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Energy Diplomacy and Climate Change: A Corpus-based Analysis of China's Global Energy Discourse

This paper sets out to explore the role of energy in China's foreign affairs exhibited through significant constructions in China's diplomatic discourse over a span of ten years (2011-2020), exclusively focusing on the stability and variability of its role. The discourses of energy in China's foreign policy have been analysed through the prism of the corpus approach (keywords, collocations, and concordance lines), multivariate statistical analysis, and qualitative discourse analysis. As many as 921,666 tokens in the corpus of China's energy diplomatic discourse were witnessed. The study reveals that energy cooperation is responsible for disseminating China's diplomatic philosophies and foreign policies in foreign affairs. The study identifies that China always seems to extend a positive attitude towards energy issues and takes energy issues as a tool for moderating its international relations with other countries. Meanwhile, the roles of energy as an advocate of diversified energy diplomacy and a respondent to energy challenges have become increasingly apparent. The emphasis on its roles as an originator of green energy and a participant in energy diplomacy have fluctuated over the past decade. This research is an early attempt to explore the temporal variation in discourse across a corpus and is conducive to further investigating the interplay of discourse, diplomacy, and energy.

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Paternal agency in English linguistic hegemony in Bangladesh

This study examines the contribution of fathers to the dominance of English in Bangladesh, where it is seen as a symbol of social prestige and economic progress (Imam, 2005; Haque, 2020). The concept of parental agency, especially in the context of the developing father-child relationship, which is used in the family language policy through agency theory, was used to explore linguistic dominance in Bangladesh. Studies have shown that paternal agency increases involvement in children's lives, with language choice and push factors influencing language practises in paternal activities worldwide (cf. Romanowski, 2022; Doherty et al., 1998). Using a thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews with ten fathers from different socio-economic backgrounds, their influence on the language acquisition of their children (aged 7-14 years) and their choice of language of instruction at school was investigated. The findings show that fathers prioritise English for their children's socio-economic advancement and associate it with prestigious careers, higher social status and global opportunities, while they undermine Bengali. The overwhelming influence of paternal control to promote English as the dominant language highlights the erosion of linguistic diversity and cultural preservation in Bangladesh.

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Aspects of Similarities and Differences between Early Modern Dissertations and Contemporary PhD theses

Since the 13th century when university system began to form in Europe, students used to argue and discuss questions related to the fields of various sciences with the aim of getting closer to the essence, the truth contained in the question, or to practice the use of language and argumentation method. The book printing technique introduced in the middle of the 15th century developed rapidly and made it possible to print an abstract of theses, which served as the basis for the oral act of disputation, and later – the texts of the dissertations themselves, thus making them independent of the act of disputation. This meant that these printed texts contained not only theses proposed for debate, but became an independent, argumentative essay. During the Early Modern times disputations were an integral part of the educational process in European gymnasiums and universities. Corpus of extant Early Modern dissertations is vast and it demonstrates that a special structure of paratext – body text – paratext was constantly observed during the 16th to 18th centuries. The mentioned structure as well as other aspects of the Early Modern dissertations can be analyzed in order to define their similarities and differences compared to contemporary PhD theses. E.g., it can be mentioned that Early Modern dissertations did not necessarily include scientific novelty, new discoveries and conclusions. The main task of these texts was to improve students' skills in substantiating and defending arguments in front of the public, as well as improving the oral Latin language. Research of the tradition and history of Early Modern dissertations can advance the understanding of historical origin of contemporary PhD theses as social phenomen.

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Mesto latinščine v pluralističnih pristopih poučevanja tujih jezikov

