

THE INTERNATIONAL EMERGING SCHOLARS CONFERENCE
GLOBAL—LOCAL—GLOCAL IN ANGLOPHONE LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND
LINGUISTICS

Organized by: The Academic Association for Doctoral Students of English at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

Conducted in: English

Took place on: 26-27 March 2021

Took place in: Toruń (online)

Report by: Julia Siepak

The International Emerging Scholars Conference “Global—Local—Glocal in Anglophone Literature, Culture, and Linguistics” took place on 26th and 27th March 2021. Due to the restrictive measures taken by the university authorities in order to limit the transmission of COVID-19, the event was organized in an online format. Continuing the tradition of the series of young scholars’ conferences organized by the Academic Association for Doctoral Students of English at Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, this year’s event responded to the need to consider the categories of the local and the global, their intersections, as well as tensions emerging at their crossroads, for a better understanding of past and present and planning for more sustainable and equal futures. This edition of the conference was organized under the auspices of the Institute of Literary Studies at NCU Toruń, as well as the Department of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Comparative Studies and Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics at NCU Toruń.

Two acknowledged scholars in their fields: Professor Martin Butler from the University of Oldenburg (cultural studies) and Dr. Katarzyna Piątkowska from NCU Toruń (linguistics) delivered fascinating keynote lectures responding meaningfully to the conference’s central theme. Professor Butler’s talk entitled

“Between (Local) Identity Politics and (Global) Commodity Culture: On the Mobility and Hybridity of US-American Tattooing” addressed the cultural complexity of the practices of tattooing in the United States and inspired an insightful discussion in the Q&A session. Dr. Piątkowska’s lecture “Global and Local Interpretations of Culture, Competence and Intercultural Competence in Intercultural Discourse” presented an overview of the problems connected to intercultural competence from various perspectives, including social and cognitive, that kindled a considerable interest in the audience. The participants had also the opportunity to listen to the conference special guest, Mark Tardi from the University of Łódź, who shared his reflections on the experience of teaching theatre in Oman in the talk entitled “Scorpions are Good Mothers: On Developing English-Language Theatre in Central Oman.” The meeting with Mark Tardi was well-attended both by the conference participants and guests, sparking a stimulating conversation on the cultural and ethical underpinnings of his project.

The conference gathered thirty young scholars affiliated with ten universities across Poland, as well as young academics from different corners of the world, including Spain, Italy, Iraq, and Brazil. Nine thematically divided panels featured a variety of papers representing different areas of the interdisciplinary field of English studies. The first session of the conference explored the motifs of specters and manifestations in TV series *Chernobyl* (Barbara Pawlak, University of Łódź), the End SARS Movement in Nigeria (Patrycja Kozieł, Polish Academy of Sciences), and Deborah Levy’s novel *The Man Who Saw Everything* (Joanna Antoniak, NCU Toruń). It was followed by a panel dedicated to different aspects of English as a global language that explored ESL and ELF in the context of language acquisition among Brazilians (Ana Carolina Andre, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin), bilingualism and the organization of grammatical tenses (Anna Skałba, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), redundancy in contact languages (Dorota Watkowska, NCU Toruń), and British Council’s initiatives in Poland during the

Cold War (Ewelina Gdaniec, University of Economy in Bydgoszcz). The presenters in the third session of the conference addressed the minority experiences in glocal contexts, delivering talks on Gypsy women's experiences during the pandemic (Melissa Cicchetti, University of Oviedo), nativism in Chinua Achebe's novel, "Man of the People" (Izabela Poręba, University of Wrocław), and the inclusion of Arab perspectives in local comic books (Hafsa Alkhudairi, independent scholar). The evening sessions of the first day of the conference centered on linguistic expressions of identity and critical discourse analysis of current issues. The talks undertook such topics as linguistic expressions of Hispanic-American identities (Hanna Twardowska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), Egyptian English (Lucia La Causa, University of Catania), sign languages (Wiktor Eźlakowski, Jagiellonian University in Kraków), tabloid press discourse on Brexit (Albert Guziak, University of Warsaw), the EU official discourse on the COVID-19 pandemic (Svetlana Kucheriavaia, University of Łódź), and the American press' representation of the conflict in Armenia (Lidia Shahbazyan, University of Economy in Bydgoszcz).

The second day of the conference opened with a session concerning linguistic intersectionality, including papers on multiple negations (Natalia Rzonsowska, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań), raven-linguistics in Polish and Anglophone literature (Dominika Zawadzka, University of Rzeszów), and linguistic marketing strategies of famous Italian brands (Magdalena Księcikowska, University of Rzeszów). It was followed by the panel dedicated to the concepts of the Anthropocene and Ecocene in Indigenous futurism (Julia Siepak, NCU Toruń), artistic projects involving tree planting (Magdalena Krzosek-Hołody, University of Warsaw), and Anne Bishop's *Others* (Katarzyna Szyszka, University of Warsaw). The next session explored the issues of gender in global and local perspectives as represented in Afrikaans war movies (Robert Cnotalski, University of Łódź), the theory of Solarpunk (Katarzyna Stępień, NCU Toruń), alternative histories (Magdalena Dziurzyńska, University of Wrocław),

and Raymond Carver's fiction (Agata Rupińska, NCU Toruń). The closing panel addressed the questions connected to the changing world, touching upon the emergence of Solarpunk (Aleksandra Sieradzka, NCU Toruń), the revisiting of William Faulkner's *Light in August* (Sergio Schargel, São Paulo University & Brenda Rocha, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro), the utopian/dystopian character of Kazuo Ishiguro's *Never Let Me Go* (Paweł Oleksak, NCU Toruń), and the critical reading of the contemporary fiction on the pilgrimage to Santiago (Ángela López Pereira, independent scholar).

The International Emerging Scholars Conference "Global—Local—Glocal in Anglophone Literature, Culture, and Linguistics" proved to be a venue for young scholars' fruitful and stimulating discussions. This edition of the conference was particularly well-attended, which points to the urgency of the issues regarding the global and local realities in contemporary scholarship. The event provided a platform for the exchange of ideas among young academics from Poland and beyond, creating opportunities for establishing friendly professional relationships. Despite the online format of this year's conference, it was certainly a successful and memorable event.