processes of 'narrative mattering'.

Keywords: diffraction, narrativity, new materialism, intra-action, non-human

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Karolina Kowalska (University of Warsaw)
History, gender, and nostalgia: (Re)defining identities in Modern American comic books from the 1980s to the present

The proposed individual research paper explores the notion of re-definition and loss of identity in various comic book narratives and the impact of contemporary political thought and socio-cultural changes on narrative trends. By analyzing the history of publishing trends, the author presents a universal schema of the evolution of comic book revisions (introducing the revisionist chain structure of "myth-orality-reintroduction"). By studying nostalgia narratives, the author also establishes a link between the changing representation of comic book male characters and the American ideal of masculinity. By contrasting these notions representative of different points in the history of the late 20th century, the author explores the relationship between re-defined, non-normative masculinity and the idea of "un-Americanness". Lastly, female comic book characters are categorized through the invention of a theoretical framework (shackled/ liberated framework), allowing the author to explain their re-definition through well-established tropes and themes.

Key words: Identity, comic book, nostalgia, gender, revision

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Azad Mammadov (Azerbaijan University of Languages)
Some linguistic aspects of Donald Trump`s communication style

Analyzing former US President Donald Trump`s communication style, researchers focus on grandiosity, informality and dynamism (Ahmadian et al 2017). In this connection, it is intriguing to study the way how, why, when and where Donald Trump uses the repetitions of words, phrases and sentences, ellipsis and word order as the linguistic verbalizations of grandiosity, informality and dynamism in his political discourse.
The paper aims to study lexical and syntactic repetitions, ellipsis and word order used by Donald Trump in his two high-profile speeches (Inaugural Speech delivered at the Ceremony held in January 2017 and the speech to UN General Assembly delivered in September 2017). For this purpose, the traditional method of discourse analysis with the elements of CDA (Cap 2020) has been used to extract the direct repetitions of words, phrases and sentences, various elliptical constructions and word order changes from the data.
Comparing with the Inaugural Speech addressed, first of all, to the national audience, repetitions, ellipsis and word order changes are less common in the speeches delivered by Donald Trump to the international audience, such as his speech at the UN General Assembly. Any politician`s priority is, first of all, local or domestic audience and she/he makes utmost efforts to deliver her/his message to this audience in the most effective way. At the UN General Assembly, on the other hand, the audience is international and do not represent an immediate electoral interest.
Political discourse is a unique social interaction between a politician and his/her real or potential audience. The size of the audience has a strong correlation with the popularity of a politician, which is

crucial for a politician like Donald Trump. Therefore, repetitions, ellipsis and word order changes are among the most common linguistic choices of this politician.

Keywords: Donald Trump, political discourse, communication style

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Anna Orzechowska (Academy of Finance and Business Vistula)
"I'm a migratory bird": Self-reinvention towards nomadic subjectivity in Towards Another Summer *by Janet Frame*

This paper aims to analyse *Towards Another Summer* (written in 1963, published in 2007) by Janet Frame from the perspective of Rosi Braidotti's philosophy of nomadism. The posthumously published novel by one of the most distinguished New Zealand writers has received moderate attention from critics and scholars. Most of them have prominently noted that the work problematises the notions of identity with its portrayal of Grace Cleave—an alter ego of Frame—whose fluid and unstable sense of self is most starkly captured in her repeated statement: "I'm a migratory bird". These analyses, however, have not been underpinned by any solid theoretical framework that would make it possible to gain a more informed understanding of the heroine. Taking cue from this line of interpretation, the paper strives to enrich it with new insights and bring to attention its overlooked aspects. In doing so, it draws upon Braidotti's figuration of nomadic subject, which contests the normative visions of identity as a fixed and unitary construct. It is argued that the novel registers the process of the heroine negotiating her own identity towards nomadic subjectivity. As would be predicted by Braidotti, this journey of self-reinvention is a painful one for Grace as her desire to dwell in a state of constant flux is marred by the fear of not being understood by other people. In arguing this, the paper also pays crucial attention to the novel's central motif of transformation into a bird, interpreting it through the lens of Braidotti's post-anthropocentric notion of becoming-animal. It is noted that, in re-fashioning herself, Grace also destabilises the boundaries between the human and the non-human.