V zadnjih letih se v luči vedno večje vloge večjezičnosti v Evropi v didaktiki tujih jezikov vedno bolj uveljavljajo t. i. pluralistični pristopi k poučevanju tujih jezikov. Kot je zapisano v spremni besedi k slovenski izdaji Referenčnega okvirja za pluralistične pristope k jezikom in kulturam (ROPP), je pri nas najbolj znan medkulturni pristop, pojavlja pa se tudi jezikovno prebujanje. Preostala dva pristopa, medjezikovno razumevanje med sorodnimi jeziki in integrirani didaktični pristop, pa nista tako znana oz. razširjena. Ker je latinščina v slovenskem izobraževalnem sistemu uradno drugi tuji jezik, čigar poučevanje mnogi še vedno zmotno povezujejo zgolj s tradicionalno slovnično-prevajalsko metodo, se je smiselno vprašati, kakšna je vloga latinščine v pluralističnih pristopih poučevanja tujih jezikov. Latinščina lahko svoje mesto še posebej v povezavi z romanskimi jeziki znotraj ROPP-a najde na vsaj dveh mestih: pod glavnim virom znanja v razdelku »IV. Razvoj jezikov« in razdelku »VI. Podobnosti in razlike med jeziki«. Razvoja romanskih jezikov brez navezave na latinščino ne moremo razložiti, prav tako pa poznavanje latinščine ključno pripomore k razumevanju in usvajanju razlik med posameznimi romanskimi jeziki, kar krepi zmožnost medjezikovnega razumevanja med sorodnimi jeziki, hkrati pa tudi olajša učenje dodatnega romanskega jezika (večinoma italijanščine in španščine), ki si ga nekateri dijaki klasičnih gimnazij namesto naravoslovnih predmetov izberejo v 3. letniku gimnazijskega izobraževanja, kar lahko zelo efektivno dosežemo z integriranim didaktičnim pristopom, torej z uporabo enega tujega jezika za poučevanje drugega. Latinščino pa lahko vključimo tudi v medkulturni pristop in jezikovno prebujanje, še posebej v osnovnošolskem izobraževanju. Najbolj očitne povezave so seveda med latinščino in zgodovino (medkulturni pristop), latinščino in angleščino ali pa latinščino in biologijo (jezikovno prebujanje), ker je latinščina v mnogih vedah seveda jezik stroke, zanimive pa so tudi timske učne ure z manj konvencionalnimi povezavami, na primer med latinščino in glasbo, kjer se lahko osredotočimo na latinske izvore izrazov za intervale.

The place of Latin in pluralistic approaches to foreign language teaching

In recent years, in the light of the growing role of multilingualism in Europe, so-called pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures have been gaining ground in the didactics of foreign languages. As stated in the accompanying text to the Slovenian edition of the Framework of reference for pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures (FREPA) the intercultural approach is the most well-known in Slovenia, but we can also find awakening to languages. The other two approaches, intercomprehension between related languages and the integrated didactic approach, are not so well known or widespread. Since Latin is officially a second foreign language in the Slovenian education system, the teaching of which is still mistakenly associated by many with the traditional grammar-translation method alone, it is reasonable to reflect what the role of Latin is in pluralistic approaches to foreign language teaching. Latin, especially in relation to Romance languages, can find its place within the FREPA in two places: under the main source of knowledge in the section "IV. The evolution of languages" and section "VI. Similarities and differences between languages". The development of the Romance languages cannot be explained without reference to Latin, and knowledge of Latin is a key element in understanding and mastering the differences between the Romance languages, which strengthens the capacity for intercomprehension between related languages, and also facilitates the learning of an additional Romance language (mainly Italian and Spanish), which some pupils in classical grammar schools choose to study instead of science subjects in the third year of grammar school, which can also be done very effectively with an integrated didactic approach, using one foreign language to teach another. Latin can also be included in the intercultural approach and awakening to languages, especially in primary education. The most obvious links are, of course, between Latin and history (intercultural approach), Latin and English, or Latin and biology (awakening to languages), since Latin is the language of the discipline in many sciences, but team-teaching lessons with less conventional links are also interesting, for example between Latin and music, where we can focus on the Latin origins of words for intervals.

