CONTENTS

FLORENTINA ANGHEL
Technology vs. Spirituality in
Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World* ____________________________ 9

NICOLETA-PETRONELA APOSTOL
Failing to Conform to the Changing Realities
in *Death of a Salesman* ______________________________________ 19

OLIVIA BĂLANESCU
Romantic Ideals vs. Contemporary Nihilism ______________________ 28

ANDREEA BRATU
Arts Education
A comparative analysis _________________________________________ 41

FELICIA BURDESCU
Communicating the Master, Henry James __________________________ 51

OANA COGEANU
Travelling for America: WM. D. Howells and J. Ruskin __________ 60

MIHAI COŞOVEANU
The Curse of Knowledge in Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus* ______________ 67

CATHERINE COUSSENS
“Secrets of the Earth”: Geology and Memory
in Anne Michaels’s *Fugitive Pieces* ______________________________ 73

ILEANA CRISTEA
Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston – Two Kindred
African-American Female Writers... Two Lovers of Beauty ______ 88

MARIA CAMELIA DICU
Yeats within the Irish Revivals _________________________________ 94

GEORGIANA-ELENA DILĂ
Flight over History in Toni Morrison’s *Song of Solomon* ________ 109

CLARA ESCODA
‘In-Yer-Face’ theatre and the ‘Society of Spectacle’:
the Violence of Progress in Martin Crimp’s *The Treatment* (1993) __ 116
ROSA GONZÁLEZ
Corruption of the Official Catholic Discourse
in Post-Independence Ireland 132

ALEXA KEUNEKE
Uncovering the Past: Memory and Identity
in Margaret Atwood’s Surfacing 143

UWE KLAWITTER
Evolution and Progress in H.G. Wells’s Short Stories:
Ideas In(to) Fiction 160

ADRIANA LĂZĂRESCU
Deconstructing Evolution: Dorian Gray 173

RUXANDRA NECHIFOR
Some Considerations on the Postmodern Chronotope
(in Mircea Cărtărescu’s Dazzling Light) 181

LIDIA MIHAEA NECULA (BEZMAN)
David Lodge and The Ecstasy Of…
Media(Ted) Communication 192

ARMELA PANAJOTI
Kurtz’s Evolutionary-Involutionary “Progression”
into the Heart of Africa 204

GABRIEL ROMAN-BĂRBUITI
From Nowhere to Erewhon: the Ups And Downs
of a Revolutionary Ideal 212

ADRIANA ELENA STOICAN
Non Voluntary Female Migration between Evolution
and Involution in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Hell Heaven 223

PÉTER GAÁL SZABÓ
Cultural Implosion from an Intercultural Perspective:
Rev. Vernon Johns’s “Transfigured Moments” 236

ALOISIA ȘOROP
Where the Public and the Private Spheres Depart:
Prostitution in 18th Century Britain 246

MARKO TASIĆ
Human Involution as a Consequence of Technical Evolution
in Clifford Simak’s Novel City 253
LJUBICA VASIĆ
Transformation of Mythical Codes in *Buried Child* a Play
by Sam Shepard ................................................................. 263

DANA MARIANA VASILIU
Masculinity and Progress in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Cranford* ...... 270

GORDANA VUKOVIĆ-NIKOLOVIĆ
A Self-Reflective Approach To Critical Discourse Analysis
in Critical Writing on Architecture Texts in Serbia ................. 277
Abstracts

Technology vs. Spirituality in Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*  
Florentina ANGHEL  
University of Craiova

Two perspectives upon the relationship between technology and spirituality can be identified in the ambivalent intricacies of Aldous Huxley’s *Brave New World*: on the one hand science and spirituality are perceived as opposite and believed to exclude each other, on the other hand they are seen as complementary. However, it is generally accepted that Huxley insists upon the negative impact technology and science can have on the evolution of mankind. The author also shows that technology offers the leaders the possibility to condition and control the world while they enjoy the privilege of spirituality.  
**Keywords**: evolution, involution, literature, religion, spirituality, technology

Failing to Conform to the Changing Realities in *Death of a Salesman*  
Nicoleta-Petronela APOSTOL  
“Babeş-Bolyai” University, Cluj-Napoca

Arthur Miller’s play, *Death of a Salesman*, displays the effects of social advances upon the individual’s existence. This paper attempts an analysis of the consequences of the changing surroundings upon the self and upon its way of perceiving reality. The definition of the self comes into sight along with the individual’s perception of the space he inhabits and the times he witnesses. The result of the individual’s struggle with the surroundings and with its people is reflected in his conscience where a constant battle between progress and regress is being fought.  
**Keywords**: self, change, space, time, struggle.

