The Institute of English Studies Newsletter is published for staff members as well as anyone interested in following the current developments and future activities of the Institute of English Studies at the University of Łódź. Each issue covers recent and upcoming events with regular updates on our conferences, publications, guest lectures and other educational and/or academic projects.

We welcome ideas for content and feedback on how the publication can be improved. You can submit your suggestions for the next issue directly to the Editors: ies.newsletter@uni.lodz.pl.

In this issue, we provide updates on conferences hosted by the University of Łódź, recent and forthcoming publications, guest lectures, international projects and other important academic events. Read on to find out about our latest news updates.
Over 200 people attended a conference entitled „Agression and Hate Speech in the Public Sphere: Causes, Consequences and Solutions” organised on 1st March by the Faculty of Philology and the Police Headquarters in Łódź. The participants of the event included representatives of local government authorities, courts, public prosecutor’s office, educational institutions, police authorities and representatives of non-governmental organisations. The conference covered the issue of broadly understood safety, in particular in relation to activities directed at victims. The main organiser of the event, dr Monika Kopytowska, emphasised: “Human dignity, aside of its constitutional value, which cannot be violated on any grounds, is also a kind of a turning point for the construction and interpretation of the entire Polish law. Denying anybody’s dignity is shameful and absolutely unacceptable. Although these issues appear obvious, they should nevertheless be regularly and repeatedly addressed at conferences, trainings and workshops.”

During the meeting special attention was paid to the ways in which language can become a threat, a tool for generating fear of the Other, creating oppositions and conflicts of us versus them, as well as inciting violence. The meeting emphasised good practice and the role of public, educational and non-governmental institutions in opposing this phenomenon.
On 8th May a one-day symposium on Medieval and Renaissance literature took place at the Institute of English Studies, University of Łódź, gathering its members and representatives of other prominent Polish universities. The symposium’s guest speaker, Andrew Pattison from the University of Oulu, delivered a paper on “Sir Degaré and the Liminal Forest.”

The sixth edition of PhiLang, an international conference on Philosophy of Language and Linguistics took place over the weekend of 10th to 12th of May at the faculty building. The conference was organised by the Department of English and General Linguistics under the direction of Professor Piotr Stalmaszczyk.

The event featured around 70 presentations as well as 6 plenary lectures from invited guests, Anna Brożek (University of Warsaw, Stacie Friend (Birkbeck College), Ulrike Hahn (Birkbeck College), Kasia M. Jaszczolt (University of Cambridge), Stephen Mumford (Durham University) and Tadeusz Szubka (University of Szczecin). The 90 conference participants covered a wider geographical spread than ever before, with presenters arriving from Japan, Ghana, Canada, Colombia, and Israel, as well as the length and breadth of Europe. The issues covered in the plenary talks and section papers included philosophical foundations of semantics and pragmatics, names in fiction and fictional names, denial and negation, the Lvov-Warsaw School and contemporary philosophy of language, and several others.

Alongside the main conference, PhilArg, a special workshop on the philosophy of argumentation was organised by dr Martin Hinton. Interaction between philosophers of language and argumentation scholars lent the event an inter-disciplinary nature and was undoubtedly beneficial to both groups.

The organisers consider the conference to have been a great success and plans are afoot for a 7th PhiLang in 2021. It is also hoped that a number of publications based on the research showcased at the event will be issued under the editorship of the organisers, to add to the already large number of volumes produced after previous editions of the conference.

For more information visit http://filologia.uni.lodz.pl/philang/
As the titular citation from Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* suggests, futuristic narratives, similarly to some earlier genres (i.e. dream vision), allow to transfer the content that, from a social, cultural or political viewpoint, might be considered as defiant, rebellious or subversive. Therefore, it is via this convention that gender issues, marginalised in the so-called mainstream, have been repeatedly channelled over the years.

In her study, *Worlds Apart?: Dualism and Transgression in Contemporary Female Dystopias*, Mohr claims that “Feminist utopias significantly differ in terms of narrative content from male utopias. Thematically, feminist utopias shift the focus to female reality and to everyday life; they restructure the distribution of power within society and family and reject sex-segregated labour” (24). Among other issues, Mohr enumerates “gender equality, communitarian goals, decentralisation” as the key features of this genre (24). Furthermore, the feminist category focuses on the importance of distinguishing “biology” from the cultural and social notions of gender, reproductive rights and practices, motherhood, and women’s sexual identifications and roles (Mohr 24-25).

