ABSTRACTS ACCEPTED FOR PRESENTATION

1. AMERICAN LITERATURE

1.	Kate Calma (alumna of Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA) **The Resonance of JOKOY: Reaching for Post-Otherness through Performance and Audience Participation** In this paper I evaluate the works of JOKOY, a Filipino-American performer, through the lens of Rosa and Honneth's concepts of post-Otherness. JOKOY repeatedly asserts to his audience that the primary goal of his collective work is to show how they [marginalized peoples, including Mexicans and Filipinos] are more the same than different. His storytelling exposes how presumed cultural differences, including stereotypes established by the dominate culture, are actually common among and between the Othered groups. Using Honneth as a starting point, I will illuminate how JOKOY's works cultivate personal and group identity through familiarity and solidarity. Though narrative and comedy, he evokes reactions that bind various cultures in shared experience, creating a space of belonging that transcends borders and subverts colonial rhetoric. Then, I will analyze examples from JOKOY's performances that represent his contribution to creating local and global communal spaces. For instance, he engages his audience through call-and-response, whistling, and karaoke, so that they participate in the creation of post-Otherness space through literal and metaphorical resonance. As part of his performance he also draws attention to how the capture and distribution of these experiences, though filming and digital media, amplify his challenge against the narrative of unbelonging imposed upon these people(s). He implores his audience, as members of marginalized groups, to proudly share personal stories to reveal commonality and dispel the myth that these peoples are inherently different. I will conclude that JOKOY demonstrates how to reach post-Otherness, not by ignoring or denying culture, but by embracing shared experiences and sameness to challenge the dominate/colonial culture's narrative.
2.	Ioana Cistelecan (University of Oradea, Romania) **Coping with Identity. Bernard Malamud's** *The Jewbird* The present paper intends to focus on the allegory of Jewish self-hatred as revealed in B. Malamud's story, The Jewbird. B. Malamud's fiction is usually organized around moral dilemmas and crises of identity growth; the author frequently examines in his fiction the changing attitudes Jews display about their religion and their heritage. The story underlines a given reality: Jews hurting other Jews, when living in the same society; it symbolizes the great danger such hatred and consequently violence have on the existence of individuals in cultural groups.
3.	Xiaorui Du (Guizhou University, China) **Hester Prynne: A Communitarian** Encoded in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel The Scarlet Letter are three competing social philosophies about the relationship between the individual and the community—individualism, constitutionalism and communitarianism. I argue that Hawthorne makes Hester Prynne, the novel's protagonist, undergo two transitions as she navigated her relationship with her community—from an individualist to a constitutionalist and then to a communitarian. This study seeks to explain Hester's communitarianism and her two-phrase transition to a communitarian.

4.	Kavon Franklin (Alabama State University, USA) **The Not-So-'Tragically-Colored': Black Writers Deal with—and Dismiss—Notions of Black Otherness** In her seminal 1928 essay "How It Feels to be Colored Me," Zora Neale Hurston rejects the idea that she is an Other. Just because she is a poor, black, rough-around-the-edges Southern woman in a swanky Eastern environment, she is not a "tragically colored" (13) nor is she inferior to the well-to-do white women in her orbit. If anything, her recent African heritage is what makes her the woman she is and she seems to feel sorry for those without it. Take, for instance, the nightclub scene in "Colored Me," where she describes herself as a wild, primitive being, whirling around in a trance as the jazz band plays. Yet, during this frenzy, her white companion remains unmoved. This is seen as a defect. He's the Other—the stiff, the bore. In his Harlem-Renaissance-era science fiction novel Black No More, George Schuyler also deals with Black Otherness by lampooning whites' obsession with racial purity, while also making many thinly-veiled digs at the real-life race men (Du Bois, Garvey) whom he views as promulgating the concept of a permanently aggrieved black underclass. My presentation will focus on Hurston, Schuyler and more recent writers who complicate the perpetual Black Outsider trope. Work Cited Hurston, Zora Neale. "How It Feels to Be Colored Me." The Norton Reader: An Anthology of Nonfiction. Ed. Linda H. Peterson, et al. 13th ed. New York: Norton, 2012. 13. Print.
5.	Olga Kajtár-Pinjung (University of Szeged, Hungary) **Guantánamo Narrative as a Genre** Mansoor Adayfi and Mohamedou Ould Slahi have spent more than fourteen years at the Guantánamo Bay detention center without ever being charged with a crime. They endured a variety of mental and physical torture practices during interrogations approved by the United States government in the name of the War on Terror following the 9/11 terrorist attacks. My research focuses on their memoirs, Don't Forget Us Here by Adayfi and Guantánamo Diary written by Ould Slahi, with the purpose of situating them in the immensely wide scope of life writing. The term life writing encompasses a considerable number of genres including, but not limited to, diary, autobiography, slave narrative, and trauma narrative. Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson distinguish and define sixty genres of life narrative in their exhaustive and comprehensive book titled Reading Autobiography. The purpose of my presentation is to provide arguments and substantial foundation for creating a separate genre for Guantánamo narratives within the frameworks of life writing by comparing, highlighting, and analyzing the features that distinguish the memoirs of the former detainees from other types of life narratives. While both Guantánamo Diary and Don't Forget Us Here bear a resemblance to multiple genres including captivity, slave, prison, and trauma narratives, they are impossible to confine to a single category, therefore, I propose the addition of a distinct and separate genre of Guantánamo narrative to the diverse field of autobiography by accumulating their unique characteristics and providing a tentative definition.
6.	Erick Sierra (Trinity Christian College, Palos Heights, Illinois, USA) **"Threshold of Revelation": Porous Selfhood in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*** As I describe in an earlier journal article of mine, a strain of late 20th-Century American literature contests representation of human selfhood as "buffered" (to use Charles Taylor's description) within the circumference of the physical body. Instead, these narratives, typically referred to as "post-secular," represent human subjectivity as open, porous, and energetic—like vibrational sound waves communicating through open space. We can situate Tony Kushner's 1993 play "Angels in

America" in this space, for it depicts corporeality as constituted in free-flowing energy extending characters into and out of one another's daydreams, bodies, spaces of solitude, even hallucinations. These depictions ultimately push characters not only beyond the body, but beyond ideological/identitarian formations that lock them in relationships of mutual hostility, even violence, with one another. Deep energetic encounters with the Other—experienced as a vulnerable entity vibrating beyond, and all throughout, the self—draw characters into postures of human caretaking. For this conference, I would like to explore a specific moment in Tony Kushner's stage play two when two ideological/identitarian opposites—a Mormon woman from Utah and a gay NYC man with AIDS—enter into a mutually penetrative encounter that leads to radical empathy.