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Rehabilitation and security in the design of the new prison in Dobrunje

Rehabilitation of prisoners and security in prison are two of the main objectives of incarceration in most penal systems, yet, as some researchers note, they often seem to be antagonistic to each other. In this paper, I will discuss the tensions and interrelations between rehabilitation and security. I will do so first by looking at the developments within the Slovene penal system and the way that they were affected by the ideas of system's rehabilitative orientation and needs for provision of security. The main focus of the paper will then be oriented towards the manifestation of the (sometimes harmonic and at other times antagonistic) dynamic between rehabilitation and security in the material environment of the newly conceptualised Dobrunje prison on the outskirts of Ljubljana. This prison is, as is commonly heard in the media, a rehabilitative prison influenced by the ideas of humane architecture. The findings of this paper are based on an exploration of the architectural design for the new prison. I argue that its design is made so that its rehabilitative elements will be clearly perceived and experienced by the prisoners, whereas the elements of security and the coercive power upon which the prison relies will be kept hidden from their view. I argue that the rehabilitative objective of the new prison, which is being stressed by stakeholders and architects, is only secondary when compared to the security that the prison affords, which is clearly prioritised. Thus, though the prison is a reflection of the rehabilitative ideals, these are largely translated into aesthetics of the space and subjected to the needs for security.

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Zgodovinjenje argumentacije: neformalna logika, ideološka interpelacija in dinamika racionalnosti

Prispevek raziskuje razvoj in probleme neformalne logike kot analitičnega okvira za argumentacijo v naravnih jezikih. Začenja z omejitvami formalne deduktivne logike, zlasti njeno neuporabnostjo v vsakodnevnem diskurzu zaradi njene odvisnosti od univerzalnih premis in togih meril veljavnosti. Poudarja ključne premike, ki so jih uvedli Toulmin (1958), Hamblin (1970), Walton (1989), Johnson (2000) in Govier (2009), ki so si prizadevali za bolj od konteksta odvisne in praktične pristope k vrednotenju argumentov. Toulminov poziv k historicizaciji argumentacije poudarja pomembnost razumevanja argumentov znotraj njihovih specifičnih področij in časovnih kontekstov. Podobno Hamblin kritizira domnevno univerzalnost veljavnosti premis v vsakodnevnih argumentih in predlaga sprejemljivost kot osrednji kriterij trdnosti argumenta. Walton uvaja dialektični model, ki poudarja vlogo konteksta in faz dialoga pri določanju prepričljivosti argumentov. Medtem Johnson in Govier izpopolnjujeta opredelitve kriterija sprejemljivosti z iskanjem ravnotežja med univerzalnostjo in kulturno specifičnostjo. Da bi zapolnil vrzeli v navedenih teorijah, prispevek uvaja pojem ideološke interpeliacije po Althusserju (1976) in teorijo diskurza po Pêcheuxu (1975). Trdi, da argumentacija sama po sebi deluje kot prostor ideološke prakse, kjer so subjekti interpelirani skozi implicitne premise, topose in norme racionalnosti. Predlaga, da so ti prostori interpelacije podvrženi družbenozgodovinskim spremembam. Na primerih prispevek prikazuje, kako ideološka interpelacija znotraj različnih avtoritetnih sistemov deluje različno, kar dalje učinkuje na argumente. Poudarja, kako premiki v teh točkah interpeliacije omogočajo historicizacijo argumentacije, razkrivajoč medsebojno delovanje ideologije, oblasti in racionalnosti v praksah argumentiranja. Ta pristop vnaša sociološko perspektivo v študije argumentacije, izpodbijajoč statične ali univerzalne opredelitve racionalnosti. S tem širi obseg neformalne logike in omogoča razumevanje argumentacije kot družbenozgodovinsko pogojene ideološke prakse.

Historicizing Argumentation: Informal Logic, Ideological Interpellation, and the Dynamics of Rationality

