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**UNIVERSITY OF NIŠ
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

CALL FOR PAPERS



**LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, SPACE
CONFERENCE**

On behalf of the LLS Organising Committee, it is our pleasure to present the Call for Papers containing information on the forthcoming multidisciplinary *Language, Literature, Space* conference, organized by the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, which will be held on **April 28th and 29th, 2017**.

After focusing on the concept of time in our research in the last year's conference *Language, Literature, Time* 2016, the subject that naturally imposes itself is that of space as a given that defines a significant number of phenomena pertaining to human existence:

In other words, we do not live in a kind of void, inside of which we could place individuals and things. We do not live inside a void that could be colored with diverse shades of light, we live inside a set of relations that delineates sites which are irreducible to one another and absolutely not superimposable on one another.

Michel Foucault *Of Other Spaces*, (*Architecture, Movement, Continué*, 1984)

The phenomenon of space is one of the most significant modes in the totality of human experience. Historically, investigation into this concept started in ancient Babylon and Greece, and reached

Europe through Euclid's geometry, irretrievably grasping attention of such eminent philosophers as Aristotle, Descartes or Kant. Space and spatiality are the fundamental categories of human existence, individually, from the first sensory information grasped by the mind of a newborn, to the comprehensive understanding of the world and the course of human life by the mind of an adult. The relationship between language and space has been the source of fascination of numerous researchers in the fields of linguistics, psychology, anthropology and neuroscience, and the questions to which they strive to answer range from those regarding the manner in which space is encoded in language, the nature of spatial representations in the human mind, the processes via which one learns to speak of space, to the dilemmas concerning the extent to which this process is universal or determined by culture. From the spatial adverbs in grammar to the models of metaphors based on spatial relations in semantics, there does not seem to exist any linguistic tradition that does not deal with this phenomenon.

Literary studies are also often related to the concept of space – from the mythical space of human imagination, the specific cultural space whose values are in constant interaction with literature, to the modern concepts such as liminal, limited or transgressive space, the imaginary space of utopias and dystopias, futuristic spaces, the relation between place and space, space as a territory in the context of nations/nationalism, globalization and colonization, ecological space, gender space, urban space or oneiric and narrative space in the very literary work; all to the negation of the very space and the concept of void. These spaces are conquered, desired, dreamed of, forbidden, subordinated, used, created, saved, destroyed, observed and described.

Language, Literature, Space will be dealing with the problem of understanding space from the point of view of literary theory and linguistics, through varied approaches which examine the formal, structural, conceptual, narrative and genre-typical means of understanding and expressing space and the different spatial relations, in the broadest sense.

Conference languages are English and Serbian, for 15-minute presentations followed by 5 minute discussion time.

If you would like to participate, please fill in the registration form attached to this Call and submit it **no later than January 20th, 2017** to the following address: jkps2017@gmail.com

The submitted abstracts will be reviewed and assessed according to their compatibility with the conference topic, academic merit, topic originality, approach and research. Notification of acceptance will be sent by the end of February 2017. A selection of papers will be published after the conference in a peer-reviewed two-volume Conference Proceedings.

Conference fee is 60 Euros (also payable in dinars), covering organisational costs, conference folder, refreshments during coffee breaks, buffet lunch on 28th April, and snacks before the closing of the conference on 29th April, as well as the costs of conference proceedings publication. Payment details will be sent along with the second invitation letter.

Conference dinner party (10 Euros) on 28th April 2017 is optional.

We are looking forward to welcoming you in Niš!

With best regards,

Language, Literature, Space Conference Organising Committee