2. BRITISH AND COMMONWEALTH LITERATURE

1.	Anemona Alb (University of Oradea, Romania) **Post-humanism and Ontology in Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun"** The paper looks at the ontological and epistemological underpinnings that make the creation of A.I. possible, as suggested in Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun" (2021).
2.	Jafar Baba (University of Szeged, Hungary) **Frankenstein: A Postcolonial Analysis** Mary Shelley's novel Frankenstein is widely considered as a milestone in both the Gothic and science fiction novels. This novel is a marvellous compilation of Gothic and Romantic elements combined into a singular masterpiece with an unforgettable story. However, bringing the subjects of race, the colonizer and the colonized brings upon a whole new interpretation of Shelley's Frankenstein. Thus, the subject of this paper is to interpret Shelley's novel using postcolonial criticism. Looking at the characters of the novel through the lens of the studies of Homi K. Bhabha, Edward Said, and other postcolonial critics, the novel can be interpreted through a close reading of the relationship between the colonizer and the colonized, the critical racial issues, and the state of "otherness" that the colonizer creates as an identification system of the colonized subject, cultural mimicry and the question of identity.
3.	Jillian Curr (University of Western Australia, Australia) **Re-Imagining *Antigone* in the Digital Age: Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*** This paper will investigate the role of resonances in framing identity in Kamila Shamsie's *Home Fire*. It will show how resonance validates and invalidates historical and cultural markers of belonging and alienation. Shamie's re-imagining of Antigone invokes the recognition of dignity validating those voices which have been silenced. The novel culminates in a media spectacle of performance and surveillance in a sister's attempt to reclaim her brother's dignity in death.
4.	Arnab Das (Indian Institute of Technology Madras, India) **"Sometimes I'm Nothing": Reading Jeet Thayil's Narcopolis Against Self/Other Binaries** Post-otherness is a term used to describe a state of being beyond the traditional binary of self and other. It is a concept that recognizes the interconnectedness of all people and the need to move

beyond the idea of "us" and "them". Post-otherness is a way of thinking that emphasizes the importance of understanding and respecting the differences between people, while also recognizing our shared humanity. This paper seeks to examine that Jeet Thayil's Narcopolis approaches such cultural differences by exploring the lives of characters from a historical and cultural viewpoint akin to what can be analysed through the framework of 'the post-other' . The novel is set in Bombay, India, and features characters from a variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds, including Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, and Christians. Thayil's characters are often outsiders in their own society, and the novel examines the ways in which they navigate the city's diverse cultural landscape. The novel also explores the ways in which cultural differences can lead to conflict and misunderstanding, as well as the potential for understanding and acceptance. How does the concept of otherness manifest in Narcopolis? The paper will adapt a tripartite structure in the following narrative sequence: how does the concept of otherness manifest in Narcopolis and what are the implications of post-otherness in the novel? How does the post-otherness in Narcopolis challenge traditional notions of identity and how does post-otherness in Narcopolis reflect the changing dynamics of the city's identity? And finally what role does the post-other framework play in the novel's narrative structure and how does the post-otherness in Narcopolis shape the way we look at the world.

| 5. | Amirtha Devarajan (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune, India)
"I ain't no homosexual, I am ...Barrysexual": Analysing Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Bernardine Evaristo's *Mr. Loverman* (Tentative Title)

This paper analyzes, and deconstructs the logic behind the formation of identity in Bernardine Evaristo's Mr. Loverman (2008), highlighting the discursive nature of identity formation. The novel, Mr. Loverman, tells the story of Barry, a seventy-four-year-old Black British man: father, husband, grandfather; married for more than 30 years to Carmel while in a homosexual romantic entanglement with his childhood sweetheart, Morris. Barry's identity and identifications are contesting: on the one hand, it fosters the heteronormative image of the masculine Caribbean man, while on the other hand, it subverts the dominant ideologies, myths and stereotypes of homosexuality associated with effeminacy. This complex interplay between different facets of identity exposes Barry's identity as performative than prescriptive. Such an interplay contributes significantly to challenging the idea the 'otherness' of Barry. An additive approach to Barry's identity reveals layers of oppression and 'otherness': Black (in a white/ racist space), homosexual caught in a heterosexual family order, and old. However, such an approach is counter-productive as it fails to grapple with the nuances of Barry's manoeuvring, which can be best understood through the 'post-otherness' framework. This paper proposes to assess the discursive ways in which Barry negotiates his race, gender, sexuality, and age by selectively drawing and appropriating liberatory and traditional discourses accessible to him as a Black British, in order to validate his racial, sexual and gendered identity. To effect this reading, I propose to use the theory of intersectionality (which holds that one's position of power/ privilege/ disadvantage is deciphered by the intersecting vectors of class, caste, race, gender sexuality among other factors), and performativity. |
| 6. | Irina-Ana Drobot (Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest, Romania)

Resonance in Graham Swift's Poem Another
The purpose of this paper is to apply Rosa's theory of resonance to the poem Another by Graham Swift, which was published in his volume of autobiographical writings *Making an Elephant: Writing from Within (*2009). In this poem, the notions of self and other can be regarded as closely connected in the sense that the self can regard the other as a projection or as what is common with both self and other. We could claim that human nature can be similar and that it is based on this |