This presentation explores the evolution and challenges of informal logic as an analytical framework for argumentation in natural languages. The study begins with the limitations of formal deductive logic, particularly its inapplicability to everyday discourse due to its reliance on universal premises and rigid validity criteria. It highlights pivotal shifts introduced by Toulmin (1958), Hamblin (1970), Walton (1989), Johnson (2000), and Govier (2009), who each advocated for more context-sensitive and practical approaches to argument evaluation. Toulmin's call for the historicization of argumentation emphasizes the importance of understanding arguments within their specific fields and temporal contexts. Similarly, Hamblin critiques the universal validity of premises in daily arguments, proposing acceptability as the central criterion. Walton introduces a dialogical model, stressing the role of context and dialogue phases in determining argument quality. Meanwhile, Johnson and Govier refine the criteria of acceptability, balancing universality with cultural specificity. Building on these theories, the paper introduces the concept of ideological interpellation from Althusser (1976) and theory of discourse by Pêcheux (1975) to address gaps in existing frameworks. It argues that argumentation inherently functions as a site of ideological practice, where subjects are interpellated through implicit premises, shared commonplaces, and norms of rationality. The presentation proposes that these sites of interpellation are dynamic and contingent on historical and social transformations. Through examples, the presentation demonstrates how ideological interpellation operates within different systems of authority, impacting arguments. It underscores how shifts in these loci of interpellation allow for the historicization of argumentation, revealing the interplay between ideology, power and rationality in argument practices. This approach integrates sociological perspective into the study of argumentation, challenging static criteria of rationality. By doing so, it expands the scope of informal logic, enabling an understanding of argumentation as a socially embedded and historically evolving ideological practice.

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The Role of School Musical in Developing Socio-Emotional Learning in Youth

In order to address the challenges of contemporary society, there is a need to prioritize emotional growth within education. Through the integration of socio-emotional learning into schools, we can provide youth with necessary skills to navigate interpersonal relationships, ethical reasoning, and engage in meaningful social interactions. This paper examines the potential of school musicals to encourage moral development in youth, as a part of their socio-emotional learning (SEL) experience. Grounded in the Collaborative for Academic Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) framework, which identifies five key competencies including self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making, the paper explores how school musicals integrate these elements into the experiential learning process. Drawing on experiential learning theory (Kolb & Kolb, 2005), moral development theory (Kohlberg, 1969), and theory of multiple intelligences (Gardner, 1983), the paper highlights the unique role of school musicals in fostering SEL. Existing research has demonstrated various music activities promote SEL competencies in youth, including Orff based music curriculum for social competencies (Yuanyang Yue, 2018), vocal performance enhancing empathy (Jeremić et al. 2015) and benefits of musical theatre (Lee, 2016). School musicals, as a dynamic performing art form, engages students in singing, movement, acting, and character development. These activities, apart from enhancing musical skills, promote non-musical skills including social connectedness, teamwork, self-confidence, and sense of accomplishment (Boyes, 2003; Braverman, 2021; Stokes, 2010). Through carefully designed narratives that address moral themes, school musicals encourage critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and social-awareness. Reflecting on the significance of moral values like empathy, tolerance, and respect for diversity, students learn to apply them in real-life situations. The paper identifies school musicals as innovative educational tools integrating artistic expression with experiential learning, to foster moral education in youth. By engaging students in collaborative performances, they develop the SEL competencies and ethical awareness necessary for functioning in today's society.

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Identifying and Categorizing Topics in Slovenian Parliamentary Debates

The present study explores the thematic focus of Slovenian parliamentary debates to identify and categorize key topics that dominate discourse. Using a data-driven approach, the research aims to show how parliamentary discussions reflect political and societal priorities and address global and local challenges. There has been some work done in the field of analyzing Slovene parliamentary speech, for example Pajnik et al. (2016), Udovič and Bučar (2021), Fišer et al. (2023), but it still provides ample room for additional research. The present study continues the tradition of interdisciplinarity, for which the field of political discourse in the Eastern European space is known for (Kostantinova et al., 2019). The methodological approach is based on computational techniques, namely BERTopic (Grootendorst, 2022), a topic modeling algorithm leveraging sentence transformers, to extract meaningful keywords and group them into thematic clusters. The keyword lists are then manually categorized into themes, with emphasis on geopolitical issues, environment and climate change, social movements, cultural and social change, (un)resolved conflicts of the past, migration, and religion – aligning with the conference focus. The dataset employed is a part of the siParl 3.0 corpus (Pančur et al., 2022), containing transcriptions of Slovenian parliamentary plenary sessions. It encompasses over 11,000 parliamentary sessions spanning over three decades, providing a comprehensive and representative sample of Slovenian legislative discourse and enabling a large-scale analysis. Preliminary findings on three right wing governments show a tendency to focus primarily on social security, economics, environment administration, and infrastructure (Bordon et al. 2024), other themes are also well represented. The research offers a structured framework to interpret parliamentary debates as a mirror of societal dynamics and institutional engagement and highlights how Slovenian parliamentary discourse mirrors societal priorities and global challenges, offering a basis for further exploration.

