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UNIVERSITÀ DI MACERATA

l'umanesimo che innova

DIPARTIMENTO DI
STUDI UMANISTICI
lingue, mediazione,
storia, lettere, filosofia



Call for Papers

Ainsi je suis mon ego pour l'autre au milieu d'un monde qui s'écoule vers l'autre.

J.P Sartre (L'Être et le Néant, 1943)

The *Other*: “not me”, “different from me”, the one not belonging to a shared and common perception of identity called “own” in general terms: this crucial question has been investigated and referred to differently according to ages, places, social environments, throughout the changing scientific debates.

Nowadays, more than in the past, we have to focus on a *world constantly moving towards the other*, in an age of shortened distances, fluid interactions, endless encounters and clashes of the self in the realities of the other, different from one's own.

The interaction I/other is interpreted as an *encounter* to overcome limitations or, on the contrary, as a *conflictual contraposition*, in both cases a reciprocal and opposing need for mutual determination. Moreover, the encounter with the *other* leads the “I” to rethink and redefine itself in view of the changing interrelations.

These reflections create the favourable circumstances to let the first interdisciplinary conference within the Doctorate in *Linguistic, Philological and Literary studies* at the University of Macerata arise: an opportunity for researchers belonging to different scientific fields to debate on the common ground of a specific subject, giving voice to their different peculiarities, with an unavoidable attention to current events.

The *Alter/ego, encounters and conflicts in the definition of the Other and in the determination of Self* conference is addressed to graduate PhD programs, PhD candidates and early-career researchers (no more than 3 years after graduation) to debate on the subject of other, otherness, and its implications. The Organizing Committee will be pleased to welcome proposals that can provide a merge of

different methodological approaches to the analysis and interpretation of the text: the hermeneutics of texts can provide instruments and responses to the interpretation of current world issues.

Different methodologies can be involved in multifaceted and versatile reflections on the subject: the relationship *I/other* in terms of individuality, community, places, cultural systems, linguistic codes, to be analyzed according to different points of view and cultural references.

The selection of the proposals will privilege abstracts concerning the following literary and linguistic areas of study: Indo-European studies, Classical studies, Romance Philology, Germanic Philology, Italian studies, English studies, Anglo-American studies, Slavonic studies.

As examples, possible thematic and hermeneutic approaches to the subject, in an interdisciplinary perspective, could be:

Literary Genres and Personalities

The *I/other* binomial couple has been problematized in literature starting from the *literary genres*, for genres are usually used to define the artistic intentions of the author, his relation with the audience, the main subjects in his works. In addition to the literary *personalities* that focused their works on the alter/ego interrelations, the relations existing between the author and his work, the author and his audience (expected or actually achieved), and the text and the audience, deserve a particular attention, mostly in regard to the cultural and social effects produced. In this comparative perspective, the *otherness* becomes the meaningful link among subjects, genres, and literary personalities.

Places

The *other* is often referred to as somebody in another place, different from our own one; in many texts, the other appears as inhabitant of foreign, more or less close, geographic spaces (in Travel Literature, reports from Medieval Pilgrimages or in Migrant Literature), and/or characterized by wonderful/unreal traits (exoticism), supernatural connotations (Paradises or Other Worlds), or imaginary/realistic settings shaped on fantastic transfigurations of our own world (Animal World, the World through the Mirror, etc.).

Characters and connections

The relational system *I/other* leads to multiple analytical approaches, according to many different frames of exchanges and conflicts: on the one hand, from the other in relation with the lyric *I* as subject of Poetry; on the other hand, to the *other* as the subject acting in the narration as captivating disguises: the *other I*, the double, the alter ego. Furthermore, the *other* as a *stranger* and/or *outsider* (fools, gypsies, etc.) enters the narration as a disturbing character, to complicate and entangle the plot. The relation *I/other* could also be investigated in the heuristic value of social and anthropological relationships (fight, alliance, negotiation, etc.).

Exchanges and conflicts

The exchange between the *I* and the *other* is essential in many cultural myths of the past, so as to create cultural reflections, literary structures, social interactions and mutual sharing. The definition of the *self* as identity, related to the *collectivity* as referent environment, passes through cultural, religious, social contacts and conflicts, in which the narration of the *I* varies in relation to the perceived identity of the other: the other becomes the opponent of the *I*, both in positive and in negative terms, in so far as the other accepts or rejects the system of values shared by the community

(damned and blessed in Dante's *Commedia*, troops of infidels in epic and romantic poems of Modern Age, etc.).

Contemporary literature

Introduced by Husserl's Phenomenological reflections at the beginning of the last century, the dense interrelations descending from the *I/other* relationship become central in the 1960s/1970s conjectures (Levinas, Derrida), thus deeply interlacing the phenomenological and the psychoanalytic discourse (Lacan). Meanwhile, the narrative discourse internalizes and radicalizes the issues involved in defining the I in relation to the manifestations of the other: how can literature express the request for definition of a fragmented *self*, dethroned from its sovereignty (Sartre), in relation to the *alter ego*, in the necessity of opening the phenomenological gaze to the other (Derrida)? Who are the new others invading the reciprocal defining issues?

Language and linguistic events

Language is fundamental in the expression of identity and in the encounter, exchange and conflict of the *self* with the *other*. Within a linguistic code, the dynamic of identification and/or discrimination of the *other* is based on complex and cogent structures, as in the relation among different codes. The relation between *I/other* in this methodological perspective has to take into consideration the following factors: linguistic registers used to define the *other*; language modification and *scriptae* development to describe different realities; translations, rewritings and transliterations as expression of the changing relations *I/other*; the adoption of the language of the *other* to redefine the *self*.

Philology and codicology

Can the analysis of manuscripts and historical textual transmission reveal contacts and relations among different cultural environments? And what is the role played by philological and codicological reconstructing acts in showing the relations *I/other* in author's ideologies, production and fruition environments, and in audience's attitudes?

Organizing Committee: Valentina Ferrigno, Sandra Gorla, Carlotta Larocca, Marta Paris, Elena Santilli, Flavia Sciolette.

Scientific Committee: prof. Massimo Bonafin, prof. Francesca Chiusaroli, prof. Giuseppe Nori, prof. Roberto Palla, Valentina Ferrigno, Sandra Gorla, Carlotta Larocca, Marta Paris, Elena Santilli, Flavia Sciolette.

Applicants must send their proposals, not exceeding **2000 characters** (with spaces) in .pdf or .doc format, to **alterego@unimc.it** by **September 1, 2017**.

Applications must also include:

- **Scientific Area of the proposal**
- **Title**
- **Keywords** (max 5)
- **References** (max 5 titles)

- **Biography** (max 1000 characters)
- **Position**
- **Personal information** (email, telephone number)

Applicants will be notified of their proposals' acceptance by mail, by **October 1, 2017**.

The proposals may be in English, Italian or French; the Organizing and the Scientific Committee will also take into consideration proposals in other languages, both for the presentation and for the publication in the conference proceedings.

Each presentation will have a time slot of 20 minutes, while the language of the presentation may be Italian or English.

Participation in the conference is free.

The participants will be subsequently invited to submit their contributions to a peer review, before the publication of the conference proceedings.

For further information:

<http://studiumanistici.unimc.it/alterego>
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