

Introduction to the proceedings of the RODOSZ/4 Doctoral Conference in Romance Studies

The Doctoral Conference in Romance Studies “RODOSZ” (initially Romanisztikai Doktorandusz Konferencia, now called Romanista Doktoranduszok Konferenciája) was organised for the first time in 2009 by the doctoral schools of Eötvös Loránd University and Pázmány Péter Catholic University. Nine years have passed since two PhD students, Eszter Koós and I, proposed to set up the event, and the formerly nationwide conference that gathered together doctoral students from various fields of Romance studies has now become international. This fourth edition of the conference, organised by the ACRIL (Artes, Critica, Linguistica) research group of the Institute of Romance Studies of Pázmány Péter Catholic University, permitted twenty PhD students from eight different European countries to present their scientific work and to get an insight to a variety of research fields. The conference ran in two parallel sessions: a literary and a linguistic one. It was a great honour for us to invite Dr. Giuseppe Lupo from the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan and Dr. Steffen Heidinger from University of Graz, who opened respectively the literary and the linguistic sessions with a plenary lecture.

In this volume of *Verbum*, a selection of ten double blind peer reviewed papers are published. They finely represent the diversity of the “RODOSZ” conference. In the field of Italian literature, almost all genres from the Middle Ages until the twentieth century are represented: Annamária Molnár investigates Boccaccio’s concept of women; Márton Szovák focuses on 17th-century letters as a genre; Balázs Kerber examines the relation of Pirandello and Szentkuthy to the phenomenon of modernity; and the paper of Marta Sterna reviews the elements of ancient drama as a source of inspiration for contemporary European playwrights. Two contributions concern the francophone culture and literature of the 20th century: the study of Ágnes Tóth deals with *Médua*, a fantastic short story by Maurice Carême, while Michael Schaub focuses on the representation of the Chinese Cultural Revolution by comparing essays of two Belgian authors, Simon Leys and Charles Paron. As for linguistics, the research fields of cognitive semantics, dialectology and second language acquisition are represented in this selection: Thomas Bertin’s paper deals with the lexical meaning of the French noun *piéd*;

Maria Boghiu analyzes Petrarch's metaphors in a cognitivist approach; Mátyás Rosenberg presents his fieldwork data on Boyash, a set of dialects related to Romanian; and the paper of Timea Bánki focuses on how information structure should be built into the teaching of Spanish as a second language.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues for their help in organising and reviewing, and for their support during the whole event. I am convinced that the "RODOSZ" conference series will continue to be as useful and diversified as it has been so far.

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