In line with the above, the conference sought to explore relevant instances of futuristic, feminist and women-oriented narratives in English-language literature and culture, film and visual arts, gathering 50 delegates from Poland, UK, Germany, Austria, Romania, Slovakia, Estonia and Ukraine, to mention a few. The event was organised by The Department of British Literature and Culture and featured three plenary speakers: Dunja Mohr (Erfurt University),
“Relationalities in 21st-century Speculative Fiction”, Adam Stock (York St John University), “Not all Nazis: Feminist Anti-fascist Dystopian Literature and Masculinity in the 1930s and 40s”, and Alessandra Boller (University of Marburg), “’Some of the some that we are have been excluded’: Issues of Intersectionality and Ecofeminism in the Dystopian Imagination”.

For more information visit [http://uhe.uni.lodz.pl/full-call-for-papers/](http://uhe.uni.lodz.pl/full-call-for-papers/)

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**TEACHING TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING 6 (TTI 6)**
13-14 September 2019, Łódź

It is our great pleasure to invite you to the 6th international conference on TEACHING TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING (TTI 6), organised by The Department of Translation Studies at the University of Łódź. The conference will take place on 13-14 September 2019 at the Faculty of Philology, Łódź, Poland.

The conference draws on the success of four TTI conferences, held in April 2008 and 2009, October 2011, November 2014 and September 2017 where it was unanimously decided that meetings devoted to theoretical and practical aspects of translator training, translation didactics and translation curricula are a necessity.

**PLENARY SPEAKERS**
Maria González-Davies, Universitat Ramon Llull, Barcelona, Spain
Konrad Klimkowski, the Catholic University of Lublin, Lublin, Poland

The topics of the conference include, but are not limited to, the following:
- translator training
- translation curricula
- teaching, learning and training interpreting
- teaching, learning and training audiovisual translation
- translator training in the academia
- translation competence
- translator expertise
- competencies of professional translator trainers
- translation as a profession
- the use of computer in translation education
- interdisciplinary approaches to translation education

For more information visit [http://tti.uni.lodz.pl/](http://tti.uni.lodz.pl/)
The next edition of the biannual conference organized by the Department of Drama and pre-1800 English Literature entitled “Literature and Media: Productive Intersections” aims at addressing a variety of issues concerning the relations between drama, theatre, literature and media or, more generally, word and image. On the one hand, we invite conference papers that explore ways in which literature responds to the emergence of multiple media, and how literary or dramatic texts function in the (new) media environment. On the other hand, we would like to address questions about new media and their relation to the more traditional literary forms or narrative techniques – in particular how new media adapt and incorporate formats and genres developed by literature and its conventions. In visual arts, which use technological means to question the distinction between objects and viewing subjects, artists are interested in affective relations of the senses rather than conventional narration and representation. The conference seeks to reflect on the role and function of word and image in art projects that facilitate bodily experiences with the help of new technologies. It is assumed that digitalization has reconfigured the ways we produce and understand artistic process, facilitating new ways of communication and conversation in art.

The list of plenary speakers includes:

**Andy Lavender** - Professor of Theatre & Performance and Head of the School of Theatre & Performance Studies and Cultural & Media Policy Studies at the University of Warwick. He was previously Head of the School of Arts at the University of Surrey, and Dean of Research and (before that) Head of Postgraduate Studies at Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London. He publishes on contemporary theatre and performance, in particular looking at intermedial and cross-disciplinary work, new production processes, and performance in relation to the public sphere. Recent writing includes the monograph *Performance in the Twenty-First Century: Theatres of Engagement* (Routledge 2016. His work as a theatre director is largely in the field of devised multimedia performance, in particular using digital technologies. Recent work includes *Agamemnon Redux*, part of the *Mask & Avatar* workshop project exploring motion capture for live performance with colleagues from Paris 8 and Warwick universities (presented at Issy-les-Molineaux 2017, Warwick and Athens 2018).

**Kathleen Loock** - a postdoctoral researcher at the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin. Her research focuses on Hollywood's remaking practice, seriality, and the role memory and cultural repetition perform on the level of identity formation and imagined collectivization in changing historical, social, and political
contexts. She is author of *Kolumbus in den USA* (Transcript-Verlag, 2014), co-editor of the collection *Film Remakes, Adaptations, and Fan Productions: Remake/Remodel* (with Constantine Verevis, Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), and has edited the following special issues: *Serial Narratives (LWU: Literatur in Wissenschaft und Unterricht, 2014)*, *Exploring Film Seriality (Film Studies, with Frank Krutnik, 2017)*, and *American TV Series Revivals (Television & New Media, 2018)*.

