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1) **Jiří Hubáček:** „*Slavs as Authors of Etruscan Epigraphic Monuments*“

*In the history of Czech pseudo-scientific Slavic studies, we find at least two remarkable attempts to decipher Etruscan epigraphic monuments with the help of Slavic languages. Ján Kollár was the first to come up with this idea in the work *Staroitalia slavjanská* (1853). Almost one hundred and fifty years later, Antonín Horák followed his example in one part of the book *O Slovanech úplně jinak* (1991). Attempts to read the written monuments of an obviously non-Indo-European language recorded in the well-known Greek alphabet with the help of Slavic languages in both cases clearly hide ideological intents. While for Kollár the Slavs are the founders of the Etruscans (as well as italic) culture and glory of ancient Italy, Horák perceives the Slavs as deliberately marginalized slaves of illiterate Etruscans who entrusted to alphabet their sorrows and frustration from eternal Slavic slavery and subordination. The aim of the paper is to compare these two approaches, especially in terms of their ideological background and the resulting method and results. It also demonstrates the importance of knowledge of the bizarre pseudo-scientific methods for understanding the variable ideological basis on which such contributions arise and which often aim - with the frustrating burden of a marginality - to put Slavic people in the center of the world history.*

2) **Jana Hubáčková:** „*Transformations of Belarusian Idea - from Kančeŭski to Akudovič*“

Belarusian national identity is often viewed in the European cultural space as typically marginal, on the border between East and West, or between Eastern and Western culture. It is therefore often perceived as a failed or backward project compared to Central European nations based on ethnic nationalism. However, some Belarusian (not only) philosophers develop an approach based

on this perceived marginality, which interprets it through the prism of cultural specificity. A seemingly marginal and vaguely defined position within the European culture thus becomes a specific defining trait. Ihnat Kančeuski was the first to develop this philosophical approach in his work *The Eternal Way* (1921). Some elements of his thinking are being developed in a constructive way even nowadays, especially by the important Belarusian philosophers Valiancin Akudovič and Ihar Babkou. The aim of this paper is to trace the influence of Kančeuski's ideas in their work, and to interpret the variations of these concepts as efforts to build a specifically Belarusian concept of national identity.

3) **Ilja Kozlov:** „Exploring the Representation of 1939 Pre-War Days on Front Pages: A Newspaper Layout and Content Analysis of *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, *Stary Narvsky Listok*, *Vozrozhdenie*, and *Poslednie Novosti*“

This study attempts to analyze the representation of an impending war in August 1939 – the pre-war month. To examine the front pages of newspapers, there were selected Russian-language publications such as *Stary Narvsky Listok*, *Novoe Russkoe Slovo*, *Vozrozhdenie*, and *Poslednie Novosti*, issued from different parts of the globe – Estonia, the US, and Paris respectively. The study aims to unravel the matter at hand from a historical perspective, with a specific focus media coverage of the increasingly tense international situation. Under examination are the front pages of newspapers (their layout and content), offering a comparison of the news and war-oriented perceptions across different countries. Emphasis lies on distinguishing the changes, disparities and their significance in war representation among the chosen newspapers, as well as identifying and examining the taxonomy of war and its synonymous constructs. In the context of this research, August 1939 serves as the threshold before World War II, facilitating an exploration of media representations and the societal or specific political circles' attitudes to a potential war, while also identifying

patterns and new phenomena in media coverage. The research outcome anticipates tracing the shifts in media landscape of the time and decoding the process of constructing a media reality through newspapers' front pages covering the dynamics of the August 1939 military situation – from optimism to the recognition of the inevitable.

4) **Igor Ryszard Lewicki:** *„Discovering the Extraordinary Podlaschian Minority: Adam Pańczuk's "Karczeby" Project as an Expression of Human Attachment to Homeland and a Case Study of Documentary Photography in Anthropology“*

This paper aims to discuss the sociological phenomenon of "karczeb" through the lens of Adam Pańczuk's photographic project. The foundations of photography as an anthropological medium are analyzed. The central question guiding this study is to showcase the complexity of the world through photography and highlight the relationship between individuals and their attachment to their homeland, specifically the rural communities inhabiting Polesie and Podlasie. The entire study is grounded in the framework of the aforementioned case study, supplemented by analysis of scientific sources and references from popular culture, to emphasize the conventionality of the subject.

5) **Cyril Šolle, Jan Dubecký:** *„Communists in Russia as an Instrument or Actor of Power? Centralized Pluralism in the Initial Phase of the Regime of V. V. Putin: A Methodological Introduction“*

The study "Communists in Russia as an Instrument or Actor of Power? Centralized Pluralism in the Early Phase of the Regime of V. V. Putin" aims at a closer analysis of the functioning of the decision-making mechanism within the regime of the Russian Federation during the first two terms of President V. V.