	theory that we are not as different from one another as we are similar. This is one reason why we can establish relationships with one another, and this is also a reason why poetry can appeal to us. Poetry is based on universal features of human nature and on what we can resonate with at all times. Sympathy between the poetic persona and the reader could be regarded as the basis of the appeal and relevance of poems. We enjoy poems as they can describe, coincidentally, similarly lived experiences. We can identify with the poetic persona just as we can identify with certain characters in novels. Real-life experiences are not so much different. They can be based on the same process of identification and shared experiences. The paper will be based on literary, as well as psychological, and sociological analysis.
7.	Elisabetta Marino (University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Italy) **Sexual Desire and Violence in "The Mystery at Number Seven" by Ellen Wood** Ellen Wood (or Mrs. Henry Wood, as she became widely known to the reading public) was the acclaimed author of more than thirty novels, over one hundred short-stories, and countless articles, as well as the owner and editor of a lucrative and popular periodical: The Argosy. Nonetheless, until recently, her multifaceted output has been largely overlooked by critics and researchers: despite her widespread popularity across social classes (which turned her into Wilkie Collins's main literary competitor), most her works have been dismissed as too sentimental, melodramatic, and sensational. By following in the steps of the few scholars who have undertaken a reassessment of Wood's oeuvre, this paper sets out to analyze a truly controversial story divided into two parts, whose plot revolves around a governess who, driven by passion and sexual desire, turns into a murderess: "The Mystery at Number Seven" (1877). As will be shown, on the one hand, Wood delved into the customary connection between violence and insanity (a recurring theme in Victorian sensation novels), focusing on her female protagonist. On the other hand, however, she also succeeded in uncovering the mechanisms of patriarchy and gender inequality.
8.	Dorel-Aurel Mureşan (Emanuel University of Oradea, Romania) **Race and Class in Zadie Smith's "On Beauty"** Zadie Smith's "On Beauty" is a novel that tackles issues such as politics, class, race, nationality, gender, and religion, while also focusing on the importance of art and the multiple ways of approaching it, from the emotionally sterile method of theoreticians, to the emotionally rich approach of the uneducated naives. Moreover, Smith's novel abounds in complex characters that are unable to properly relate to each other because of the aforementioned issues. However, the issue of class is one of the main factors that prevent true bonding in the novel. Thus, the paper analyzes the issues of race and class, pointing out that the basic racial dichotomy is long gone and that otherness and the lack of resonance have more to do with social class than with the colour of one's skin.
9.	Brianna Riggio (Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland) **Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill: The Undead and Untranslatable** Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill made her name as an Irish poet, in large part, by publishing bilingual Irish-English editions with facing translations in order to reach a wider anglophone audience. Although she was also bilingual herself, she famously renounced writing in English—thus, the translations featured prominently in her publications and at her readings were composed by anglophone peers. A common point of criticism amongst her praise was that the original writer's voice was obscured by a variety of translators' styles; yet, translation being a necessary evil to reach her audience, Ní Dhomhnaill persisted in these arrangements. Given her strong resistance to writing in the English language on grounds of mismatched identity, it might seem that she

was in a curious bind that the primary audience of her poems was in fact anglophones. In this irony we find the idea of post-otherness: although Ní Dhomhnaill found Irish to be "the language that her soul speaks," her identity as a poet was built on intersectionality with her anglophone side, as opposed to differentiation. By comparing passages from a rare edition of one of her earlier works featuring self-translated poems, Selected Poems: Rogha Dánta (1986), with re-translated later versions of these poems, we can glean some insight into how the writer's original work compares with other translations—illuminating how Ní Dhomhnaill herself integrated her minority voice into the majority language as opposed to how others rewrote her.

10.	M.D. Sruti (Dr B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi, New Delhi, India)

What Happened to Bombay Modernity? A Study of Vikas Swarup's *Q and A*

Bombay, the financial capital of India, was known for its cosmopolitan culture and it was the driving force of the modern nation in the decolonising and nation building period. The culture is largely studied as having come under attack by the right-wing political party Shiv Sena, and the 1992-3 Bombay Riots was symbolic of the same. The riots, and the name change of the city in 1995 to Mumbai, is theorised as 'decosmopolitanisation' (Appadurai) and 'provincialism' (Varma) of Bombay. However, some argue that the city always had a communal tinge, but it obscured by the cosmopolitan identity, and with the Bombay Riots the social compartmentalisation of the city came to the fore (Masselos). Whereas more recent studies argue that the city and its literature represent multiple cosmopolitanism (McFarlane) and divided modernity (Rossella).

Applying these theories about the idea of Bombay, I propose to study Vikas Swarup's novel *Q and A[1]* (2005). The book tells the rags to riches story of Ram Mohammed Thomas in metropolitan Mumbai. It will be studied within the framework of the postcolonial city's changing nature, from cosmopolitan Bombay to nativist Mumbai, which is impacted by the transformation in the political economy headed from non-alignment to a liberalising and globalising character. Through the novel, I intent to study the changing identity of Bombay, I raise the question of 'what happened to Bombay's modernity?'

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[1] The 2008 Oscar-winning film *Slumdog Millionaire* is loosely based on the book.

11.	Alina Tenescu (University of Craiova, Romania) **Images of the Other and the Perception of Otherness in Fiction by African Writers** In this paper, we aim to identify and analyze images of the Other, as they are reflected in stories and tales by African writers known as representatives of dystopian fiction and science fiction. These stories are fascinating by the diversity of expressed voices and also for the particular perspective each author brings to the perception of Otherness. In our corpus of study there are included Commonwealth writers.

3. CULTURAL STUDIES

1.	Olatz Ovejero Alfonso (University of the Basque Country, Spain) **María Luisa Elío, Identity in Conflict. The Case of "En el balcón vacío" (1962)** This paper will study the case of María Luisa Elío Bernal, a Basque filmmaker and writer exiled in Mexico after the Spanish Civil War. With the intention of investigating her, the concept of "point of view" is used to analyze her film "En el balcón vacío" (1962). It is the first film about the Spanish exile made in exile. The film narrates the exile and the life of Elío Bernal. This "point of view" refers to Elío Bernal's point of view from a double direction: scriptwriter and character. Knowing her "point of view" allows us to introduce her into the cinematography reconsidering the role she played in the direction of the film; whether the film "En el balcón vacío" was, as pointed out, a film directed exclusively by Jomí García Ascot or if it was a co-direction. Elío Bernal's involvement in directing is fundamental, as it would make her the first woman filmmaker in the Basque Country. However, Elío Bernal's case is in direct conflict with her identity. How does one construct an identity from exile? Identity, moreover, is present throughout Elío Bernal's work. However, under what terms can we refer to it: Navarre, Basque, Basque-Navarre, Spanish or Mexican? Elío Bernal claimed to be, first of all, Mexican, and then Navarrese. But he stressed that the Navarrese were not Basque. This question is crucial when it comes to introducing it into the genealogy of feminist Basque studies that I am undertaking in my doctoral thesis.
2.	Iren Annus (Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Hungary) **Diasporic (Post-)Nationalism: Americans in Szeged, Hungary** Modernity introduced an epistemological shift from "the sovereignty of the like" to that of difference, argues Foucault, resulting in the production of knowledge that substantiated a series of practices of othering in modern societies. Some of these were challenged by Brah's re-conceptualization of the spacial dimensions of national belonging through the postmodern concept of diaspora. The presentation investigates a small American diasporic space in Szeged, Hungary, mapping the identity and sense of belonging of the expats in terms of the home and the nation in order to reveal how their diasporic experience impacted their identification with their original homeland and nation.
3.	Sorin Ciutacu (West University of Timisoara, Romania) **Thou & You. Sociolinguistic Identity in the Mirror across Centuries** The paper reviews the classical theories on thou / you and attempts a novel sociological explanation based on the theories of Rosa Hartmut and Alex Honneth.

