

CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Literary Canon Revision in Post-Communist Societies

November 17–18, 2022

Vilnius, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore

In the 1980s, feminist, Marxist, post-structuralist, and minority studies scholars started questioning the Western literary canon as it did not represent the social, racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity. These debates, also known as canon wars, made scholars demythologise the Great Tradition and redefine the literary canon as a multifaceted and multifunctional sociocultural construct.

At the end of the 20th century, post-communist societies also started heated debates over the canon. Unlike in the West, it was mainly ideological and political shifts that determined the transformation of national canons in Eastern and Central Europe. Post-soviet and post-communist cultural elites started redefining the literary values of the Cold War period. While some pivotal authors representing communist ideology were removed from the literary canon, discussions about the canonical position of other authors exist until nowadays.

The revision of literary canon in post-communist societies involves the reintegration of literary heritage of pre-communist times and exile. What was forbidden in the communist system and therefore unknown to an ordinary reader became publicly available. After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Central and Eastern European writers started to follow postmodern aesthetics. It was these changes that made post-communist countries re-evaluate literary canons.

The conference organisers await paper proposals on the following topics:

- Biographical narratives of communist-era writers and reinterpretation of their works: transformations in the education system, literary research and criticism, literary fiction and arts;
- Editorial practices and circulation of canonical works from the communist era (book sales, borrowing from libraries, etc.) in post-communist societies;
- Controversies of the commemoration of communist-era writers;
- Post-communist literary canon, historical narrative and collective memory;
- Inclusion of literature of exile into the post-communist literary canon;
- Transformations of aesthetic values in the post-communist times;
- Representation of social, racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in the post-communist literary canon;
- Any other aspects of revising the literary canon in post-communist societies.

Keynote speakers of the conference:

Prof. Evgeny Dobrenko (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

Prof. Bogusław Bakula (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań)

We kindly invite scholars of literary and cultural studies, historians, sociologists, media researchers and all those interested in questioning the literary canon on theoretical or empirical levels.

Send an abstract of no more than 200 words to literarycanon@liti.lt by **June 30, 2022**. Paper acceptance will be confirmed by July 31, 2022.

Conference language: English.

Duration of talk: 20 minutes.

Participation fee: 50 EUR (travel and accommodation expenses are not included).

After the conference, we are planning to publish a collection of selected articles.

Organising Committee:

Viktorija Šeina, PhD (Chair of the Committee, Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius)

Prof. Dalia Satkauskytė, PhD (Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, Vilnius)

Assist. Prof. Aistė Kučinskienė, PhD (Vilnius University, Vilnius)

For more information, contact us at literarycanon@liti.lt.