Putin (2000-2008). In the case study we want to define ourselves against the prevailing approach to the Putin regime in the academic community, which generalizes and personalizes at the same time the exercise of power in the Russian Federation. Using the example of decision-making at the lowest possible level (i.e. regional), we will show in more detail a power-political process that, in our view, is more complex than a mere system of directive orders from the center. As the actor we will focus on first, we have chosen the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (KPRF), which represents a distinct (radical) field of opinion in relation to the Soviet past and the Putin regime itself. This distinct attitude towards the Soviet past was also assumed for V. Putin, whose advantage in this period was, in our opinion, rather his lack of distinction, which allowed him to delegate more extreme positions to other actors (and at the same time, if necessary, to distance himself from them). Our assumption (which largely coincides with, for example, P.Pomerantsev) is that the effectiveness of Putin's regime was not only due to its centralisation, but on the contrary, that a certain degree of decentralisation, through which multiple actors, not all of whom were linked to the Kremlin, participated in the exercise of power, made it possible to encompass a fundamentally divided Russian society through a diversified (in many cases contradictory) field of opinions, with the diversity of views being mainly related to the relationship to the Soviet past.

6) **Bohdan Bohdanovych Bezpalko:** *„The Soviet concept of history in school textbooks of the Ukrainian SSR 1920-1930: peripherality and secondaryness“*

The article will examine the process of the genesis of the vision of history, which was formed by the Soviet authorities in textbooks for secondary schools in the Ukrainian SSR. In particular, the main stages of the formation of the school system and the influence of political realities on it in the 1920s and 1930s are

highlighted. It is followed how the change of views on history substantiated the existence of the Soviet Union and the leading role of the Russian people in it. As the mentioned aspect led to the secondary status of the Ukrainian people and its peripherality from the point of view of regional history. Analyzing the main history textbooks and magazines used by schools in Soviet Ukraine, the author aims to reveal the very process of construction of the general Soviet history, which eliminated the role of the peoples who were part of the USSR and blurred their identity while forming a single Soviet society. An important aspect of the research will be the analysis of scientific works devoted to the proposed topic, and the identification of trends in the scientific discourse regarding our problem.

7) **Kateryna Mykhailova:** *„The evolution of ideas about peripherality in the speeches of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (2019-2023)“*

This report has a world-system approach as its theoretical basis and is aimed at tracking the evolution of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's ideas regarding the positioning of Ukraine in the “core - semi-periphery - periphery” system of relations. In the speeches at the beginning of his term, the President of Ukraine positioned his state outside the center of the world system, emphasizing the painful gap with the status of the Russian periphery and clearly marking the non-compliance of the system with European and world standards. In interaction with international partners, V. Zelenskyy asked for help to Ukraine, relying on facts that could cause pity, sympathy and sadness: deaths of people, destruction of homes, etc. February 24, 2022 was a turning point that gave impetus to a change in presidential rhetoric. Since then, in the words of V. Zelenskyy, there has been a transition from sacrifice, determined by the geopolitical position of Ukraine, to heroism, manifested in the defense of security and the order of the modern world. In his imagination, Ukraine is transforming from the Russian periphery into a frontier center of the world system and, moreover, cements that

center anew ("Ukraine has united the European Union"). He still appeals to international partners for help, but now his appeals do not sound like requests, but like demands, supported by Ukraine's gains in the war and arguments for the expediency of providing the assistance and aid. In general, in 2019-2023, the President re-realized the symbolic position of Ukraine in time and space and continues to make efforts to change the map of the world system in the imagination of its residents.

8) **Chenlu Ye:** „Balkans' second-class image constructed by western cultural products : A case study of Balkanism historical narratives about Croatian War of Independence (1991-1995)“

Under the domination of western cultural products which consider countries in the Balkan Peninsula as "the other", stereotypes and prejudice against Balkan countries (especially post - Yugoslav countries) had emerged. Propagandizing genocides and atrocities that occurred during Yugoslav Wars in the 1990s with Balkanistic narratives had resulted in the public misdeem that radical nationalism and ethnic cleansing are prominent characteristics of post - Yugoslav states. The phenomenon stated above is an embodiment of "Balkanism", a concept proposed by M. Todorova ('Imagining the Balkans', 1997), which refers to a set of negative stereotypes and misconceptions perpetuated by westerners about the Balkan region and its people, portraying them as exotic, irrational, and violent. Reinforcing the prejudices against the Balkans placed it in a subordinate or "second-class" position. This paper will explore the second-class image of post - Yugoslav countries in Western cultural products by reviewing several works produced by Balkanist writers (e.g. Robert D. Kaplan, Michael Ignatieff, Misha Glenny, etc.). Since incidents of the Bosnian War (e.g. Srebrenica Massacre) had caught much attention from academics, historical narrative works of literature with the theme of the Croatian War of Independence will be selected and analyzed. Among the selected books, not only the statements and

commentaries on wartime incidents or atrocities, but also the narrative and descriptive perspectives in literature, will be discussed.