4.	Yassine Hamdoune (Ibn Zohr University, Morocco)
	Border Signifying Discourse in Leila Aboulela's Novel *Lyrics Alley* Rethinking borders within a series of recent theories and strategies of investigation in humanities bring to view the profound intricacies that encapsulate borders. Traditionally and simplistically, the term 'border' summons the separating points, lines, or spaces between a series of actual entities while neglecting the in-between space through which various recurring transformations take place. What would appear as a mere liaison between different entities is actually a place where cultural encounters, negotiations, and clashes re/constitute subjects. Moreover, recent investigations in unraveling the intrinsic definition of borders culminate in considering them as a series of ongoing discursive practices of subjects. The fact is that borders are simultaneously constructed and constructing. These two faces of the same coin serve the demonstration that borders signify discourse. This experimental study traces the processes in which borders are genuinely constructed and constructing in Leila Aboulela's novel Lyrics Alley (2010). While going throughout the novel, the paper broadens the notion of borders by inserting a series of concepts such as physical and symbolic borders as well as demarcation and management. This conceptual framework is meant to deepen the understanding of borders throughout the novel.
5.	Alexandru Higyed (West University of Timișoara, Romania) **An American Praxis: American Influences in Romanian Performance Poetry** American Performance poetry influenced the way in which the practice developed in other countries. Contemporary African, Japanese, and Arabic poets started to write more and more for the stage. Eastern Europe seems to have been highly influenced by this practice. In this paper, I will try to investigate how American performance poetry managed to influence the Romanian Spoken Word scene.
6.	Shabeena Kuttay (Govt. Degree College Magam, India) **Decolonising English: Establishment of an Autonomous Idiom** Throughout its existence English language has changed, especially after coming into contact with other cultures, languages, people etc., and in each case benefiting enormously. The result of the long journey of change is that English language comes in different versions belonging to different regions and communities. It is primarily through the use of English for creative purposes that today we encounter diverse literatures in English-literatures that are essentially different from each other as well as from the native English literature, but fundamentally alike in that they are the result of creative expression of people from various parts of the world. Since language tends to change differently in different places, the English as used by the native writers is different from that of the Indian, African, Caribbean, Canadian writers, and even from each other. The aim of the paper is precisely to foreground this 'difference' through Indian fiction writing. As the title of the paper suggests, it talks about the process of acculturation, nativisation, Indianization as employed by the major writers of Indian English, describing briefly the slow growth of writing in the sub-continent in relation to the development of popular literacy and popular education in English, to the rise of national feeling and finally to the Indianization of the foreign language.
7.	Andrada Marinău (University of Oradea, Romania) **Rule and Community of the Templar Knights**

	The oldest of Military Orders, the Knights Templar, has served as a model for all the other military orders. The Templars or The Order of the Knights of the Temple was founded in 1119 at Jerusalem by 8 French knights, led by Hugues de Payens. Their duty was to protect the pilgrims. A very poor order at first, they soon became the richest of all military orders. After barely a century of existence, they were suppressed by Clement V and Fillip IV of France, who confiscated all their assets. In order to become a Templar Knight, one had to take certain vows and to obey certain rules. This article intends to describe the way in which an individual could become a member of the Templar community.
8.	Asma Nabi (University of Kashmir, India) **Illegibility of the Rohingya Crisis: Resonance-less Attitude from Organisation of Islamic Cooperation** Since 2012, Rohingya crisis of Myanmar, gained the global attention in terms of its recognition as an emergent refugee situation. The year 2015 witnessed a massive refugee migration, with 0.3 million refugees forced to seek shelter in Southeast Asian countries. As the crisis incubated, the organization for Islamic Cooperation (henceforth OIC), has been responding to the issue quite proactively, using a diplomatic connective approach to other international bodies like UNHCR. However, the solidarity and access towards the target community of Rohingya is deeply missing. A variety of theoretical perspectives in humanities and social sciences talk about the complex self-other relationship, which is rooted in the genesis of the human civilization itself. The widespread discontent in the contemporary Rohingya community can be highly attributed to the, 'illegibility' shown by the OIC, of late. The paper examines certain literary pieces documented post 2015 with the aim to explore certain etiological perspectives, with respect to the illegibility as witnessed by the Rohingyas from the OIC nations. From the perspective of the Rohingya community, it can be assumed that with each such development at the global level, its status as unreachable or unrealizable crises has just been progressing exponentially, as the OIC nations have demonstrated decreased legibility of the community. The relationship of modernity exercised by the OIC nations even in terms of the central institutions of science, governance, judiciary, bureaucracy, and administration with the world has generated an emotional apathy, and a crisis of resonance on a broad-spectrum scale.
9.	Alexandra (Erdős) Pap (University of Debrecen, Hungary) **The African American In-between and Hybrid Cultural Space** According to Homi Bhabha, we live in the "beyond," characterized by "the focus on those moments or processes that are produced in the articulation of cultural differences." These cultural differences make the construction of in-between spaces possible, which provide the terrain for elaborating strategies of selfhood that initiate new signs of identity and innovative sites of collaboration and contestation in the act of defending the idea of society itself. The in-between is the space where process prevails over product and where the definite borders blur in favor of hybrid experiences and multiple identities, resulting in a multiplicity caused by "the transcultural voyage." My aim in this paper is to map out the construction of these cultural in-between and hybrid places as sites for dynamic exchange between two ends of doubleness (binary), where subjectivity can be explored and recovered to resemantize and reintegrate the black subject in space.
10.	Raluca-Andreea Petruș (West University of Timișoara, Romania)

Recognition and Acceptance: Instances of Post-Otherness in Japanese American Literature

The Japanese-American World War II conflict had direct consequences for the Japanese community in the United States: more than 120,000 poeple were imprisoned throughout the war as a way of maintaining public safety. After Pearl Harbor, one's Japanese ethnicity automatically associated them with the enemy: one's Japanese culture and traits turned individuals into representatives of an unwanted other. "No-No Boy", John Okada's novel, depicts how Japanese generations in the United States deal with the post-war and post-incarceration effects. I argue that key choices have permanently reshaped family and community relations: some embrace or renounce their inherited heritage, others reconcile the cultural two-ness (Japanese and American), while others fall in-between. The study shows that internalised prejudice causes a reorganisation of self-representation within the Japanese community in the United States: there are instances where otherness, in the form of self-hatred, turns into acceptance, with the help and recognition of other community members.