Romantic Ideals vs. Contemporary Nihilism  
Olivia BĂLANESCU  
University of Craiova

The paper brings a new perspective to bear on romance at a time when the lover’s discourse is extremely marginalised, and love needs Umberto Eco’s ironical, obligatory inverted commas. The analysis of the topic is focused on A. S. Byatt’s novel *Possession: A Romance*, which contrasts the postmodern condition of fragmentariness and deconstruction with the Victorian time of romantic feelings and inhibited spirit. The juxtaposition reveals the sterility of contemporary life, and envisages a return to love as a way of knowing, whether in art or more metaphysical learning.  
**Keywords**: discourse, love, myth, postmodern, romance.
Arts Education
A comparative analysis
Andreea BRATU
University of Craiova

This presentation is a brief analysis of the arts education in four European countries, in an attempt to see what model is used in each country, what institutions are involved in the process and what are the main problems related to this domain. Education has become a priority in all the four countries chosen for this brief presentation – Croatia, Serbia, France and Romania. There are, however, significant differences in the situation of the four countries, mainly due to the tradition of the educational system and of the place that arts education and culture in general have had in those societies. Romania’s situation is analysed in more detail and possible recommendations and policy proposals are suggested.

Keywords: arts education, curriculum, cultural and educational policies, decentralisation, policy instruments

Communicating the Master, Henry James
Felicia BURDESCU
University of Craiova

Writing at the turn of the 20th century, to announce modernity in fiction, Henry James has got an aura of a master. Communication is intentional in his works of explicit aesthetics (The Art of Fiction) or of implicit aesthetics – short stories and novels. By contrasting his literary manifesto to the realist/modernist prose of his works we can infer means of communication the writer had planned through the very fictional composition. The prose also introduces a lot of Jamesean intimate personality.

Keywords: explicit/implicit aesthetics, fictional composition, intimate personality

Travelling for America: WM. D. Howells and J. Ruskin
Oana COGEANU
"Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iasi

There is one book which so often finds its way into the backpack of 19th century Americans travelling to Europe that one cannot help enquiring over the cause and purpose of such luggage; the more so as the book is neither the Bible, nor the Declaration of Independence, but John Ruskin’s Modern Painters. Prior to fathering American realism, WM.D. Howells was one of the travelling writers who would pack their literal and figurative luggage and steer towards Europe – since Art, like all ideals, was not to be found at home. This paper aims at showing that Howells’ search for an American ars poetica in Europe through the agency of J. Ruskin took
place within a semiotic colloquium involving an author-traveller, a double object (travel and account) and a mise-en-scenic guidebook, and resulted in a realist affirmation of art as presence. To this aim, the paper looks at the polemical (inter)textual instances in WM. D. Howells’s *Venetian Life* illustrating a transcontinental search for truth as the meaning of art.

**Keywords**: WM. D. Howells, J. Ruskin, travel, polemical intertextuality, semiotic colloquium

---

**The Curse of Knowledge in Marlowe’s *Dr. Faustus***

Mihai COŞOVEANU
University of Craiova

Is it a sin if we want to know more? What price do we have to pay? The paper focuses on the unexpected and most unfortunate events that can arise when evolving. Dr. Faustus is looking for new knowledge; therefore, in an attempt to reach the climax of human evolution, he will eventually find out that he took up the path of involution. Once fallen in this trap, there is no way to escape it.

**Keywords**: knowledge, evolution, involution

---

**“Secrets of the Earth”: Geology and Memory in Anne Michaels’s *Fugitive Pieces***

Catherine COUSSENS
Çankaya University, Ankara, Turkey

In Anne Michaels’ Holocaust novel, *Fugitive Pieces* (1996), the theme of geology functions as a site of personal and political recuperation in response to the upheavals of the Second World War in Europe. The narrative excavates the history of the Earth alongside the narrators’ own memoirs to formulate an answer to the Nazi project of racial and territorial domination. The primary narrative, concerning a Greek geologist’s rescue of a Jewish child from the mud in which he has buried himself to escape his family’s murderers, and the child’s subsequent memoir of his attempts to escape his trauma by becoming a poet, translator and historian, is paralleled by a geological narrative which teaches that “the present, like a landscape, is only a small part of a mysterious narrative” (Michaels, 48). In revealing the spaces which connect the living to the dead, the Earth becomes a powerful site of memory, healing and regeneration.