Keywords: Jane Frame, Rosi Braidotti, nomadic subjectivity, identity

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Patrycja Roguska (University of Warsaw)
"Annie was coke, Annie was booze": Addiction in Stephen King's life and fiction

Throughout the first two decades of his literary career, Stephen King, a bestselling writer and America's boogeyman-in-chief, had been tormented by two plagues: the shackles of addiction and imprisonment in the horror genre—both, as it were, of his own making. However, the echoes of the two plagues can be heard throughout the writer's entire oeuvre. The author's yearslong struggle with drug and alcohol addiction and its consequences as well as his responses to the horror writer label found their reflection in many of his literary works throughout almost half a century of his career, most notably in his psychological horror novel Misery (1987). Focusing on the relationship between two of the novel's protagonists, Paul Sheldon and Annie Wilkes, the following paper analyzes the ways in which the master

storyteller conceptualizes his experiences with drug and alcohol abuse and the feeling of entrapment in the horror genre department as well as many crises resulting from it, such as mental and physical suffering, violence, alienation, trauma, and the torment of being cast as a genre writer. The paper aims to explore the depiction of addiction and mental health crisis in the text considered to be the author's literary manifesto and accentuate the shift in King's treatment of both notions in his fiction over the years, dictated by his personal experiences of intense suffering under the weight of addiction. In his nuanced exploration of the depths of human psyche, King transcends the limitations of the horror genre and enters the realm of a deeper, psychological inquiry into his characters' minds, dreams, memories, vulnerabilities, fears, frustrations, and desires while keeping an eye on their humanity and providing a timeless commentary on the human condition.

Keywords: addiction, mental health crisis, horror genre, Stephen King, Misery

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Joanna Rydzewska-Siemiątkowska (University of Warsaw)
A survey into understanding Finnish legal language

This presentation introduces a survey conducted as a part of the research grant 'Understanding of the Legal Language' under the auspices of the Prime Minister's Office of Finland (Valtioneuvosto 2023). The purpose of the project is to scrutinise how Finnish and Swedish speakers read and comprehend legislative texts. Other methods used in this project contain interviews and usability tests.
The online questionnaire survey was conducted in August and September 2023 among Finnish speakers. Its aim was to analyse differences and similarities between legal experts and laymen. This was done by testing reading comprehension on the basis of extracts from the Finnish Marriage Act (1929) and the government proposal pertaining to this Act (HE 172/2021). Additionally, questions related to the respondents' interest and experience in reading legal texts, as they may have a significant impact on comprehension of the subject matter (Charzyńska 2015). Survey also investigated how particular features of legal language are perceived on a Likert scale (Vehkalahti 2019). Furthermore, the research

gathered respondents' attitudes towards legal language, thus aiming at providing practical solutions for developing the legislative language by the lawmakers.

The presentation will demonstrate the benefits a survey can bring to a research. Surveys are mainly tools of social sciences but they have wide application in linguistics, as well (Piehl 2010). Recently they have been used in researching legal language (Vogel et al. 2021, Domaneschi et al. 2022) and proved to be a helpful method in gathering both qualitative information (Piehl 2008) and quantitative information from large groups of informants (Rydzewska-Siemiątkowska 2016). Moreover, a survey allows respondents to share their experiences and views which enhances citizen participation and indirect influence on legal drafting. Empirical data can support more targeted action towards improving the understandable legal language that should be everyone's right.

Keywords: legal language, Finnish, survey, reading comprehension

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Aparna Satheesh Kurup (Masaryk University)
"The city was a board game and labour its pieces, there to make buildings bigger, streets longer, the economy richer. Then to leave. After": Renegotiating diasporic identities in the fictional writings of Benyamin and Unnikrishnan

The description of the reasons for migration from the homeland, the migrant's experiences, and the difficulties of adapting to the culture and tradition of the host nation to form a 'new community' have been portrayed in various literary writings. This paper discusses the Kerala Gulf diasporic community who knows even after forming this 'new community' in the 'hostland' where assimilation is never a possibility. To do so, this paper focuses on literary narratives that demonstrate voluntary migration from one's homeland within the South Indian state of Kerala to a 'hostland' such as Dubai and Saudi Arabia.