**Kelly McErlean** – he has won several awards including a Golden Spider Award and Digital Media Award for his work in film, photography and new media. He holds a PhD in Visual Culture from the National College of Art & Design, Dublin and an MA in Mass Communications from Leicester University, UK. He has authored graduate and post-graduate courses in film and new media for national and international delivery. Working with the European Broadcasting Union, he successfully project managed eLearning and on-site contracts for many international broadcast organisations. Kelly is a full-time Programme Director and academic researcher in the Department of Creative Arts, Media and Music, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Ireland. He is an educational consultant for several UK universities and is an academic writer with Pearson. His book *Interactive Narratives & Transmedia Storytelling* was published 2018 by Taylor & Francis, New York.

Paper proposals (up to 300 words, plus a short biographical note) can be sent to: dramathroughtheageslodz@gmail.com.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 30th June 2019.

For more information visit https://dramathroughtheages.wordpress.com/

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THE ŁÓDŹ-ZHAW DUO COLLOQUIUM
ON ‘TRANSLATION AND MEANING’
28-30 May 2020, Łódź

The Łódź-ZHAW Duo Colloquium on Translation and Meaning is a successor to the internationally acclaimed event with the same concept, organised in Maastricht and Łódź from 1990 to 2015.

The Łódź session of the Duo Colloquium will be held from 28-30 May 2020 at the Faculty of Philology of the University of Łódź, 171/173 Pomorska Street, 90-236 Łódź, Poland. The follow-up event at ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Winterthur, Switzerland,
will take place from 3-5 September 2020. A separate call for the ZHAW session will be issued early in 2020.

In line with the previous sessions held in Łódź, the 2020 Łódź session will be geared towards theory and will deal with theoretical aspects of the central theme of the Duo Colloquium and the sub-themes suggested for it. The ZHAW session will have a more applied orientation.

This year’s central theme is *Contextuality in Translation and Interpreting*. Contextuality can be understood at any level, from the geopolitical to the textual, and embraces both academic and professional considerations of translational and interpreting phenomena. The conference sub-themes are focussed on context(s) and/or decontextualisation in translation and interpreting theory and practice. They embrace both academic and professional considerations of meaning in translation and interpreting from a variety of disciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary perspectives.

The sub-themes include, but are not limited to, the interface of translation / interpreting and (in alphabetical order) ...

- cognition
- corpus / text linguistics
- domain specificity (e.g. economics, law, science, medicine, religion)
- education / training
- lexicology / lexicography / terminology
- literature
- metaphor / phraseology
- modality / media
- philosophy
- pragmatics / semantics / semiotics
- psycholinguistics / psychology
- quality assessment
- situated practice(s)
- sociolinguistics / sociology
- sociotechnical systems / agency
- technology

For more information visit [http://duo.uni.lodz.pl](http://duo.uni.lodz.pl)
When adapting Shakespeare's comedies, cinema and television have to address the differences and incompatibilities between early modern gender constructs and contemporary cultural, social, and political contexts. *Screening Gender in Shakespeare's Comedies: Film and Television Adaptations in the Twenty-First Century* analyses methods employed by cinema and television in approaching those aspects of Shakespeare's comedies, indicating a range of ways in which adaptations made in the twenty-first century approach the problems of cultural and social normativity, gender politics, stereotypes of femininity and masculinity, the dynamic of power relations between men and women, and social roles of men and women. This book discusses both mainstream cinematic productions, such as Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice* or Julie Taymor's *The Tempest*, and more low-key adaptations, such as Kenneth Branagh's *As You Like It* and Joss Whedon's *Much Ado About Nothing*, as well as the three comedies of BBC *Shakespeare-Told* miniseries: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

This book examines how the analysed films deal with elements of Shakespeare's comedies that appear subversive, challenging, or offensive to today's culture, and how they interpret or update gender issues to reconcile Shakespeare with contemporary cultural norms. By exploring tensions and negotiations between early modern and present-day gender politics, the book defines the prevailing attitudes of recent adaptations in relation to those issues, and identifies the most popular strategies of accommodating early modern constructs for contemporary audiences.

The book provides philosophical interpretations of pragmatic issues. It concentrates on well-established concepts such as presupposition, entailment, implicature, speech acts, subsentential speech acts, different cases of meaning as use, expressive meanings and expressive commitments, as well as the relation between knowledge and belief. The discussion goes beyond linguistic investigations and offers a wide philosophical perspective.