**Keywords**: Geology, pre-history, trauma, memory, Holocaust.
Alice Walker and Zora Neale Hurston – Two Kindred African-American Female Writers... Two Lovers of Beauty
Ileana CRISTEA

Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu

Alice Walker wrote an essay about her search for Zora Neale Hurston. She never met Hurston, but she admitted that she felt a profound connection to her. This paper wants to underline the inborn relationship between the two 'sisters'.

Keywords: African-American literature, feminist movement, inborn relationship

Yeats within the Irish Revivals
Maria Camelia DICU
“Constantin Brancusi” University of Targu-Jiu

W.B.Yeats was undoubtedly part of the Irish Revival. The reasons are twofold. First he wanted to contribute actively to the Irish concept of separating Irish literature from world literature with the aim of writing an original work; and Celtic legendry could not be more appropriate. And second through his mystic writing and rich symbols he succeeded in becoming the spokesman of his own thoughts, whether personal or patriotic.

Keywords: myth, mythology, legend, symbol, vision

Flight over History in Toni Morrison’s Song of Solomon
Georgiana-Elena DILĂ
University of Craiova

Morrison’s novel is full of symbols, which foregrounds not only the Afro-American community and its values, but also the idea of inner development and self discovery. Milkman’s flight brings forward the community in the past, which fought for its development and the community from the present which has some degraded values that do not help the human being to connect with others, but separates it from society.

Keywords: family, community, flight, past, progress
‘In-Yer-Face’ Theatre and the ‘Society of Spectacle’: the Violence of Progress in Martin Crimp’s *The Treatment* (1993)

Clara ESCODA
University of Barcelona (U.B)

*The Treatment* was published in 1993, right after the fall of the Berlin Wall. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall signified a transition from the social-oriented type of capitalism which has been practised since the end of World War Two, into a type of capitalism which was increasingly based on *laissez-faire*, neo-liberal policies, as well as on the generalised use of ‘spectacle’ and the media, in order to direct “whole populations to become consumers” (Sierz, 2007:1). This paper argues that *The Treatment*, in which Anne, the female protagonist, asks her husband Simon to blind the eyes of a voyeur with a fork, depicts a crucial scene of ‘in-yer-face’ violence in order to appeal to and empower spectators to, metaphorically, “shatter the spectacular ‘screen’” (Megson, 2004: 20), thereby inviting them to emerge out of the values that the ‘spectacle’ promotes.

**Keywords**: Martin Crimp, Contemporary British Theatre, ‘in-yer-face’ theatre, the ‘society of spectacle’, ethics.

---

Corruption of the Official Catholic Discourse in Post-Independence Ireland

Rosa GONZÁLEZ
University of Barcelona

In the wake of two highly controversial institutional surveys – the Ryan report (May 2009), disclosing the former systemic sexual, physical and psychological clerical abuse of children in institutions run by religious congregations in Ireland – and the Murphy report (November 2009), substantiating the utter mishandling of sex-abuse complaints on the part of the church hierarchy –, the essay ponders on whether the occurrence of such appalling events in a country that proclaimed itself as ‘Holy Ireland’ was due to the corruption of an official Catholic discourse undisputedly predicated on the primacy of the family unit and on the strict regulation of female sexuality.

**Keywords**: Ireland / abuse of children / criminalisation of poverty / control of sex and the female body.

---

Uncovering the Past: Memory and Identity in Margaret Atwood’s *Surfacing*

Alexa KEUNEKE
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

Margaret Atwood’s novel *Surfacing* deals with a protagonist who has lost touch with herself due to her denial and repression of certain memories. A return to her childhood summer home in the backwoods of Quebec causes these repressed
memories to reemerge. Using psychological theories, I will analyze the relationship between memory and identity in Atwood’s novel and also relate the findings to the topic of evolution versus involution. In order to uncover her lost memories and thus to be able to evolve as a person, Atwood’s protagonist must first return to nature and regress into an animal-like state – thus, in this case, involution leads to evolution.

**Keywords:** Atwood, memory, identity, evolution of personality

---

**Evolution and Progress in H.G. Wells’s Short Stories: Ideas In(to) Fiction**

Uwe Klawitter

Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany

H.G. Wells’s short stories have found much less critical attention than his well-known longer scientific romances. When they are appreciated for their scientific ideas, it is usually done in connection with Wells’ discursive writings or in relation to major debates or trends in his time. In my paper I propose to investigate how Wells employs generic conventions and narrative strategies in his short stories to stimulate thought about evolution and/or progress.