Through the critical study of Benyamin's Goat Days (2012) and Unnikrishnan's Temporary People (2017), this paper hypothesizes that though there is visible fatigue in dislocation and impossible mourning goes on in the life of immigrants, diaspora writing cannot only be looked through the pangs of separation, loss of identity, rootlessness and trauma of the first generation but needs to be approached as opening the portals to view the new change in the life of migrants of the second generation whose transformation may be seen clearly in their acculturated identities with a reconciliation between and assimilation of two very different cultures. Subsequently portraying the changing definitions and nature of culture, the existence of a plurality of cultures, and multicultural overtones represented in the literary texts. In both these texts, "by reworking the alien language (English) to suit the needs and nuances of the mother language in terms of grammar, vocabulary, and syntax, an 'English' is constructed which differs from the received standard" (Ashcroft et al., 19:2008). This paper argues that the specific literary techniques, nuanced narrative style and the construction of language employed by the migrant authors within their respective texts represent various identity transformations undergone by the migrant characters belonging to different stages in the Gulf nations like the labourers/working class; the second generation- mostly still children - and then the expatriates who are forced to return once they're not productive anymore.

Keywords: new community, second generation, plurality

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Michal Schwarz (Masaryk University)
Evolution and revolution as exclusive concepts and interrelated processes in the history of East Asian religious systems

The focus of the conference is creating an opposition between two labelled processes: evolution or revolution. This paper questions their intertwine from various scales and perspectives.[1] In an interdisciplinary research of changing ethno-religious identities of East Asian societies, their internal processes can be approached by various combinations of scales, perspectives and methods: local vs. more global, internal vs. external, analysis vs. participative observation, slow and high speed of development. This framework will be used for evaluation of mutual relations of evolution/gradual development and revolution/sudden change. The analysis of collected East Asian data is combining interplays of: A) geographically related areas of Inner Asia with Korea, Vietnam and Mongolia[2]; B) politically rather neutral framework of tributary relations; C) changing religious systems co-forming identities of ruling elite groups. First results from an ongoing project[3] show that evolution or revolution can be even understood as one and same process seen from the viewpoints of mentioned scales, perspectives and methods. While particular aspects of religious change should be studied on observed examples and in case studies, a balanced view can only be reached by an analysis of areal developments from wider perspective. While within a small-scale-view it makes sense to claim that East Asian ethnic groups and their religious identities are slowly evolved or are undergoing a technical revolution, from wider perspective these processes are inseparable. Usually the revolution is slowly prepared by cumulation of conditions from wider environment and vice versa a "sudden" change is causing

secondary developments in wider neighborhood. In holistic understanding, the results of this paper allow to conclude that the concepts of evolution and revolution are mutually exclusive on one side, but in fact they denote inseparable processes on the other side.

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Adrian Sobolewski-Kiwerski (University of Warsaw)
Memes as fragmentary constellations - subversive potential of memetic discourse

Memes are an important part of modern culture, one that each year becomes more widespread and used, both by individuals, as well as various companies, marketing teams, and even politicians. The causes of the popularity of this type of content are varied, and range from their ease of access to the flexibility of the medium, being able to communicate simple jokes as well as political or philosophical beliefs. The goal of my presentation is to explore the fundamental reasons behind memetic discourse's communicative potential. I claim that memes should be understood as a representational practice. They utilize the medium of visual representation to convey both the meanings that the author(s) intended, as well as the meanings that were received by the audiences. I claim that it is the particular, representational nature of the memetic discourse that allows it to have such an influence. This representation is by design a fragmentary, disjointed series of images that are connected only by conventions and the audience's prior knowledge. I believe that it is exactly this self-imposed (and self-admitted) fragmentariness that allows memetic discourse to approach topics that are often unapproachable by other media. Following Walter Benjamin's approach to representation, I'll attempt to show how this fragmentariness is not only a nature of representational practice that allows it to approach topics that are otherwise unattainable, but memes are essentially the embodiment of a constellational writing practice that was proposed by the German philosopher in his "Prologue" to The Origin of German Tragic Drama. Therefore, memetic discourse could be understood as not only having a significant impact on the possibility of approaching, in any way, the truth but also (and much more importantly) having a significant revolutionary potential. The possibility of representing oneself truthfully is a cornerstone of consciousness for Benjamin, and only the representation of fragments united in constellations allows for true selfhood within it.

