



Transilvania  
University  
of Brasov

FACULTY OF LETTERS

## Call for Papers

Bulletin of Transilvania University of Braşov. Series IV – Philology. Cultural Studies,  
no. 1 (2018)

### **Acting and Reacting in Multicultural Spaces**

Multiculturalism has been defined either as communities characterized by a variety of ethnicities and cultural traditions living together, or as the way in which such communities are ideologically and politically approached by governments and politicians. According to the first perspective, members of different communities preserve their identities and are in an ever-enriching dialogue with the members of other communities, making multiculturalism a phenomenon that should be respected and enjoyed as it widens and enhances everyday life. The second perspective discriminates between members of different communities, multiculturalism being perceived as a phenomenon that may trigger conflicts and should be fought against, as it negatively affects the majority group's culture.

There is also another way to approach this issue, and that is by differentiating between mere multiculturalism and cultural pluralism. That is to say that tolerating difference, living in peace with the Other (multiculturalism) is not enough to create a stable and inclusive environment, but rather a stable state of segregation. Instead of tolerating we should embrace the difference under a common set of principles that may act as meeting ground (cultural pluralism).

Today's globalised world is a world where cultures meet and mix in a wide range of ways – they can adopt or adapt, integrate or be integrated in a natural or forced way, but definitely affecting each other. Languages do no longer belong to a single nation but become globalised allowing communication between people of many countries and making it possible for ethnic groups to work together and communicate in a variety of situations. However, such different groups, fluid as they may be, organized and recombined under categories such as race, class, and gender, may also struggle politically for representation, for defining and redefining the spaces between them and the world that surrounds them.

Such almost ontological upheavals are not left without response in the societies that concern themselves with issues of cultural difference and identity. The refugee crisis in Europe and the economic crisis in United States have unearthed a set of exclusionary rhetoric directly derived from, or resembling,

the xenophobic, ultra-nationalistic discourses that led to the great tragedies of the twentieth century. This proves that we may find ourselves at a time when another academic repositioning and clarification of these terms is again necessary. We have the work of a century of scholarship before us, from Horace Kallen's definition work in the beginning of the twentieth century (1915), to Ronald Takaki's historic works on diversity theory in the beginning of the twenty-first century (2002). The context now, is slightly different and unsettling and now, more than ever, we need to readdress it.

We seek papers on the following topics, or topics related to the outlined debate:

- Perspectives in multiculturalism theory
- Literature and diversity
- Multiculturalism vs. cultural pluralism
- Multiculturalist discourse interpreted as a new colonialism
- Issues of diversity and inclusion
- Acculturation and identity politics
- The fear of the Other and its political language
- Human rights and diverse traditions in new multicultural spaces
- Walls and borders in a fluid world
- Intercultural communication
- Discourse analysis on the new rhetoric of exclusion

We encourage interdisciplinary studies, ranging across literary and cultural studies, linguistics as well as other disciplines in the humanities. Contributors are required to write in English or French and are advised to follow the journal's submission guidelines and style sheet.

The deadline for article submissions is **20 April 2018**.

Articles should be sent as an electronic copy in Word for Windows to the following e-mail addresses:

- Cristian Pralea - cpralea@gmail.com, for **Literature** and **Cultural studies**
- Gabriela Chefneux - gabrielachefneux@yahoo.co.uk, for **Language studies**

All submitted articles will be blind peer-reviewed. Accepted articles will be returned for post review revisions by **15 May 2018** and are expected back in their final version on or before **30 May 2018**.