

CALL FOR PAPERS

HYPERION UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

THE "LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES" DEPARTMENT

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE DEPARTMENT OF "LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES" OF

THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL, HUMANISTIC AND NATURAL SCIENCES

INVITES YOU

TO SEND PAPER PROPOSALS TO OUR CONFERENCE ENTITLED

COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION FROM A DIACHRONIC AND SYNCHRONIC PERSPECTIVE

Date: 12 March, 2015

Venue: The Faculty of Social, Humanistic and Natural Sciences, Department of "Letters and Foreign Languages"; Str. Calea Călărășilor, nr. 169, Bucharest, Romania

Motto

"The real, then, is that which, sooner or later, information and reasoning would finally result in, and which is therefore independent of the vagaries of me and you. Thus, the very origin of the conception of reality shows that this conception essentially involves the notion of a COMMUNITY, without definite limits, and capable of an indefinite increase of knowledge" (Peirce 1868, CP 5.311).

The love behind a thought, idea or hope has always been the force that started the human kind moving. Sometimes ahead, sometimes not. The paradigm of the circumstances that made this force assert itself has never ceased to be a subject of inquiry, whether we name Malcolm Gladwell's famous work, *The Tipping Point* or *Why There Is No Market for Our Ideas* by H R Patapievi. Even if we move beyond – or perhaps before the Peircean doctrine of truth as socially substantiated, as mass of ideas shared by a community nourished by the same values, it is an a priori statement that closeness or communion of artistic, literary, scientific interests can nourish the birth of that kind of community that eventually defines the cultural space of a nation or age.

From a diachronic point of view, history gives us examples of how groups sharing a common *niche* were, are or might turn into a much needed starting point for the confirmation of personal or collective worth, even if their initial impetus may wane away or change. Two examples of this perspective might be the English *Scriblerus Club (1713)* and the *Birmingham Lunar Society 1765-1813* both belonging to the British Enlightenment. In the first case, we are talking about the famous *Guliver's Travels* and Jonathan Swift's group of friends whose purpose was to mock at scientific elucubrations or academic idiosyncrasies; Swift worked on it and turned Gulliver's third travel into an epitome of such ridicule. In the second case, we have an informal group of scientific research whose members (Michael Boulton – engineer; Erasmus Darwin – doctor and investigator of mechanics and engineering, John Whitehurst – clock-maker interested in geology and hydraulics) communicated via regular mail and working suppers, solved the problem of walking back home in the dark by deciding to meet only on full moon nights and, in terms of legacy, they initiated and promoted research projects considered nowadays to have laid the ground for the technological boom of the early 19th c. industrial revolution in Great Britain.

From a synchronic point of view, today's world gives us virtual reporters, blogger competitions, the *Facebook* phenomenon etc, all these spelling out a genuine revolution in cultural consumption that capitalizes on the features of the virtual world. Its potential of promoting communion and cohesion in the real world may be enhanced by true insight into the virtual world as well as into the universal prerequisites of any communication process, seen as an inherent instrument, in Peirce's terms, of accounting for truth.

As the same Peirce was saying: "Different minds may set out with the most antagonistic views, but the progress of investigation carries them by a force outside of themselves to one and the same conclusion. This activity of thought by which we are carried, not where we wish, but to a foreordained goal, is like the operation of destiny. No modification of the point of view taken, no selection of other facts for study, no natural bent of mind even, can enable a man to escape the predestinate opinion. This great law is embodied in the conception of truth and reality. The opinion which is fated to be ultimately agreed to by all who investigate, is what we mean by the truth, and the object represented in this opinion is the real. That is the way I would explain reality". (Peirce 1878, CP 5.407).

Papers are invited on: Literary and Cultural Studies, Linguistics, Teaching, Projects

Papers will be presented in English or Romanian, addressing topics including (but by no means limited to) the following:

- Contexts and writers
- Founders and successors
- School as a concept and performance
- Nationalistic ideology and integrative approaches
- Europeism and cosmopolitanism
- Translation studies and translators' associations
- Project based professional development in humanistic sciences
- Communion via interactive learning/teaching
- Communion in the digital age
- Educational environments stimulated technologically

Presentations will be allocated 20 minutes each. Prospective participants are invited to submit abstracts in Word format, 150-200 words, plus a list of 5 keywords. Proposals should include title of paper, name and institutional affiliation, a short bio (no more than 100 words), and e-mail address. You also need to specify whether you need technical equipment, and name it.

Foreign participants will be offered the possibility to present via Skype.

Conference fee: 25 euro (or equivalent in Romanian Lei – 100 ron) – payable before at the Bank, or 35 euro (or equivalent in Romanian Lei – 150 ron), payable upon arrival – covering the conference map and refreshments during the conference (but not lunch and/or the evening meal).

Deadline for proposals: February 20, 2015

A selection of papers from the conference will be published in *Hypercultura*, on Tracus Arte Publishing House (right now credited C by CNCS). Rejected papers will be published on a CD with ISSN or on the *Annals*, with ISSN.

Please send proposals (and enquiries) to sorinamaria21@gmail.com

Looking forward to welcoming you in Bucharest,

The Organizing Committee