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Redefining Leprosy in Contemporary Literature: A New Outlook on Stigma and Isolation in the Modern Era

This paper aims to offer a new perspective on how contemporary literature interprets leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, which was often associated with severe social stigma throughout history, and personal struggle for reintegration into society. Focusing on the novels Moloka'i by Alan Brennert and Sweet Bean Paste by Durian Sukegawa, this paper will explore how both authors challenge historical perceptions of leprosy as a symbol of impurity, and divine punishment, which often led to profound social exclusion. Instead, these novels portray the lives of individuals affected by leprosy in Hawaii and Japan, bringing innovative, compassionate, human-centered view that emphasizes their resilience and humanity. By combining historical sources on the topic of leprosy with comparative literary analysis, this research delves into the complex social and emotional challenges faced by people with this disease, illustrating how literature can transform our understanding of marginalized experiences, shedding light and offering a new perspective on this important topic that has affected people for centuries. Moloka'i by Alan Brennert follows the life of Rachel Kalama, a young Hawaiian girl forced into quarantine on the island of Moloka'i, navigating loss, love, and identity within a community of leprosy patients. On the other hand, Sweet Bean Paste by Durian Sukegawa, set in modern Japan, tells the story of a former leprosy patient who is still impacted by the social stigma, decades after being physically recovered. Both novels present leprosy not merely as a physical illness but as an enduring social condition that affects identity and belonging. By focusing on the inner lives and relationships of those affected, these works highlight how people with leprosy were more than just "patients"; they were individuals with dreams, struggles, and a profound desire for connection. Through their narratives, Moloka'i and Sweet Bean Paste offer an innovative approach to understanding leprosy's impact, transforming it from a symbol of exclusion to one of shared humanity.

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Modalities of Platform Power: The Atypical Case of X

This presentation will discuss modalities of social media platform power by drawing on the example of X (formerly Twitter) and how its operations changed after its acquisition by Elon Musk. In platform studies literature, social media platforms' power structures are commonly described through Michel Foucault's concept of governmentality, a mode of power that "has the population as its target, political economy as its major form of knowledge, and apparatuses of security as its essential technical instrument". Social media platforms operate as spaces where subjects are nominally free to act but are still incited to participate in platform-specific activities, while the its borders and norms are policed through technical apparatuses of security. Most large platforms operate this way and have built their business models around it, thoroughly commodifying and monetizing user activity. But one of the largest global platforms, X (formerly known as Twitter) has started to shift away from these modes of operation. I showcase how X moved towards what Foucault calls "sovereign power", a mode of undifferentiated power focused on a single person. Elon Musk rules X as an absolute overlord, decreeing technical and policy changes and signal-boosting messages which support his own beliefs. I argue that this mode of power is 'unnatural' for social media platforms. For this reason, Musk's power shift resulted in severe drawbacks. Many users no longer enjoy using X, leaving in droves. Regulators worldwide are increasingly losing patience with Musk and are prepared to levy harsh penalties, e.g. X being blocked in Brazil for more than a month. Advertisers, too, increasingly feel that X is no longer a good venue for their services. As a result, the platform is slowly bleeding users, revenue, and market valuation, and is likely to continue to do so.