| 11. | Dan Horatiu Popescu (Partium Christian University, Romania) |

Always Meting the Right People? Literature and Diplomacy in 1920s London
As a piece of literary history, my paper is an attempt at recreating the cultural environment in 1920s London, in a period when genders were less fluid and political correctness could be anticipated mainly through the suffragettes' movement. The case-study I have in view encompasses the efforts of the Romanian Consul of the time in the capital of Great Britain, Marcu Beza. He was also the founder of the Romanian P.E.N. Club, therefore his initiatives meant to meet and interact with the "right people," i.e. writers and political leaders, can be perceived as old/pre-Otherness strategies to validate identities at various levels: individual, for himself as writer and scholar; institutional, for the Romanian P.E.N. Club in terms on European/international integration; and national, as representative of a country emerging as a regional power after WWI. The mundane dimension is not neglected, i.e. dinners, parties and cocktails playing a decisive role in this respect.

| 12. | Delia Maria- Radu (University of Oradea, Romania) |

Looking for Resonance: Challenges of Identities
One of the way human beings define their identity is in relationship with others and with the community. How difficult is it for newcomers, fellow citizens or migrants, to find a place in a community, to be accepted by it and "resonate" with it? Our paper is using fictional characters and their stories in order to find an answer to this question.

| 13. | Octavi Rofes (Eina, Centre Universitari de Disseny i Art, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) |

Resonance in motion: displacements towards forms of happiness in Suad Amiry's My Damascus

My Damascus (New Delhi: Women Unlimited, 2016), a novel in English by Palestinian writer and architect Suad Amiry, chronicles the intricate relationships between the members of three generations of an Arab family and the network of cities in Greater Syria with a radiating center in Damascus,. It is a book of continuous movement, not only between towns and villages, but also between alleys and large mansions, and even in the seemingly simple up and down stairs to find "the happiness of this go-between." The different forms of the pursuit of happiness

	involved in moving between sequential spaces can be analyzed as responses to what Hartmut Rosa has called, in Resonances (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019) "the promise of a resonant segment of world". The elegiac character that Amiry's writing sometimes adopts to refer to the unavailability of the oases of resonance strains the narrative to accommodate situations of failure in transformative adaptation to the agency of the different spaces.
14.	Peter Gaál-Szabó (Debrecen Reformed Theological University, Hungary) **Memory and Post-Blackness in the Multi-Ethnic Church** The movement Efrem Smith, founding pastor of The Sanctuary Covenant Church, describes in his The Post-Black and Post-White Church (2012) embarks to break the racial divide that characterizes American churches. The vision is to establish congregations whose membership is multiethnic, multiracial, and multigenerational by reintroducing the Christian concept of reconciliation as a method and the concept of community as an intercultural and intergenerational entity. Rooted in triumphalist anticipations stemming from the idea of a post-racial society under the Obama presidency, the post-Black and post-White church movement envisions congregations in this new era, in which the color divide is completely overridden in a postracial utopia. The terminology of the "posts," however, suggests that the movement is not the result of a dream come true, but an attempt to recognize a post-racial community that consciously strives to position itself against the race discourse. Given the fact that Smith's congregation described in the book has an African American lead pastor and its liturgy is heavily indebted to African American culture, the question arises whether the movement is strategically overdetermined toward African American culture in that it weaves a multiracial texture with an African American overtone and the concerted polyphony reiterates post-Black as "new Black." The paper intends primarily to investigate how Smith's cultural philosophy connects to African American memory work in this context as well as to map the layers of meaning of post-Black in his work.
15.	Éva Székely and Veronica Buciuman (University of Oradea, Romania) **Transcultural Resonance as a Transformative Experience in Peter Hurley's *The Way of the Crosses*** Though carefully crafted and comprising first- and third-person narratives, Peter Hurley's travelogue, the recount of an Irishman's individual pilgrimage in Romania, lacks the depth and complexity of fiction. His 650 km walk through Romania is a dialogical enterprise through which the narrator/traveler looks for channels of resonance between the slow traditional lifestyle of the Romanian countryside and his own Irish upbringing. The investigation of resonance, understood as intercultural dialogue, is paramount in the book, as the narrator seeks to discover during his journey what Hartmut Rosa names the *individual's inner core*, a kind of *elusive and changeable inner standard*. His travelogue, therefore, is an excellent locus to investigate if Hartmut Rosa's theory of resonance can be turned into a potent tool for literary theory/criticism, a tool that may yield epistemological gains. The present paper will analyze the ways in which instances of *horizontal, vertical*, and *diagonal resonance* are depicted in Hurley's narrative. The conclusions drawn from this analysis will be used then to delve into what extent intercultural dialogue has brought about insights and/or epiphanies contributive to *the adaptive transformation* of our traveler.

4. FILM AND DRAMA

1.	Enikő Maior and Zsófia Vincze (Partium Christian University, Romania) **Boss Ladies – Representation of Women in Gangster Movies** Gangster movies are mostly about male power and crime, but they never lack the presence of mainly beautiful ladies. This research examines in what way female protagonists and female archetypes are presented in the movies of the genre. The paper will focus on how feminist characters grew out of the traditional role of women presented in Quentin Tarantino's movies and how they take the lead in more recent ones, evolving from a beautiful accessory to a self-standing renegade. Quentin Tarantino created several iconic female models like Mia Wallace in Pulp Fiction (1994), Jackie Brown (1997), or Beatrix Kiddo in Kill Bill (2003), who has become an inspiration to a number of women all over the world. In the frames of the research, we will also examine the reception of the female protagonists at the time of the premiere and what reaction they provoked. We will look into the masculine traits of these characters and how they stand their ground in a patriarchal society. Based on their actions, are they good or are they evil? We will make an attempt to observe them objectively and define their role. Finally, we will find out what it is that turns them into idols.
2.	Gábor Patkós (Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church, Hungary) **The Paradox of Enclosed Spaciousness and Metaphors of Resonance in Bong Joon-Ho's** *Parasite* Bong Joon-Ho's highly acclaimed *Parasite* (2019) has been universally praised for the unique depiction of issues such as class conflict, hierarchy and social mobility. Critics have also celebrated the film's superb cinematography, especially with regard to its employment of space and motion. The South Korean film has resonated exceptionally well with an international and English-speaking audience, culminating in winning the Academy Award for Best Picture, becoming the first non-English-language film in history with this achievement. In spite of this, the connection between social class, identity, space and movement has not been fully explored. In this paper I would propose to explore the skillful depiction of class and identity through spatial and motional metaphors using a variety of concepts. In order to establish the connections necessary to fully explore these issues, I will rely on Faragó's concept of the paradox of enclosed spaciousness (2005), Gramsci's theory of hegemony and Rosa's concept of resonance (2019). Bong's carefully crafted scenes are packed with clues that could help the viewer identify strategies of individual and group identification through metaphors of senses (smell, taste and sound), codes of conduct and occupying different spaces. Is it possible to read these metaphors as instances of a non-verbal language of resonance? Can we resonate with a film featuring distinct cultural settings at first look, but still understand universal struggles of otherness? Is film the medium capable of more effective transgressions of our cultural boundaries?
3.	Antonia Pop (Partium Christian University, Romania) **A Postmodern Take on the Christian Ontological Myths in Aronofs's** *Mother!* My paper focuses on Darren Aronofsky's psychological horror film, mother!, which is a typically postmodern story in which the director retells the ontological myths, relying partly on the Biblical myths, placing them, however, into a context meant to completely change the spectator's perception upon the creation and death of mother earth (described in the film as a series of feminine