9) **Marta Magdalena Kaczmarczyk:** *„The Silesian Variation - the issue of its status and the resulting conflicts“*

The status of Silesian - the most spoken variety in Poland, apart from the standard Polish - has been disputed for decades. While the variety is officially considered a dialect of the Polish language, many of its speakers are demanding recognition as a regional, or minority language. The treatment of this topic is very present, since Donald Tusk, a candidate for the elections in Poland, has recently commented on this issue in March 2023. The aim of this presentation is not to take a position regarding the status or the classification of the variety in categories, but to analyze the discourse using selected examples and Monika Wingender's model of language conflicts (Wingender 2021). In the presentation I would like to give an overview of the discussions in recent years about a change in the status of the Silesian dialect and evaluate the resulting language conflicts, summarizing the present research status and looking into political movements in organisations related to the cultivation and preservation of the silesian variety. For that, I will also shortly go into the history of the area where the silesian variety is spoken, and the linguistic characteristics of said variety. It is possible that the status of the variety in Poland will change until December!

10) **Elka Petrova:** *„Characteristics of the Bulgarian concept "honey" from an associative-verbal perspective“*

The linguistic study of various cognitive structures gradually extends to using methods developed for analysing the personality, behaviour and reactions within the limits of the psychology tasks adopted. To us, it is crucial that linguistic

studies give particular attention to the associative experiment, which realises the fundamental unity of the psychological basis of association and the semantic components of meaning. The data from a similar experiment can be considered an up-to-date reflection of the nationally, socially and culturally significant ideas fixed in the minds of modern language speakers. This poster presents a summary and visualisation of a chain-directed associative experiment conducted online among native speakers of the Bulgarian language. The set of associations given by the participants and their subsequent analysis allows us to derive the fundamental components of the cognitive model of the concept of "honey". Additional emphasis is placed on identifying and commenting on the peripheral mental characteristics of the concept that appeared in the study participants' responses.

11) **Kinga Stanaszek:** *„Second-Classness and Marginality in the rhetoric of Czech populist movements“*

Second-classness and marginality are categories that populists often use during communicating with voters. They use them to refer to groups they see as enemy, to emphasize that these groups are foreign and less important than their constituents. In Central Europe, secondaryness and marginality are also categories used to describe the state's position in foreign policy - in this case, a position that the state does not want to occupy. This phenomenon is caused by, among other things, historical and sociological reasons. Groups and states that populists consider marginal are described in relation to the center in which populists are located. The aim of the paper is to show how populist politicians create an image of second-classness and marginality and how this affects the groups they appeal to. Two Czech movements considered populist - ANO and SPD - were used as an example. The analysis was carried out on the basis of party materials, election programs, slogans and media statements. Linguistic

devices used by populists to define second-classity and marginality and the appropriateness of their use in the context of influencing the audience were investigated.

12) **Victoria Kozlova:** *„Beyond the Binary: Exploring Gender Neutrality in the Russian Language through the Experiences of Non-Binary Russian Speakers“*

This paper examines the marginalized situation of non-binary individuals in Russia and their quest for gender neutrality within the Russian language. While research on language and gender has primarily focused on the power dynamics between men and women, the experiences of those who identify outside the binary have been overlooked. In Russia, non-binary individuals face marginalization due to societal norms and an increasingly conservative and homophobic climate. The Russian language lacks inclusive linguistic tools for non-binary individuals, making it difficult for them to express their identities authentically. Despite these challenges, non-binary Russian speakers have found ways to navigate gender norms through creative linguistic improvisation, particularly in digital spaces. Through qualitative research, this study aims to amplify the voices of non-binary individuals, exploring their lived experiences, linguistic practices, and the obstacles they encounter within Russian society. By shedding light on their struggles and promoting awareness, this research contributes to the discourse on language and gender, advocating for inclusive linguistic practices that validate and recognize the identities of all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.