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Utelešenost jezika kot temeljni ontološki pogoj za posrečenost performativnosti

Koncept performativnosti, izvirajoč iz Austinove teorije govornih dejanj, se pravi iz jezikoslovne analize rabe jezika in posebnih okoliščin oz. pogojev, v katerih z rabo jezika vplivamo na resničnost in v katerih je torej performativ posrečen/uspešen, se je izkazal kot plodno izhodišče za raziskovanje tudi drugih človeških družbenih vedênj poleg rabe jezika. Kulturne in umetnostne študije na splošno ter konkretno teatrologija pri raziskovanju ustvarjalnih praks uporabljajo koncept performativnosti, ga na novo definirajo ter širijo njegove meje vse do predrugačenja pomena. Zato gledališko prevodoslovje – na križišču jezikoslovja, teatrologije, sociologije itn. – posebej vztrajno raziskuje performativnost, in sicer kot uprizorljivost oz. govorljivost; se pravi, kaj dela dramski tekst in njegov prevod uprizorljiv oziroma govorljiv, pa tudi v čem se prevajanje dramskih besedil razlikuje od prevajanja drugih besedil (in ali sploh se). Prevodoslovke in prevodoslovci, ki se ukvarjajo predvsem s prevajanjem za in v gledališču, vsakič znova definirajo koncept performativnosti na novo: jezikoslovno oz. znotrajbesedilno usmerjeni raziskovalci (Lévy, Snell-Hornby, Vitez) izpostavljajo leksikalne in stilistične izbire ter zvočno in ritmično strukturo povedi, njenih delov in besedila na sploh; zunajbesedilno oz. družboslovno usmerjene raziskovalke (Bassnett, Aaltonen, Espasa) pa rabo tega koncepta analizirajo v procesu pogajanja, ki je ključen element vsakršne skupinske ustvarjalnosti. Dramski slog je umetelen jezik, ki se poraja iz edinstvene utelešenosti jezika avtorja dramskega besedila, in tudi prevajalčev slog je v smislu utelešenosti edinstven, hkrati pa ga avtorjev slog oz. slog dotičnega besedila izzove. Igralke in igralci, skupaj z ustvarjalno ekipo gledališkega projekta, začnejo v (prevedeno) besedilo vstopati na vajah; ob premieri in na ponovitvah se jim pridruži še občinstvo. O posrečenosti/uspešnosti performativnih zmožnosti besedila in uprizoritve lahko presoja posameznik, ki je ob dogodku uprizoritve navzoč (kot izvajalec ali kot gledalec), osebno izkustvo, ki ga doživi ob dogajanju na odru, pa vpliva na njegovo zunajodrsko resničnost. Marinetti poudarja, da gledališče in prevod ne prenašata sporočil, temveč s performativno močjo učinkujeta na ciljno kulturo, pri čemer je utelešenost komunikacije (tako pri besedilu, njegovem prevodu ali gledališkem dogodku kot pri drugih umetniških delih) temeljna ontološka okoliščina in predpogoj za posrečenost performativnosti kot vplivanja na zunajumetnostno resničnost.

The Embodiment of Language as a Fundamental Ontological Condition for Felicitous Performativity

The concept of performativity, stemming from Austin's theory of speech acts, that is to say, from the linguistic analysis of language use and the specific circumstances or conditions in which language use influences reality and in which performativity is therefore felicitous/successful, has proved to be a fruitful starting point for the study of other human social behaviours besides language use. Cultural and art studies in general and theatre studies in particular use the concept of performativity in the study of creative practices, redefining it and expanding its boundaries to the point of changing its meaning. This is the reason why theatre translation studies – at the crossroads of linguistics, theatre studies, sociology, etc. – have been particularly insistent in exploring performativity as performability or speakability; that is to say, what makes a dramatic text and its translation performable or speakable, as well as how (and whether) the translation of dramatic texts differs from the translation of other texts. Translation scholars, who are primarily concerned with translation for and in the theatre, redefine the concept of performativity each time: linguistically or intra-textually oriented researchers (Lévy, Snell-Hornby, Vitez) emphasize the lexical and stylistic choices and the sound and rhythmic structure of the sentence, its parts and the text in general; whilst extra-textually or sociologically oriented researchers (Bassnett, Aaltonen, Espasa) analyse the use of this concept in the process of negotiation, which is a key element of any group creativity. Dramatic style is a skilful language that emerges from the unique embodiment of the language of the playwright, while the translator's style is also unique in terms of embodiment, but at the same time it is challenged by the author's style or the style of the text in question. The actors, together with the creative team of the theatre project, begin to enter the (translated) text in rehearsals; at the première and in the rehearsals, they are joined by the audience. The felicitousness/successfulness of the performative capacities of the text and the performance can be judged by the individual who is present at the event of the performance (as a performer or as a spectator), whereas the personal experience of what is happening on stage influences his/her out-of-the-stage reality. Marinetti stresses that theatre and translation do not convey messages, but rather have a performative effect on the target culture, whereby the embodiment of communication (whether in a text, its translation or a theatrical event, or in other works of art) is a fundamental ontological condition and a prerequisite for the felicitousness of performativity as an effect on extra-artistic reality.