	goddesses, sacrificing themselves). In contrast with the feminine divinities, the masculine one is presented as a narcissistic God who is sterile and powerless without Her repeated self-sacrifice.
4.	Dana Sala (University of Oradea, Romania) **Strategies of Continuity and Post-otherness in Nora Ephron`s film "Julie & Julia"** The paper aims at highlighting the contiguity between two women who have influenced their public, Julia Child (1912-2004) and Julie Powell (1973-2022), as seen through the eyes of Nora Ephron`s final film ("Julie & Julia") before her death in 2012. Food and the art of cooking interweave a web of subtle connections between these three fabulous women, who manage to convey their quest for love in culinary chefs-d'œuvre, in books and cinema. In a hectic postmodern world, as one of the pioneering cooking bloggers, Julie finds a reinstated identity and an antidote to depression in recreating Julia`s Parisian recipes of a vanished 20th century golden era.
5.	Sumor Sheppard (Prairie View A & M University, USA) **Form and Legacy of the Esperpento: Resonance and the "Grotesque" Other** At the turn of the 20th Century, the Generación del '98 in Spain was a group of artists whose works focused on the regeneration of Spanish culture and recreation of its citizens' identities. They searched for the "problem" of Spain as well as the "answer" to solve the supposed hidden flaw. Ramon del Valle-Inclán was no different. One of the most prominent dramatists of his time, he dedicated his political and creative life to this endeavor, eventually creating the esperpento dramatic form to illuminate for the populaces what he felt were systemic flaws in the national character of Spain. For Inclán, like many other fascists of his time, Jewish populations and Jewish historical legacy were the cause of his nation's cultural decline and "deformed", national identity. In the esperpento, the audience is to see themselves—the Spanish people—in the "grotesque" mirror that stretches and expands their "inner flaws". The audience is repelled from traditional aspects of national character as their frequency with the archetypes are shattered under a relentless antisemitic ambush. This paper aims to analyze the mechanisms by which Valle-Inclán connected with his audience as a catalyst for identity change within Rosa's theory of resonance using examples like the virulently antisemitic esperpento "Los Cuernos de Don Friolera", as well as discuss modern examples of the esperpento in English film and television and their messages to modern, global audiences

5. GENDER STUDIES

1.	Mona Ashour (University of Florida, USA) **Validation of the Victim Identity in World Climate Fiction** Climate fiction is a subgenre of science fiction that deals with the impact of climate change on the planet and its inhabitants. In some cli-fi stories, the impact of climate change can lead to a breakdown in society and a rise in violent behaviour. This can manifest in many ways, including gender-based violence. However, it's important to note that not all cli-fi works depict violence against women in this way. Some authors take a different approach to addressing the

	female/victim identity issue, such as highlighting the role that women can play in combating climate change and advocating for sustainable practices. The relationship between climate change and violence against women is a multifaceted issue. Climate change is expected to exacerbate many of the underlying causes of violence against women, including poverty, displacement, and resource scarcity. In turn, violence against women can also hinder efforts to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. One way that climate change can contribute to violence against women is through its impact on natural resources. As climate change intensifies, droughts, floods, and other extreme weather events can lead to crop failures, water scarcity, and other resource constraints. Women are often responsible for collecting and managing these resources in many societies, and when they become scarce or inaccessible, women can become more vulnerable to violence from men who seek to control these resources. Additionally, climate change can exacerbate social and economic inequalities, which can increase the risk of violence against women. For example, in communities that rely on subsistence agriculture, women often have lower levels of education and less access to economic opportunities than men. When climate change disrupts these traditional livelihoods, women can become even more marginalized and vulnerable to violence. Violence against women can also hinder efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. For example, in the aftermath of a natural disaster, women are often at increased risk of sexual violence and exploitation. This can deter them from seeking help or participating in relief efforts, which can in turn slow down the recovery process. However, addressing the relationship between climate change and violence against women requires a multifaceted approach that includes both adaptation and mitigation strategies. This includes improving access to education and economic opportunities for women, providing support for survivors of violence, and incorporating gender perspectives into climate change policy and programming.
2.	Aishwarya Mahajan (Christ Deemed to be University, India) **Being Stateless: Exploring Homosociality of South Asian Domestic Life in The World that Belongs to Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia.** Theories of queer diaspora help scholars understand how some behaviours not usually associated with mainstream queer identities can be seen as queer, especially when read in the context of South Asian histories. The paper proposes to explore the homosociality of South Asian domestic life and filmic conventions that lend themselves to queer interpretations in The World That Belongs To Us: An Anthology of Queer Poetry from South Asia. LGBTQ South Asians explicitly perceive these queer possibilities as alternatives to white and western gay habitus, even if theme intimacies do not read as queer to everyone else. As a result of how imperial agendas have handled gender and sexuality, migratory, postcolonial subjects are often misunderstood as having non-normative identities, as queer diaspora argues. It is suggested that the experiences of LGBTQ South Asians, who identify how their (un)desirability stems from their race—specifically, the hair on their body, their ethnic history, and the stereotypes to which they are subjected—reflect this concept. This paper also examines the absence of queer perspectives in colonial and postcolonial contexts. This paper aims to address the issue, "how and to what extent are antinationalist ideas reflected in queer South-Asian literature?" by analysing the literature of this region. I propose that we might start to learn about the rich history of antinationalism held by this oppressed minority by paying close attention to queer South-Asian voices from both the region and the diaspora. A new literary tradition is uncovered in which marginalised groups use writing to undermine the state's efforts to obliterate their past. Keywords: queer diasporas, home, cultural production, transnationalism, intertextuality, migration, intimacy.
3.	Adelina Miclea (West University of Timișoara, Romania)

