



FACULTY OF THEOLOGY, LETTERS, HISTORY AND ARTS

THE RESEARCH CENTRE ON THE IMAGINARY. TEXT, DISCOURSE, COMMUNICATION.
IMAGINES

LE CENTRE DE RÉUSSITE UNIVERSITAIRE

UNIVERSITY OF PITEȘTI

in collaboration with

AGENCE UNIVERSITAIRE DE LA FRANCOPHONIE (AUF)
and the
ALBANIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF ENGLISH (ASSE)

organize, between **June 16-18, 2017**

The Annual International Conference

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE – EUROPEAN LANDMARKS OF IDENTITY

The theme suggested for this year:

THE FEMININE: REPRESENTATIONS AND SIGNIFICANCES

Traditionally held under the title *Language and Literature: European Landmarks of Identity*, the 14th edition of the annual conference organized in 2017 by the Faculty of Theology, Letters, History and Arts of the University of Pitești sets as its fundamental aim the rethinking of the *feminine* in a timely and plurifocused manner.

Gender: masculine or feminine - Sex: man or woman¹. These are concepts that, along time, accounted for topics of great interest to society, to literature and, generally speaking, to arts, as well as to language sciences. And if gender studies are a relatively new discipline, the interest in one of the elements that are circumscribed to it, the *feminine*, has a long history behind.

Many linguists² have indicated that the masculine has a referential capacity superior to the feminine, the latter being, in turn, the marked gender. Nevertheless, the issue of grammatical gender is not a mere linguistic issue; since language is a reflection, an expression of the process of thinking, grammatical gender assignment represents, in its turn, an updating of a certain worldview, reflected in myths, in social behaviours,

¹ cf. Stoller, Robert, *Sex and Gender*, Hogarth, London, 1968.

² We would like to mention here Jakobson (Jakobson, Roman, *The Gender Pattern of Russian*), Hjelmslev (Hjelmslev, Louis, *Structure générale des corrélations linguistiques*), Meillet (Meillet, Antoine, *La Catégorie du genre et les conceptions indo-européennes*).

in artistic productions³. Antoine Meillet's work demonstrates, for example, that there is a correlation between the potentially sexual characteristics of the referent and grammatical gender, in the sense that the feminine designates referents with a potential quality to generate.

Reflections, projections of an imaginary in which the feminine is conceived as a generating and founding principle – we would like to mention here Gaia / Earth, Mother-Earth in the Greco-Roman mythology, and Virgin Mary in Christianity – European culture and literature display a steady interest in this concept, though frequently with a different focus. The *Song of Songs* begins with a eulogy of the wife, in fact already an exaltation of the feminine. It is indeed obvious that all cultures and literatures from the Christian sphere have valued the feminine, as a natural projection of the veneration of Virgin Mary and of the Immaculate Conception. Then, through the establishment and practice of courtly love, the woman, ignored during the feudal era, becomes the centre of the social and artistic life⁴. In a permanent “relation of force” and “power”⁵ with the masculine, *the feminine* is present in all the epochs of world literature, whatever the status of women in that particular historical time. Modernity, in its turn, proposes a multitude of approaches of the feminine in literature and society. The beginning of this new era of *the feminine* is undoubtedly marked by the publication of Simone de Beauvoir's⁶ *The Second Sex* (1949); from that moment on, the woman has been defined as different from man, not as inferior to him.

For this edition of our conference we therefore invite you to reflect on these different and generous visions and approaches of *the feminine in literature, culture, language, society*.

The debates are organized into several sections, managed as follows:

1. Romanian Language; Romanian Literature; Comparative Literature; The Didactics of the Romanian Language; Communication and Cultural Studies – Lavinia GEAMBEI (geambeilavinia@yahoo.com).

2. French Language; French Literature; Francophone Literatures; French Cultural Studies; Canadian Cultural Studies; The Didactics of the French Language; Translation Studies (French) – Liliana VOICULESCU (lilgoilan@gmail.com).

3. Spanish Language; Spanish Literature; Hispano-American Literature; Spanish and Hispano-American Cultural Studies; The Didactics of the Spanish Language; Translation Studies (Spanish) – Diana LEFTER (diana.lefter@hotmail.com).

4. English Language; English Literature; Anglophone Literatures; British and American Cultural Studies; The Didactics of the English Language; Translation Studies (English) – Cristina MIRON (cristinamironn@gmail.com).

5. German Language; German Literature; Didactics of the German Language – Cristina MIRON (cristinamironn@gmail.com).

6. Language for Specific Purposes (French, English, German); Legal Linguistics (French, English, German) - Marina TOMESCU (ana_marina_tomescu@hotmail.com).

7. Civilisation, Society, Culture – Liliana SOARE (lilianasoare2006@yahoo.com).

8. Performing Arts – Lavinia GEAMBEI (geambeilavinia@yahoo.com).

³ cf. Bréal, Michel, *Mélanges de mythologie et de linguistique*, Hachette, Paris, 1882.

⁴ cf., Eco, Umberto, *Scritti sul pensiero medievale*, Milano, Bompiani, 2012.

⁵ cf., Eco, Umberto, *Scritti sul pensiero medievale*, Milano, Bompiani, 2012.

⁶ de Beauvoir, Simone, *Le Deuxième sexe*, Gallimard, Paris, 1949.

THE CALENDAR OF THE CONFERENCE

- **May 7, 2017** - submission of the registration form;
- **May 15, 2017** - confirmation of the acceptance of the paper;
- **May 30, 2017** - sending the registration fee;
- **June 16-18, 2017** - proceedings of the conference;
- **July 28, 2017** - sending the paper in extenso.

NOTE: The papers will be drafted in **English, French, Spanish, German, Italian or Portuguese**. Only the papers that have been presented and accepted by the peer review committee will be published in the journal (*Language and Literature – European Landmarks of Identity*, IDB-indexed and CNCS-classified). The time allotted to the presentation of a paper is **15 minutes**.

After the papers are accepted, the authors will receive accommodation-related information, as well as the bank coordinates for tax payment purposes (**50 €** for the foreign participants, respectively **200 RON** for the Romanian participants).

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