

**The Department of British and American Studies of the University of Craiova, Romania
and
The English Department of the Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
and
The English Department of the University of Bourgogne, France**

announce

***THE 10th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND CULTURAL POLICIES –
DETAILS THAT MATTER”***

which is to be held in Craiova, Romania, October 7-9, 2011

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

A conference devoted to details, whether it be about details that matter, offers a challenge to the current inclination for theory. Theory gathers, articulates and places its object at some distance. Details tend to absorb and overwhelm the reader, listener or on-looker. Details seem to add centripetal strength to a work of art, and make one feel instantly drawn into a sphere of intimacy with the artist and the work of art, not to mention the medium itself.

Attention to details also draws a dividing line between two forms of memory. As opposed to remembrance, which consciously follows the logic of chronology or causality and archives the past, reminiscence unexpectedly and obscurely projects large portions of the past back into the present, through the mysterious virtue of insignificant details: the taste of a biscuit, a protruding paving-stone are enough for Proust to revive forgotten sensations and create moments of experience. Details disrupt and reconfigure the perception of time, they defeat logic and expression, they indefinitely postpone certainty, and thus maintain the essential dynamic of the mind.

Contemporary intellectuals have attempted to confront the teachings of details and those of theory. The result proves both fruitful and particularly efficient to counterbalance the totalitarian aspects of simplification. In the wake of such recent reconsiderations of art history issues, literary criticism could in turn ask such questions as the following:

Do details get the attention they deserve? Are they disregarded? Are there essential details? Are details the key to understanding everything that surrounds us? No matter how insignificant, little things do matter and, if neglected, they could make a negative difference.

SUGGESTED THEMATIC AREAS

- **Interdisciplinary approaches to literature**
- **Contemporary writing**
- **American literature**
- **Commonwealth literature**
- **Women's studies**
- **Communication and understanding**
- **Approaches to discourse and text analysis**

- **Linguistics**
- **Translation studies**
- **Cultural studies**

Submission instructions

Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes. Please fill in the registration form below and send it to the contact persons: **Mihai Cosoveanu**, e-mail: mcosoveanu@yahoo.com or **Florentina Anghel**, e-mail: florianghell@yahoo.com.

1. Name of presenter:
2. Academic title:
3. Address (work and home):
4. Affiliation:
5. E-mail address:
6. Title of paper:
7. Section (thematic area):
8. Abstract (100 words):
9. 5-7 keywords:

Deadline:

Abstracts will be **accepted** until **July 15, 2011**.

Acceptance of proposals will be **notified** no later than **August 1, 2011**.

Conference fees:

- participants presenting papers: 200 Lei
 - attendance without presentation: 50 Lei
- The fee will be paid upon arrival.

A volume of selected papers will be published. The conference fee includes the publication of the volume, the conference folder and badge, certificate of attendance, most of the refreshments during scheduled breaks, lunches, and cocktail reception.

The fee does not include travel expenses, accommodation and the social programme.

Social programme:

Friday 7th

Concert at the Craiova Philharmonic (Optional)

Saturday 8th

A play at the “Marin Sorescu” National Theatre, Craiova (Optional)

Sunday 9th

One-day trip to “taste” traditional Romanian attractions. (Optional)

Further information

A second circular will be mailed to those who have returned the preliminary registration form. Accommodation details will be available on the conference website.