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The Dystopian Simulacra in Philip K. Dick's Novels

One of the most important features of postmodern literature is a prominent skepticism towards the ideas of previous literary eras and narratives. This skepticism is reflected in re-evaluation and deconstruction of almost every established system, ranging from science to politics. Such sentiment is present in the works of Philip Kindred Dick (1928-1982), an American science fiction writer, whose poetics is marked by two main motifs of dystopia and simulacrum. Using the theoretical framework regarding simulacra given by Jean Baudrillard, as well as sources on dystopian literature, the aim of this paper is to present the modality of the use of dystopia and its emanations in two of Dick's novels, The Man in the High Castle (1962) and Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? (1968). In The Man in the High Castle, Dick offers an insight into a possible totalitarian society in the aftermath of the World War II, where the alternate reality serves as simulacrum. In Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?, the question Dick raises is what it means to be human. In the world where humankind achieves desired emotions through a simulacrum, are man-like machines more human than their creators? And where do we, as readers, stand in that emotional palette? At the moment when AI is emerging as the harbinger of the new era in humankind's history, and when totalitarian societies seem to rise to a new prominence, the two Philip Dick's novels serve as a road sign which either shows the direction or warns against it.

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Citizenship at the crossroads: Migration and policy issues in India

Migration and citizenship have become central topics in discussions about human rights and national identity, especially in a culturally diverse and historically intricate country like India. As a prominent nation of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, India encounters distinct challenges in balancing migration management with the safeguarding of citizens' rights. The recent enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) in 2019 has sparked significant debate, underscoring the tensions between governmental priorities and humanitarian responsibilities. These developments not only affect the legal standing of migrants, but also redefine citizenship, raising critical questions about inclusivity and the effects of legal structures on marginalized communities. The legal frameworks governing migration in India emerge from a complex interplay of historical, political, and social influences. Central to this understanding are the Foreigners Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), which play crucial roles in how the state defines citizenship boundaries. The CAA, which prioritizes certain religious groups while excluding others, marks a troubling shift toward a more exclusionary approach to citizenship. This shift raises significant concerns regarding the principles of secularism and social cohesion in a nation marked by its diversity. In this context, the goal of this paper is to critically examine these legal frameworks and their ongoing evolution, particularly in light of recent policy shifts. By delving into the intricate connections between migration and citizenship, this study aims to reveal broader implications for human rights and social justice both within India and globally. Ultimately, the objective is to enhance understanding of the challenges and possibilities inherent in crafting inclusive migration policies that uphold the rights of all individuals. This endeavour seeks to contribute to a more equitable citizenship framework in an increasingly interconnected world, where respect for human rights is essential for fostering social harmony and justice.

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Spominjanje in spol: ženske v muzejskih in učbeniških reprezentacijah 2. svetovne vojne

Prispevek preučuje, kakšna je vloga spola kot kategorije kolektivnega spomina oziroma natančneje, kako muzejske in osnovnošolsko-učbeniške reprezentacije 2. svetovne vojne predstavljajo in konstruirajo spol in spolne subjekte ter spolne skupnosti. Zanima nas, kako prek posredovanja narativov o spolu in uporabe nenevtralnih tekstualnih praks učbeniki in muzeji ustvarjajo specifična tokova zgodovine in spominjanja. Ugotavljamo, da dandanes še zmeraj patriarhalno in androcentrično zamejene reprezentacije žensk pustijo svoj pečat na sociokulturni organizaciji skupnosti. Temeljna teoretska izhodišča kulturnega spomina, ideologije, habitusa, moči in védenja članek uporabljamo zato, da bi zapolnili manko akademskega diskurza v polju preučevanja uspoljenosti spomina. Na podlagi kritične multimodalne analize sedmih muzejskih razstav v Sloveniji in petih aktualnih slovenskih osnovnošolskih učbenikov za zgodovino članek zaključuje, da je proizveden kulturni spomin prepoznan kot pomemben akter grajenja ideologij spola in spolnega habitusa. Članek identificira sedem analitičnih parametrov, ki kažejo na uspoljenost spomina – reprezentacije poklicev, reprezentacije prostočasnih aktivnosti, uporaba citatov, anonimiziranost, fotografski (in drugi vizualni) pristopi, tok narativa ter umestitev na kontinuumu med herojstvom in trpljenjem – prek katerih pokažemo, da so muzejske in učbeniške reprezentacije žensk v reprezentacijah 2. svetovne vojne še vedno zelo mizogine.