For more information visit https://www.degruyter.com/view/serial/532533

"This little gem offers the reader an overview of the various practices that form part of the ever increasing field of audiovisual translation (AVT) and makes brave inroads into the less glamorous but definitely needed areas of theory and research. Covering a wide range of topics in research in AVT, and admittedly questioning «whether a universal methodology for audiovisual translation research is feasible», this volume theorises about the nature of AVT, helps to frame some of the current trends, and points to potentially new research avenues. The style is reader friendly and to the point; a most welcome addition to translation studies."

Jorge Díaz Cintas, University College London

For more information visit https://www.peterlang.com/view/title/14938
Guest lectures

A GUEST LECTURE BY
Professor Tony Howard

On 5th March, as part of the Dean’s series of lectures we had the pleasure to listen to a talk by prof. Tony Howard (Warwick University, UK) on “Shakespeare and the Outsider: From Othello and Shylock to Ira Aldridge and Jan Kott”.

The lecture was accompanied by readings of fragments from William Shakespeare’s plays by a renowned theatre and cinema actor Joseph Mydell.

A GUEST LECTURE BY
Professor Marianne Bjelland Kartzow

On 5th April, prof. Marianne Bjelland Kartzow (University of Oslo, Norway) gave a guest lecture on “Culture, Sacred Texts and Gender”. Amongst her numerous academic achievements, Prof. Kartzow has published three books: Gossip and Gender: Othering of Speech in the Pastoral Epistles (DeGruyter 2009); Destabilizing the Margins: An Intersectional Approach to Early Christian Memory (Wipf and Stock 2012); The Slave Metaphor and Gendered Enslavement in Early Christian Discourse: Double Trouble Embodied (Routledge 2018).
A GUEST LECTURE BY
Professor Dorothy Chansky

As part of the series of lectures organised by the Director of the Institute of English Studies on 23rd May, we had the pleasure to listen to a talk by prof. Dorothy Chansky (School of Theatre and Dance, Texas Tech University) on “Representations of dementia and decline on the American stage”, which was then followed by a play-reading of Alice Brown’s *Joined Owners in Spain* by a talented team of the Institute students:

Mrs. Blair – Gaja Staroń
Miss Dyer – Aleksandra Krajewska
Mrs. Mitchel – Małgorzata Oplatek
Mrs. Fullerton – Agnieszka Jagła
Stage directions – Weronika Lindner
Social media (e.g. Twitter or YouTube) perform a key entertainment function in contemporary culture and facilitate new forms of humour (e.g. memes) and impoliteness (e.g. flaming), two topics hitherto studied independently. The primary aim of this interdisciplinary project is to examine the interface between humour (both verbal and non-verbal) and impoliteness in social media communication, testifying that online aggression can serve humorous purposes and that online humour may originate in aggression, whether genuine or feigned. We will show how these complex practices contribute to the contemporary socio-cultural production. This comprehensive project brings together not only two different topics but also various disciplines, combining the methodology and theory of pragmatics and sociolinguistics, as well as three multidisciplinary fields relevant to culture and society: humour studies, studies of multi-modal communication, and studies of social media interaction.

The various qualitative and quantitative analyses will focus on (i) identifying novel communicative practices and recurrent verbal and multimodal strategies showing aggressive-humorous potential, and (ii) understanding the reasons for, and the functions behind, the production and reception of aggressive-humorous messages in various social media. We will systematically explore novel forms and the dynamics of aggressive humour/humorous aggression primarily in English (used as a lingua franca) and also in other languages (Polish, Russian, Lithuanian, German, Italian and Spanish), thus addressing not only intercultural but also intracultural phenomena. The project encompasses three subprojects on online humour and impoliteness: 1) multimodal (seemingly) aggressive humour (including memes and virals) that aim to induce amusement in Internet users; 2) potentially aggressive conversational humour purposefully interwoven into serious verbal interactions on social media; and 3) verbal aggression that may be a source of vicarious pleasure and humour for (non-targeted) Internet users.