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Riitta Suominen (Tampere University)
Reading Law: Remodelling legal language with usability methods

The project "Understanding of the Legal Language" – commissioned by the Finnish Government – examines how people read the texts of statutes. This examination includes usability tests, interviews, and questionnaires. Improving the usability of legistlative texts would improve the full range of applications for them; research has shown that the wording tends to remain unchanged from one genre to the next. Usability research contributes an important, user-oriented perspective. Understandable texts will make the reader feel involved in social processes and thereby promote democracy.
Our research looks at how readers understand legal text, which characteristics cause difficulties, and which facilitate understanding. One method used is think-aloud or protocol analysis. This examines a subject's reading process, making visible features that affect reading and understanding. Subjects read test texts while verbalizing their reading experience. This thinking aloud is recorded, transcribed, and analyzed, offering information about cognitive processing of text that is otherwise difficult to obtain.

Thinking aloud as a method is originated in cognitive psychology research, and has long been used to study the usability of software and online services (Ericsson & Simon 1993). I applied the method to administrative texts in my dissertation, "Improving the Usability of Official Documents: From a Decision to Online Text, Tweet and Facebook Update" (2019). This method is considered outstanding for usability testing thanks to its stability and flexibility (Nielsen 2012).

My presentation will show protocol analysis in use: What are its pros and cons? Can it open the reading process in a profound way? Can it show the impact of different textual elements on comprehension and usability? Does it help improve the reader's experience with legal documents? My subjects include lawyers, officials, and laymen. Test materials contain extracts from the Finnish Inheritance Code, the Income Tax Act, and the Working Time Act.

Keywords: usability, protocol-analysis, think-aloud, legalese, democracy

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Dávid Szolláth (Institute of Literary Studies, Research Center for the Humanities, Budapest)
Narrative Identity and Fragmented Storytelling in Central European Fiction

How can one tell a Central-European story? Is that so special? Hungarian literary attempts to write fiction about the region can be seen as a story of a constant search for narrative form. The lesson one can draw from this long time search is that the cultural-geographical formation that we call Central Europe could not be integrated into a unified grand epic form. Although classical practices of aesthetic pleasure favor the well-rounded narratives, they seemed unsuitable for displaying the more complex formulas of linguistic and cultural heterogeneity. As Milan Kundera noted, Central Europe is nothing but maximum variety in a minimum area, and as György Konrád wrote, "homogeneous images and forms do not fit our heterogeneous reality." The fictionalization of the region's cultural memory in writers like Miklós Mészöly, Péter Esterházy, Péter Nádas and László Krasznahorkai was typically realized in fragmentary forms, mixing documentary and imaginary layers, mosaic and metaphorical structures. This can even be evaluated as an artistic parallel to a historical experience that is so common in the region. After all, why should we expect a linear historical narrative where history has not been experienced as a linearity connecting generations for centuries? In addition to presenting the issue in the Hungarian literary context, the lecture also risks some comparative comments on Slovak, Ukrainian and Polish writers (Pavel Vilikovský, Yuri Andrukhovich and Andrzej Stasiuk).

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Katalin Szlukovényi (Eötvös Loránd University)
The Hungarian Revolution of 1956 as the Zero Point of Identity in the Poetry of George Szirtes

According to the blurb of *Fresh Out of the Sky* (2021) by George Szirtes (1948), a Hungarian-born English contemporary poet, the main theme of the book is the author's arrival in England as a child in 1956. His parents, who had survived the Holocaust, decided to flee their homeland because of the Hungarian revolution of 1956 against the intense Soviet influence on the country. In 1984, Szirtes returned to Budapest and, since then, he has become one of the most acknowledged translators of Hungarian literature into English while proceeding with his career as a major voice in English poetry. A significant part of his oeuvre investigates extensively the twentieth century history of the Central-Eastern European region – with respect to his own Hungarian and Jewish heritage –, in which the revolution of 1956 is a highly prominent event both on a historical and on a personal level. Yet it is striking how rarely he reflects directly on the actual happenings of the revolution itself or on its evaluation radically changing through time – which ranges from calling it counter-revolution in the Communist era to raising it to a national holiday after the end of the Cold War – while maintaining 1956 as a constant point of reference.
Starting with *Fresh Out of the Sky* and also discussing other texts by Szirtes, the paper examines responses to the Hungarian revolution of 1956 in his oeuvre. The close reading of his poems offers an insight into the historically changing perception of the Hungarian revolution of 1956 through a case study of a poetically mature understanding of the events and their controversial interpretations.