	The Role of TikTok in Meeting the Need for Community Recognition in Transgender Women The user-targeted TikTok algorithm has enabled individuals who belong to marginalized groups to discover a space where they can connect and be a part of a community. This leads to the fulfilment of their basic need for communication and recognition, which contributes to individuals' overall well-being. The algorithm analyzes the users' digital footprint and then presents a particular user content that aligns with their interests and beliefs. By offering the possibility to comment on or stitch another video, the app is making it easier for people to interact with other individuals who have the same interests and worldviews, thus making it easier to form a digital community. Moreover, on TikTok there appears to be a general preference for authentic and realistic content over the idealized lifestyles portrayed on other platforms, such as Instagram, making it easier for creators to approach sensitive issues such as one's sexuality. This study aims to explore the way in which TikTok's algorithm meets the need for recognition of transgender women, with a specific focus on content creator Dylan Mulvaney, who shares with her audience the transition to being a woman.	
4.	Angela Ramsoondur (University of Mauritius, Mauritius) **Resonance of Multiple Identities within One Single Body: Embracing Growth of the Self in Akwaeke Emezi's Novel *Freshwater* (2018)** The idea of multiple selves within one single body provides different discourses: medical and supernatural. Nigerian writer Akwaeke Emezi's novel Freshwater (2018) looks into how different voices order and provides identities to Ada, a girl born of parents who do not believe in Igbo culture and traditions and termed as well an ogbanje, a child born but supposed to die and come again to torment the parents. Investigating the meaning of resonance of the different voices in the body of Ada, I will also reflect on the meaning of otherness and post-otherness within a post-colonial premise. The necessity to look back into Igbo culture is a form of memory retrieval of ancestral culture that brings solace to Ada in her quest to understand who she is, navigating both Nigeria and USA, different spaces but also different selves.	
5.	Emna Sfaihi (University of Debrecen, Hungary) **The Post-Other Barbarian Girl in Waiting for the Barbarians** In Waiting for the Barbarians, the Magistrate is attracted to a blind barbarian girl tortured at the hands of another representative of the empire Colonel Joll. The Magistrate, interested first in the story of torture provides the female other with a shelter and work only to inspect the scars and penetrate her story. The barbarian girl remains the other. It is only when he sets on a journey beyond the empire borders to return the disfigured barbarian girl to her tribe that the Magistrate begins to see the similarities between the self and "the witty" female other. Wit does not only endow the female character with positive attributes, it also testifies to a resonance between two seeming different minds. The Magistrate, convicted with state betrayal upon his arrival to the empire, experiences a similar violent treatment at the hands of the same torturer Colonel Joll that further bridges the gap between the Magistrate's self and the barbarian other. Relying on a close examination of the text, gender studies and the concept of resonance, the aim of this paper is to sketch the Magistrate's development in this journey through the different interpretations he confers upon the barbarian girl. In this quest an "absolute other" to a "post-other" as he the Magistrate experiences a similar lot.	
6.	Samu/elle Striewski (University of Columbia, USA)	

Kafkaesque Identities: Queer Recognition Theory after Butler and Honneth
(*part of a research project supervised by Axel Honneth*)

With "Recognition and Ambivalence" (2021), Judith Butler and Axel Honneth (two relevant poles in "recognition theory") enter into immediate dialogue about their respective notions of recognition/recognizability, subjectivity, and power. Starting with a brief reconstruction of this debate, enriched by Lois McNay's Foucauldian/feminist criticism of theories of recognition, my presentation go on with a reading of Franz Kafka's "Die Verwandlung" ("The Metamorphosis"). The first aim will be to show how the novel's narrative and Kafka's characteristic styles "gestures" (as Walter Benjamin puts it) to the discursive practices that dominate current debates about subject transformation and misrecognition, with a particular focus set on trans* identity. Kafka's novel helps, as I will argue, to understand how queer theory and queer literary readings embedded in a frame of recognition theory can shed light on how the complexity of trans* people's "struggle for recognition." My reading will also clarify the differences between Butler's and Honneth's theoretical approaches in understanding the processes of identity validation and exemplify weak points (as stated by their critics). A structural comparison of the experiences faced by the novel's protagonist Gregor Samsa and trans* people after their transition, one can get a more nuanced insight in the strategies that (in)validate the respective credibility of the respective figures. Queer recognition literary criticism thus enables valuable perspectives on post-otherness (in literature and society) and exposes some of the hegemonic discursive narratives that shape the way we think about identity construction.

6. LANGUAGE STUDIES

1.   Kevin Martens Wong (Kodrah Kristang and Merlionsman Coaching & Consulting, Singapore)

Kultura Krismatra: Strategies for the Legitimisation and Validation of New Words in the Critically Endangered Kristang language, and New Ways of Thinking, Being and Living Kristang Identity

Kristang (iso 639-3: mcm) is the critically endangered heritage language of the Portuguese-Eurasians or Jenti Kristang of Melaka and Singapore. The Kristang community, which includes the author, are the descendants of coercive intermarriages between arriving Portuguese invaders and local Malay residents in Melaka starting from the former's conquest of the city in August 1511; almost extinct by 2015, Kristang has since seen a historic revival in Singapore thanks to the Kodrah Kristang grassroots effort in Singapore led by the author (e.g. T. Wong, 2017). As part of that effort, longstanding marginalisation and Othering by both the colonial British authorities and then the independent Singaporean government have invited not just a revitalisation of Kristang vocabulary, but of the possibility of renegotiating and recontextualising what it means to be creole and Kristang in Singapore in the 21st century, a concept poorly understood by even most Kristang themselves. This presentation thus explores the Krismatra / 'Progenitor Kristang' identity (K. M. Wong, 2022), a construct that is tagged to explorations and excavations of new words and new ways of thinking and being Kristang which directly challenge more conservative or colonial legacies still embedded in the language and community today; this separation of 'traditional' Kristang and Krismatra ways of being Kristang, however, is shown to render such challenges not just harmless but even appreciable by the community in general. The paper thus concludes by considering how such an approach might be developed in other communities seeking cultural revitalisation through recontextualization without jeopardising their internal unity.