13) **Michal Zoller:** *„Intuitive stylistics as a inclusive approach to multimodal communication in virtual environment“*

The paper introduces intuitive stylistics as a specific way of studying multimodal communication in virtual environment. Firstly, it is concerned with certain aspects of multimodal virtual communication, while it mainly tries to identify problems that arise from studying it. It implies that from these problems arises a need for a new form of pragmatic stylistics. The paper then introduces the actual concept of intuitive stylistics, which stems from the fact that language users commonly reflect on everyday communication. Intuitive stylistics tries to capture and explain these everyday stylistical experiences and theories, inclusively focusing on users with different levels of language expertise. Next, the paper further develops socioscientific and democratic aspects of this approach. It argues the benefits of mutual cooperation between the scientific community and the public and emphasizes, that the cooperation is not based on hierarchization of language expertise. Language expertise is here understood with the emphasis on the ability to reflect on language reality and talk about it.

14) **Anna Zalewska:** „Socially excluded. Women with Supernatural Abilities in Polish and East Slavic Folk Magic Fairy Tale“

In Slavic traditional culture, a witch and a hag, i.e. women having supernatural skills, were often treated in the category of dangerous “strangers” and excluded from rural community. Meanwhile, in a folk fairy tale, they generally appear in the role of antagonists (e.g. stepmother and mother-in-law) to whom the ability to transform a main heroine into an animal, as well as anthropophagic tendencies, are attributed. Eventually, they face social ostracism and are punished by burning at the stake, shooting or dragging behind horses. The paper will aim to present the fairy tale image of the title belief characters taking into account their outward appearance, ability to physical metamorphosis, location, character traits, relations with the environment,

supernatural properties, and typical behaviour. In this way, it will be possible to ask the question about the scope of the transformation of the mentioned creatures under the influence of the genre rules of fictional texts. As exemplary material, Polish and East Slavic magic tales will serve, in particular, realisations of the tale types SUS 403 "Podmenennaya zhena", SUS 409 "Mat'-rys", SUS 428 "Devushka na sluzhbe u ved'my", T 449 "Sidi Numan" / SUS 449 "Tsarskaya sobaka (Sidi-Nauman)", T 450 "Brat baranek" / SUS 450 "Bratets i sestritsa", and SUS 451 "Brat'ya-vorony (lebedi, volki)". The recordings of beliefs and belief narratives devoted to the title characters will be used as interpretative context.

15) **Iris Ucello:** „Serhiy Zhadan and Gloria Anzaldúa: the borderlands as an ambiguous experience“

When different cultures, nationalities, and classes interact, borderlands take shape. Ambivalence and ambiguity define these lands, this condition is not easy to experience but it has a great value. According to Gloria Anzaldúa, in the borderlands people are obliged to bear the foreign element within themselves. For this reason, these territories offer unique opportunities to the development of "the self". Borderlands' experiences happen to be divergent and sometimes they are resolved by conflict. Serhiy Zhadan describes the condition of living during the war in Donbas in his novel *Internat*. The protagonist, Pasha, experiences a sense of ambivalence amid the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, in which he cannot intuitively and unequivocally determine whose side he is on. Everything is assorted in borderlands: languages, feelings, and the perception of "the self". In my presentation, I will define the development of "the self" in distant border territories - the Russian-Ukrainian border and the Mexican-American border. How are these experiences similar and what different decisions are made to resolve the ambivalent state of "the self"?

16) **Filip Kučeković:** „*Literature on the Edge of History: Restructuring of the Croatian Literary Field in Transition*“

The end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s in Yugoslavia was marked by political, social, and economic turmoils that lead to the fall of socialism, the introduction of the market economy, and the increase of nationalism, which was followed by a series of wars. These changes reflected in the literary field that had to restructure itself to suit the newly created ideology. The most visible consequences of these changes can be found in literary historiography that needed to use various ways of disciplining tradition, from its invention (Hobsbawm) to its selection (Williams). Thirty years after, in front of researchers, students, and readers constantly emerges marginalized literature and parts of its history that cannot fit into official narratives about national literature that are empowered by many different praxes, from school reading and academic papers to publishing policies and literary award system. In this paper, we will attempt to show in which ways the history of Croatian literature changes in transition and which mechanisms of subjectivity and representation took part in the exclusion of some literary works from its restructured form.