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Júlia Vallasek (Babeş-Bolyai University)
Border issues at the frontiers of literature. The topic of the Trianon Treaty in the Hungarian mass literature and educational resource materials of the interwar period

In the study of literary works depicting the everyday life of the inhabitants of the territories that came under new rule following the peace treaties around Paris at the end of the First World War, the aspect of the narrative representation of specific life strategies, identity construction strategies, conflicts and solutions can play an important role. Popular or mass literature as well as works written with educative purposes for young readers are seldom the focus of mainstream literary studies, as their often lower aesthetic quality or solely didactic focus tends to marginalise them, thus these mass produced works are quickly forgotten while due to their actuality and easy appeal on the public they can reach and have an impact on large audiences thus their choice of topic and narrative approach not only reflects public taste and interest, but often plays a decisive role in shaping it as well.
In my research, I examine how the events following the 1920s change are reflected in the interwar popular literature, which, on its turn might have contributed to the shaping of the public discourse on the subject.
The samples submitted to qualitative content-/narration analysis in the case of mass literature were selected on the basis of a joint examination of the title and the cover, since the cover image played a decisive role as theme and genre marker beyond simple illustration and marketing purposes. Literary creations aimed for the education of children were identified after a quantitative keyword search on digitised copies of the People's Teachers' Journal between 1918 and 1944.

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Maja Wandasiewicz (University of Warsaw)
Constantly searching – the question of humanity in Kogonada's After Yang (2021) and the rapidly changing world of human experience

Abstract:
The paper focuses on a futuristic vision of AI robotic companions in Kogonada's movie *After Yang* (2021, A24) and asks the question of whether AI's rapid expansion and imminent implementation in various aspects of people's lives can result in enriching our experiences as human beings, instead of gradually taking them away, as they are deemed more and more unworthwhile by the capitalist system. The paper's core is the analysis, albeit rather brief, of the movie from the humanistic and philosophical perspective; it also employs social sciences in its overview of the power dynamics between the movie's human characters and AI robots. What is more, it asks the question when one, even artificially created, becomes a sentient being and what sentience means in a rapidly changing environment of human progress. Finally, the paper connects Kogonada's vision of a future enriched by AI robots with ongoing (as of August 2023) protests of Writers Guild of America and SAG-AFTRA in the USA and raises the question about the importance of creation and art, which – in Kogonada's movie – are a focal point of a human experience, but which, within the reality of mentioned strikes, are something that creators and artists have to fight to recognise as worthy of acknowledgment. The paper concludes by stating the need to examine rapid human progress in technology and its disconnection from humanistic and philosophical reflection; it risks a statement that in a world focused on equality and inclusivity, aware of enriching differences between people and the importance of art and creation, the mentioned progress in technology would pose more opportunities than risks and dangers.

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Steffen Wöll (Leipzig University)
Revolutionary Geographies: Identity, Algocracy, and Resistance in the Age of AI

Nation-states and economic actors have always been patrons and gatekeepers of spatial imaginations and cartographic knowledges. Their epistemic power over geography facilitated education, exploration, economic development, diplomacy, warfare, and censorship; yet it also shaped pivotal social and racial hierarchies of today. As seemingly neutral texts, maps epitomize the prerogative of interpretation over real and imagined spaces, as well as actual and mental (im)mobilities of people. In our rapidly advancing age of artificial intelligence, algorithmic governance—or 'algocracy'[2]—proliferates the mathematization of social dynamics. Human behavior is observed, guided, and constrained through big data and machine learning, resulting in what Alex Pentland describes as "socioscopes" that produce a map of "life in all its complexity."[3] Critically engaging with these developments from a human geography standpoint, I argue that maps are not only instruments of social control but also active agents in the generation of affective structures. Forging human-scaled networks of resistance that counter algorithmic quantification, maps enter close-knit entanglements with social identities and revolutionary transformations of places, thus evoking meaning and hope through affective and emotive geographies. The presentation explores these dynamics through various examples, which range from Mona Hatoum's projection of Palestinian territories pieced together from blocks of olive-oil Nablus soap, to Ai Weiwei's handcrafted "Map of China" salvaged from the remains of demolished Qing Dynasty temples.