7. TEACHING ENGLISH AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE

1.	Maria-Elena Gherdan (University of Oradea, Romania) **The Role of Emotional Intelligence in the EFL Classroom** The role of emotions and intelligence (EI) in the English as a foreign language classroom has gained a surge of attention recently. However, the understanding of the teacher's role in addressing the emotional needs of their students vary both in concepts and classroom actions. This paper will explore the theoretical underpinnings of students' EI and propose specific actions teachers can take to foster and develop safer environments for learners.
2.	Dileta Jatautaite (Vilnius University Business School, Lithuania) and Vaiva Zuzeviciute (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania) **The Impact of Negative (Anxiety) Emotions on Foreign Language Learning** The Impact of Negative (Anxiety) Emotions on Foreign Language LearningStudents differ in how they tend to experience and deal with negative emotions and psychological distress in the foreign language learning classroom. Due to this problem chronic experience of stress affects the area of the brain that governs stress response. Unfortunately, that part of the brain also regulates memory. Language anxiety is an effective factor that affects achievement in the second language learning. Though, fear and dread can motivate one's abilities to study more intensively for intense emotions can drive the learner to take actions mobilizing intrinsic or extrinsic motivation, cognitive resources, and etc.Language anxiety is a distinct complex of self-perceptions, beliefs, feelings and behaviors related to classroom language learning arising from the uniqueness of language learning process. Thus, the aim of the research is to examine the anxiety phenomenon in the field of second/foreign language learning and acquisition, to tackle the possible causes and effects of language learning anxiety and the relationship between the anxiety and second/foreign language learning to alleviate negative effects of the anxiety by finding the appropriate easing and facilitating language learning methods. Therefore, the object of the research is the impact of negative (anxiety) emotions on foreign language learning.
3.	Enikő Maior (Partium Christian University, Romania), Fruzsina Szabó (University of Debrecen, Hungary) **How Online Teaching Impacted Pre-Service Teacher Trainees and Their Digital Awareness** Pre-service teacher trainees have been affected by the pandemic situation for various reasons: they are supposed to have several microteaching sessions in their courses before accomplishing their allocated local in-school practice for a few weeks. However, university classes as well as public education moved online, which complicated gaining practical insight into the profession of foreign language teachers (Yang, 2011). This article focuses on the experiences of pre-service trainee students with regard to various digital platforms, its challenges and benefits. This paper addresses the use of digital platforms and applications used by teacher-trainees at Debrecen University, highlighting the consequences of the pandemic situation. To establish the conceptual framework in an international context, first we discuss the aims, the terms and the regional characteristics of the research. Keywords: pre-service teacher trainees, digital awareness, micro-teaching
4.	Enikő Maior, Roland Szabó, Izabella Mali (Partium Christian University, Romania)

	Development of Foreign Language Skills at Partium Christian University Oradea As part of our research we mapped out the Economy major`s level of English at the beginning of their studies at Partium Christian University, then we compared the results of the initial tests to the standard B2-level requirements established by the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). After that, we calculated the hours of all English seminars and lectures at the students` disposal to acquire the required knowledge, then we established the teaching time of the B2-level competencies to a group consisting of B1-level students, and another one to A2-level students. Finally, we calculated, how much of this can realistically be taught under ideal conditions. Our goal was to outline the realistic extent of our students` potential English language development from the beginning to the end of their studies, based on the PCU curriculum, and also, to determine whether any changes might be necessary.
5.	Mădălina Pantea (University of Oradea, Romania) **Validity of Subtitling as a Pedagogical Tool in Foreign Language and Translation Teaching. "The Undateable" - A Classroom Experiment** The purpose of this paper is to validate subtitling as a means of acquiring and improving skills necessary in the formation of future linguists. The experiment was carried out with the participants in the optional course of Traductology - the Subtitling module. The students were exposed to a TV series in which language diversity and identity issues are combined. The translation tasks aimed at raising students' awareness of the complexity of the translation process and the translator's role as a cultural mediator.
6.	Dogan Ger Songul (Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary) **Teaching Culture and Developing Cultural Diversity Awareness and Intercultural Communicative Competence in Schools with English as the Medium of Instruction: a Pilot Study** The development of cultural diversity awareness (CDA) and intercultural communicative competence (ICC) is recognised as an integral aspect of foreign language teaching and the teaching of linguistic competence due to the inevitable social and cultural connections that stem from globalisation and mobility. Parents who send their children to international schools expect them to become global citizens. Therefore, international schools in which English is used as the lingua franca follow curricula and use teaching materials that can be adapted to the teaching of culture. At the same time, they endeavour to employ teachers who have the experience or flexibility to work with students from different cultures in multicultural settings. The present study explores teachers' attitudes and practices with respect to the development of CDA and ICC, as well as their students' responses. The study piloted classroom observation procedures for subsequent use in larger-scale research by the author on the development of CDA and ICC. The pilot study is based on the thematic content analysis of classes in literature and English as an additional language (EAL), observed in an international school in Budapest. The findings reveal that both types of classes included a variety of culture-related activities, although these were mainly limited to English-speaking countries and lacked a critical approach. However, the cultural activities explored and described in the present study can be transferred to the context of the teaching of English as a foreign language (EFL).
7.	Laura-Rebeca Stiegelbauer ("Vasile Goldis" Western University of Arad, Romania)

	AI - Friend or Foe in Teaching English? There were a lot of challenges for teachers of English along the years, challenges which for some might have been too big to surpass whereas for others they were just the triggers to move forward. Artificial Intelligence makes no exception. It seems that AI occupies most of the topics approached by education specialists in the last months either in articles or in conferences and webinars. Is AI a greater challenge when compared to others? Can AI really take our places as teachers? Or we can work together with it, take advantage of it and use it for our own and for our students' benefit? My presentation aims to tackle both the benefits and the drawbacks of using AI and tries to show that we can "harness" it and become its "driver".
8.	Giulia Suciu (University of Oradea, Romania) **An Age-old Dilemma: Identity versus Native-likeness in English Pronunciation** Should people hang on to their national accents as a source of pride and identity, or should they strive to achieve native-likeness in their pronunciation of English? The paper will try to find an answer to this age-old dilemma, bringing to light shifting goals in the teaching of pronunciation in a globalized world.
9.	Vaiva, Zuzeviciute (Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania) and Dileta Jatautaite (Vilnius University, Lithuania) **El.Visual Aids for Teaching Foreign Language in a Contemporary HE Class** Future employers and the employment arena, in general, require their employees' high standards of English communication competencies, which can be achieved by implementing visual aids, especially el. ones facilitating language teaching and learning in a contemporary HE class. El.visual aids are tailored to intensify and raise the quality of teaching and learning of students in the classroom. Many universities have managed to use the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity for the modernization foreign language programs and curriculum content and helped modernize the way of work and study for the better. This shift in studying languages has encouraged education to implement advanced electronic use practices in language methodology for some time, even before the pandemic. Still, the pandemic exasperated the need for practice. The article analyses the views of students and teachers on implementing new electronic technologies, such as visual aids, in learning a foreign language for a specific purpose. The analysis of the empiric findings, using el. visual aids improve mainly communicative skills competencies, shows the learners learn a significant number of lexis, and improve pronunciation, enunciation, clarity, pace, projection, and other speaking sub–skills.