**Keywords:** evolution, progress, fiction, scientific romances

---

**Deconstructing Evolution: Dorian Gray**

Adriana Lázărescu

University of Craiova

This paper focuses on the analysis of Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray* starting from the idea that progress under the form of everlasting youth determines regress in terms of psychological traits. When he succeeds in changing places with his image in the picture, Dorian Gray attains a perfect face and body, but, at the same time, he starts a process of psychical decomposition. Dorian Gray is shown to experience a deconstructing evolution until the end of the novel, which welcomes the idea that a sole instance – everlasting youth – may develop both positive connotations – evolution regarding the human condition – and negative connotations – decay and death – within the same context.

**Keywords:** deconstruction, evolution, psychical decomposition, involution
Some Considerations on the Postmodern Chronotope (in Mircea Cărtărescu’s Dazzling Light)
Ruxandra NECHIFOR
Universitatea „Alexandru Ioan Cuza”, Iași

Defined by Mikhail Bakhtin as „the intrinsic connectedness of temporal and spatial relationships that are artistically expressed in literature”, the chronotope is intimately related to the development of characters. Writing the manuscript, watching the window, exploring the inner universe, communication, understanding, these are examples of chronotopes in Cărtărescu’s novel. In postmodern literature, the chronotope and the evolution of characters are connected to the theory of fractals and we are not surprised noticing that all these devices are subordinated to language and dependent on interpretation. Time, space, adventures are only linguistic constructions, which are going to be interpreted, in order to find the meaning of the text. The mixed forms, mutual inclusion of chronotopes, the hybridisation involve a different perspective on life with deep implications in defining the individual as a dialogical being, whose existence is an Art of Fugue.

Keywords: chronotope, character, postmodernism, dialogism, fractals, interpretation

David Lodge and The Ecstasy Of… Media(Ted) Communication
Lidia Mihaela NECULA (BEZMAN)
“Dunărea de Jos” University of Galați

A close analysis on David Lodge’s fiction might reveal three dominant metaphors (media as information, media as art, and media as education) inserted into the textual(ized) reality of the Lodgian carnivalesque mediated/ic wor(l)ds. Thus, David Lodge’s fiction translates the impact that the mass media consumption and globalization (glocalization observed in the textual politics) have on identity constructs (construes?!) and identity forming processes. Therein, issues of identity and difference are conceptualized (mediated) in terms of social and cultural transformations in the transition from a modern to a postmodern society which is gradually turning into a world of purely simulation.

Keywords: media(ted wor(l)ds), globalization, textual politics, simulation

Kurtz’s Evolutionary-Involutionary “Progression” into the Heart of Africa
Armela PANAJOTI
University of Vlora

Conrad’s Heart of Darkness often mythologically interpreted in terms of man’s descent into hell can be metaphorically read as a process from “evolution to involution”. Kurtz’s initiation into the African culture, despite its primal idealistic intent to “civilize”, reverts itself and instead of bringing about its initiator’s moral
growth and development, it turns instead into a process of moral and physical regress and decay of its promoter and into an assimilating campaign for the natives. The paper discusses exactly Kurtz’s stages of his stepping from “evolution to involution” and intends to prove that such a progress/regress is inevitable when the civilizing barriers that keep it up are removed.

**Keywords:** evolution-involution, civilization, moral decay, idealistic intent

**From Nowhere to Erewhon: the Ups and Downs of a Revolutionary Ideal**

**Gabriel ROMAN-BĂRBUȚI**

“Constantin Brâncuși” University of Târgu Jiu

How could we read Plato or More nowadays, without thinking of Hitler or Stalin? And how could we treat utopia’s egalitarian fantasies without returning, again and again, to its horrid realizations (the totalitarian regimes of the previous century)? Was utopia doomed to fail? Is it dead? Or does it still exist, shaped by the failure of the Enlightenment project (as portrayed by the Frankfurt School) into its old satirical counterpart: anti – utopia? These are just the questions the current paper will start from: is Erewhon simply utopia reversed? Or is it much more than that?

**Keywords:** utopianism, dystopia, ideology, satire, Erewhon.

**Non Voluntary Female Migration between Evolution and Involution in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Hell Heaven**

**Adriana Elena STOICAN**

University of Bucharest

The paper discusses the process of Indian female migration through arranged marriage as illustrated in Jhumpa Lahiri’s short story *Hell Heaven*. Considering that displacement is male initiated, the discussion establishes whether the main female character perceives migration as a complete loss/gain, or as a successful compromise. The analysis takes into account the collectivistic dimension of the Indian arranged marriage, highlighting the altruistic model of womanhood it entails. Analyzing the major cultural clash experienced by Aparna (collectivism versus individualism), the paper identifies the relationship between processes of cultural translation and the ideas of evolution and involution.