17) **Michala Mikolášiková:** „*The Concept of Emancipation and Feminism in the Work of Anna Pammrová*“

Anna Pammrová is better known to the general public as a friend of Otokar Březina, with whom she shared a lifelong correspondence, and less so for her unique philosophy of life, which includes considerations in the field of emancipation and the position of women in society, motherhood, education, or current environmental issues and technical progress modern civilization. This part of her work, which falls from the beginning of the 20th century to the interwar period, has not yet been given more systematic attention. Based on the

interpretation of her book-published essays and journalistic texts from contemporary magazines, the contribution aims to bring the listeners closer to Pammrová's original ideas, especially for previously defined categories. We will try to interpret her work from the point of view of findings from gynocritical research, we will place her work in the context of the Czech emancipation movement and the context of the work of Czech women writers in the first third of the 20th century.

18) **Nemanja Marjanović:** *„The Motif of the City in the Poetry of Vladimir Mayakovsky and the Poems of Miroslav Krleža and Srečko Kosovel“.*

In this paper, we will consider the motif of the city in the poetry of Vladimir Mayakovsky, as well as in the poems of Miroslav Krleža and Srečko Kosovel. Mayakovsky has an ambivalent attitude towards the city environment: initially he accepts the ideas of the October Revolution and his poems affirm the urban space as the backbone of a fantastic optimal projection of the new future. But after the collapse of revolutionary ideas, Mayakovsky describes the alienation of man in the city environment and the lyrical subject is dominated by post-apocalyptic feelings. Unlike Mayakovsky, Miroslav Krleža's poetry is dominated by negative urban aesthetics. In his poems, the city and the street are represented as demonic places, i.e. as hermetically closed absurdities, in which there will never be an essential change; the poet can only swear and curse because he cannot escape from the modern and senseless world. A negative attitude towards the city is also noticeable in Srečko Kosovel: in his poetry, he speaks not only of the destruction of the urban space, but also of the destruction of the entire European continent, and in his poems the lyrical "I" foreshadows the collapse of the entire civilization. Mayakovsky, Krleža and Kosovel are poets of modern sensibility and they, in the context of avant-garde poetics, want to tell us that in the dehumanized urban environment (as the backbone of modern

civilization) there is no transcendent stronghold and that there is no prevailing paradigm that would be a refuge in the modern world of meaninglessness.

19) **Ilka Blaszczyk-Zakor:** „Heterotopies in the Literature of the Holocaust“

The key concept of my paper is 'heterotopy': a concept coined by the French philosopher Michel Foucault. This term, as defined by Foucault, refers to a 'non-place' where every place present in a given society is represented, contested, and turned upside-down. In memoirs and literary works having to do with post-memory the concentration camp (typically: Auschwitz) is perceived as such a heterotopy. In this paper, I will focus on two heterotopical places found inside the camp: the so called Puf (or brothel) and the camp's lazarette. I am interested in how people working in these institutions or using (forced to use) them institutions were viewed by their fellow prisoners, but also the symbolic meaning these places had for the prisoners. On the other hand, I would also like to take a closer look at how the representations of nature (as a space, sometimes even a heterotopy, in which the camp is located). My view here is that the trauma of dehumanization has opened our eyes to the fate of our fellow beings, non-human creatures whom until not long ago we saw as lacking any „human“ qualities - hence, in the second part of this paper I would like to perform an analysis of how human-animal, human-plant, animal-animal contacts are represented in the context of the Shoah. This analysis will be based on texts concerning the Holocaust written by Polish authors (e.g. Seweryna Szmaglewska, Tadeusz Borowski, Piotr Macierzyński, Jacka Podsiadło).

20) **Dragana Lisić:** "The main character from the social margins and boxing as a marginal literary theme in the novels "When Pumpkins Bloossomed" by Dragoslav Mihailović and "The Road to Santa Clara" by Vitomir Martić"

The paper deals with the novels "When the Pumpkins Bloomed" (1968) by the Serbian classic, Dragoslav Mihailović, and "The Road to Santa Clara" (2002) by the lesser-known and insufficiently researched, almost marginal writer Vitomir Martić. The comparative analysis starts from the similarity of these two novels, which is first of all reflected in the main character who comes from the social margins, Ljuba Sretenović from the Belgrade suburbs, Dušanovac, and on the other hand, Dača, from Koševsko brdo in Sarajevo. The examples of these novels clearly show that some of the characteristics that characterize the characters of the marginal are: specific use of language, often full of jargon, vulgarisms, possession of nicknames, presence in criminal circles, often staying in prison, distancing from politics, often exile from one's own homeland and others. As another of the marginal themes, boxing is also present in these novels, that is, both main characters are, among other things, boxers, and an attempt is made to explain this phenomenon, as well as its influence on the construction of the character. By connecting the two novels in this way, an attempt is made to revalue Martić's novel, as well as to make a kind of homage to the recently deceased Mihailović.