Overall, this interdisciplinary project represents studies on culture and cultural production, and it draws on, and feeds into, the fields of pragmatics, sociolinguistics and discourse analysis and other disciplines that study humour as an interactional phenomenon and social
media communication. The findings on discursive and multimodal aggressive-humorous practices in social media will be relevant to both linguistics (pragmatics and sociolinguistics) and socio-cultural studies. The examination of the recurrent humorous-aggressive communicative phenomena with socio-pragmatic apparatus (notably, impoliteness theory) will give insights into digital societies and cultures, both international and national. The eclectic studies of social media users’ interactions and products will report on cultural changes in the contemporary societies regarding the collective sense of humour and re-negotiation of the limits of humour and (im)politeness.
The Editing Board of *Text Matters. A Journal of Literature, Theory and Culture* is proud to announce that the journal was added to DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), an online directory of high quality, open access, peer-reviewed journals.

*Text Matters* is an international and interdisciplinary journal, which seeks to engage in contemporary debates in the humanities by inviting contributions from literary and cultural studies intersecting with literary theory, gender studies, history, philosophy, and religion. By the decision of the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, *Text Matters* is included in the list of ranked scientific journals and is currently awarded 12 points. It is covered by SCOPUS and Web of Science – Emerging Sources Citation Index.

Published once a year (in the fall), it is printed by Łódź University Press with financial support from the Head of the Institute of English Studies. It is distributed electronically by Sciendo. Its digital version published by Sciendo is the version of record. Contributions to *Text Matters* are peer reviewed (double blind review).

For more information visit [http://text-matters.net/](http://text-matters.net/)

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**FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY OPEN DAY**

8 March 2019, Łódź

Over 900 students from 28 schools from the Łódź region participated in this year’s edition of the Faculty of Philology Open Day. It was the third event of this nature and so far the largest enterprise organised by the Faculty of Philology for highschool students since relocating to the new building in Pomorska Street. Local schools from Łódź, Kutno, Zgierz, Pabianice,
On 10th April 2019, the Faculty of Philology hosted a debate on the situation of women on the local job market in Łódź. Nine women representing various professions participated in the event: Anita Ciesielska (HR Manager in Aflofarm), Agnieszka Cytacka (photographer, President’s of Łódź scholarship recipient), prof. Marta Dynel (Professor at the Institute of English Studies, University of Łódź), Katarzyna Filipowicz (Managing Director at Porsche Centrum Łódź), Beata Gamrowska (illustrator, graphic designer, copywriter, owner
of Beatarysue), Justyna Jedlińska (board member at Linkleaders), Maria Piasecka-Kufel (Marketing and Business Development Director at Bifix), Dominika Szeleszczyk (owner of Germanicus) oraz Paulina Wieczorkiewicz (HR Director at BFF Polska S.A.).


Linguistics for Business is an interdisciplinary BA programme, created in 2013 and conducted at the Department of Specialised Languages and Intercultural Communication and Faculty of Management at University of Łódź, joins the elements of management with linguistics. It is an answer to the local market demands as the BPO sector lacked workforce with combined knowledge of languages and business processes. The studies allow students to reach their competences of two foreign languages at the level of B2 and specialized
languages as well as the elements of finance, accounting and business processes. Classes conducted at university are followed by business workshops, where students are trained by our business partners, and students’ extensive internships. There, students of Linguistics for Business have the unique opportunity to verify theoretical assumptions with the business reality as the profile of the studies is practical. The innovative approach also concerns students’ BA projects which written in teams and concern current business issues.

This novel method of educating future corporation workers has been continuously appreciated by the committee of the Competition and Accreditation Programme of Fields of Studies ‘Studies with the Future’ (Konkurs i Program Akredytacji Kierunków Studiów Studia z Przyszłością), and for the three consecutive years the L4B BA programme has been awarded the prestigious certificate Studies with the Future. Additionally, in 2018 the programme received the European Laurel, whereas in this year's edition L4B was granted the Laurel of Innovation and was praised for the perfect combination of skills that are needed on the job market, and are developed at Linguistics for Business.

The committee evaluates innovative and valuable programmes of studies that meet the needs of the job market that are based on three pillars: passing up-to-date and modern knowledge, creating competencies sought by employers and maintaining the highest quality of education. It is also worth mentioning that the awards in the competition are very prestigious, as
only 70 out of 5200 are awarded, which constitutes 0.6% of the fields of all studies conducted in Poland... and Linguistics for Business is one of them!

On the wave of success of the BA programme and due to a continual interest, the Department of Specialised Languages and Intercultural Communication decided to launch an MA programme Linguistics in Specialised Communication which serves as a continuation of Linguistics for Business.

PROFESSOR MARTA DYNEL INTERVIEWED
ON RADIO TOK FM
13 April 2019, Łódź

Professor Marta Dynel discussed humour and aggression on the Internet in an interview she gave to Radio TOK FM.