**Keywords:** arranged marriage, cultural translation, individualism, interdependent-same self
Cultural Implosion from an Intercultural Perspective: Rev. Vernon Johns’s “Transfigured Moments”
Péter Gaál SZABÓ  
Ferenc Kölcsey Reformed Teacher Training College

Rev. Vernon Johns—an important early figure of the Civil Rights Movement—not only addressed civil rights issues from the pulpit of the now historic Ebenezer Baptist church, but also presented the African American community with a radical cultural self rooted in a unique African American cosmology. The paper examines Johns’s construction of the black cultural self in his sermons from the point of view of intercultural scholarship to show the dynamics of his signifying destabilizing Eurocentric claims of cultural superiority: cultural implosion while negotiating identity with the cultural other—white society. 

**Keywords:** African American, intercultural, cultural implosion, cultural identity

---

Where the Public and the Private Spheres Depart: Prostitution in 18th Century Britain
Aloisia SOROP  
University of Craiova

The figure of the prostitute became an object of interest in the 18th century along with the commercial revolution. Traditional virtue clashed with new forms of capitalism and the private domestic sphere was gradually parting with the public economic sphere. The whore came to be explored in terms of her ‘mobility’ which was, after all, the emblem of the age – economic, social and political transformations defined 18th century Britain. 

**Keywords:** prostitute, sex commodification, identity

---

Human Involution as a Consequence of Technical Evolution in Clifford Simak’s Novel City
Marko TASIĆ  
University of Kragujevac, Serbia

One of the most important themes of science fiction literature is the theme of humanity involution due to the uncontrollable technical progress. Clifford Simak’s novel City is very illustrative example, showing a possible future scenario in which people have disappeared from the Earth, giving their place to dogs and robots. Author of the novel presents us a near-future world, where technical evolution causes decadence of mankind, eventually resulting in exodus of humans, at first from the cities, and then from the Earth.  

**Keywords:** Clifford Simak, science fiction, evolution, involution.
**Transformation of Mythical Codes in *Buried Child* a Play by Sam Shepard**

Ljubica VASIĆ  
Faculty of Philology and Arts, University of Kragujevac

The paper depicts those latent layers that consume everyday life in American Middle-Eastern family in their pursuit of fulfilling the American dream. The approach used in the paper, deploys transformation of conventional mythical codes hidden in the empty existence of those who have forgotten the true meaning of basic familial values. The aim of the paper is to illustrate that this play, in particular, represents the deterioration of mythical codes expressed through ritual and mythical signs. An American family, along with the cultural and psychological aspects of its existence, is the main indicator that Sam Shepard employs in order to illustrate that the ineffectual search of the identity emerges as a consequence of the suffocating ties with the incorrigible national identity. Myth and conscience, these are the elements of the great paradox that Shepard uses as a basis for his story of the transformation of the mythical pattern, barring in mind that the past has an enormous influence on the creation of identity itself.  
**Keywords:** myth, ritual, existence, family

---

**Masculinity and Progress in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Cranford***

Dana Mariana VASILIU  
University of Bucharest

The present paper addresses the issues of gender and progress viewed in the wider context of Victorian ‘strong’ moral codes and fetishized stereotypes. Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Cranford*, a novel quite popular throughout the nineteenth century, offers thus the possibility to look into this topic with an eye at revealing the relation between Victorian masculinity and the widely employed notions of progress and dehumanizing industrialism.

**Keywords:** progress, gender, androgyny, masculinity

---

**A Self-Reflective Approach To Critical Discourse Analysis in Critical Writing on Architecture Texts in Serbia**

Gordana VUKOVIĆ-NIKOLIĆ  
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture

The author analyses her own writing of an article published in 2004 in a Serbian architecture journal, the topic of which was an autobiographical book named Confessions of Jan Kaplicky, a controversial Czech architect who died in January 2009. She makes a distinction between “reflexive” and “reflective” types of writing.
of a critical text dealing with architecture. “Reflexive” writing (automatic, intuitive decision-making writing of the paper from 2004) is subjected to “reflective” analysis (controlled, rational, introspective one of the paper submitted for this conference). This “self-reflection approach to critical discourse analysis”, as it is here called, is believed to provide some empirical data which might contribute to critical texts on architecture in Serbia becoming more diverse. The author is aware, though, of the limitations of making conclusions upon analyzing one’s own writing critically.

**Keywords**: critical discourse analysis, reflexive/reflective writing,