

CALL FOR PAPERS

New Myths of Contemporaneity. Women's voice between Russia and Poland

Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna
January 28th-29th, 2021

During the first two decades of the 2000s, identity issues took on a central role in women's literature both in Russia and in Poland. Starting from positions and trajectories in some cases independent, in some others converging, numerous women writers from the Russian and Polish areas have felt the urgency to seize mythologies (in the broad sense of the term) to affirm a new sociocultural "order". In the construction of a new mythology, based on a sort of "multi-mythical bricolage", the act of writing becomes for women a place of investigation and production of their own identity, which is in turn linked to a search for origins. Therefore, a reconnaissance on the concept of "myth" and the way contemporary Slavic women writers address it touches some transversal issues. Notably, they are partly related to the intimacy of the individual, explored thanks to the therapeutic value of literature, and partly related to collective imagination, to the beliefs and memories of a specific community.

In this context, the use of myths, their rewriting or even their re-creation influences the social and cultural fabric by producing an alternative cultural heritage. In some cases, this alternative integrates women in a canonically masculine space dominated by heteronormativity. In some others, it generates a new awareness in which the overcoming of stereotyped images of women finds stability and foundation.

Privileging a comparative approach for the analysis of the "re-writing" and "de-construction" of myths – without forgetting their declinations, – the conference will take into account the convergences or divergences of new trends in Russian and Polish female narratives. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The concept of "myth": "old" and "new" myth, their modalities of representation and articulation;
- Methods and forms used to (de)construct myths;
- The concepts of "demythologization" and "remythologization";
- myth and folklore;
- the use of myth for the construction of alternative/counterfactual Histories;
- the relationship between literary genres and the rewriting of myths;
- problems of translation from Russian and Polish, with specific reference to contemporary literature focused on the (de)construction of myth and produced by women.

This conference is part of a national project, funded by the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research in 2015, entitled "Myth (De)construction in Contemporary Women's Literature between Russia and Poland. A Comparative Study". Involved institutions include: Salento University, Alma Mater Studiorum – Bologna University, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Turin University.

The Scientific Committee welcomes submissions in two working languages: English and Italian. Submissions should be sent via e-mail no later than September 20th, 2020 to the following addresses: gabriella.imposti@unibo.it, irina.marchesini2@unibo.it, gloria.politi@unisalento.it, marina.ciccarini@gmail.com.

They must include:

- The title and a short abstract of the proposed presentation (up to 300 words);

- A short bio note (name, surname, institutional affiliation, position, contact details). **Please do not include personal data;**
 - declaration of intention to send a full version of the article for publication.
- Please use the “application sheet” attached.

The Scientific Committee will choose presenters evaluating the thematic relevance of the proposal for the conference. Notification of decision will be announced via e-mail no later than September 30th, 2020.

The same criterion will be applied for the selection of papers that will appear in a themed, peer-reviewed volume. Full-length articles written in English, Russian, Polish or Italian should be sent via e-mail no later than December 1st, 2020.

Registration fee

The conference is free. However, due to limited funds, we will not be able to cover participants’ travel and lodging expenses.

Conference venue

Complying with the safety measures issued by the Italian Ministry of Health, the conference will take place at the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, Via Cartoleria 5, 40124 Bologna, Italia. It will also be possible to attend the event via Zoom.

Due to the situation of uncertainty caused by the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, further organizational details will be given in due time.

Important deadlines

- September 20th, 2020: application submission.
- September 30th, 2020: notification of acceptance.
- December 1st, 2020: full article submission for publication.
- January 28th-29th, 2021: conference.

Scientific Committee

Professor Marina Ciccarini, University of Rome “Tor Vergata”;
Professor Gabriella Elina Imposti, Bologna University;
Senior Assistant Professor Irina Marchesini, Bologna University;
Full time Researcher Gloria Politi, Salento University.