Memory and gender: women in museum and textbook representations of WWII

The article examines the role of gender as a category of collective memory, or more specifically, how museum and primary-school textbook representations of World War II represent and construct gender, gendered subjects, and gendered communities. Authors are interested in how textbooks and museums produce specific flows of history and memory, through the mediation of gendered narratives and the use of non-neutral textual practices. They ascertain that even today, patriarchal and androcentric representations of women continue to leave a significant imprint on the socio-cultural organisation of communities. Authors employ fundamental theoretical concepts of cultural memory, ideology, habitus, power, and knowledge in order to address the gap within academic discourse concerning the study of the gendered dimensions of collective memory. Based on a critical multimodal analysis of seven museum exhibitions in Slovenia and five current primary school slovenian history textbooks, the article concludes that the produced cultural memory is recognised as a significant agent in the construction of gender ideologies and gendered habitus. The article identifies seven analytical parameters that point to the gendered nature of memory – representations of professions and leisure activities, the use of quotations, anonymity, photographic approaches, the flow of the narrative, and placement on the continuum between heroism and suffering – through which authors demonstrate that museum and textbook representations of women in representations of the Second World War remain profoundly misogynistic.

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Uporaba IKT v socialnem delu z mladimi

Raziskava naslavlja aktualno problematiko vključevanja informacijsko-komunikacijske tehnologije (IKT) v socialno delo z mladimi v Sloveniji. V digitalizirani družbi, kjer so načini komuniciranja in vedenja mladih bistveno spremenjeni, postaja uporaba IKT nujen del sodobnega socialnega dela. Zgodovinski odpor do tehnologije v socialnem delu je izviral iz upravičenih skrbi glede ohranjanja človeškega stika in izogibanja praksam nadzora. Vendar raziskava poudarja, da ta perspektiva v digitalni dobi potrebuje posodobitev. Namesto da tehnologijo razumemo kot nekaj škodljivega za vzpostavljanje odnosov, jo moramo videti kot orodje, katerega učinek je odvisen od načina uporabe. Mladi kot "digitalni domorodci" tehnologijo dojemajo kot integralni del svojega življenja, zato IKT v socialnem delu ne sme nadomestiti tradicionalnih metod, temveč jih dopolnjevati. Ohranjanje temeljnih vrednot socialnega dela ob prilagoditvi novim družbenim razmeram je ključno za učinkovito podporo mladim, ki se izražajo in komunicirajo predvsem prek digitalnih medijev. Doktorska raziskava temelji na socialno-konstrukcionistični paradigmi in uporablja kombinacijo kvalitativnih in kvantitativnih metod. Prva faza vključuje socialne delavke z različnimi izkušnjami, pri čemer preliminarni rezultati kažejo, da digitalna pismenost pozitivno vpliva na pogostost uporabe IKT. Najpogosteje uporabljena orodja so računalniki (86 %) in pametni telefoni (58 %), pri čemer 61 % sodelujočih meni, da IKT povečuje vključenost mladih v procese pomoči. Fokusna skupina so izpostavile izzive, kot so profesionalne meje in potreba po sistematičnem usposabljanju. V tretji fazi raziskave je bilo izvedeno skupinsko usposabljanje, kjer so bili udeleženci seznanjeni s standardi za etično vključevanje IKT v socialno delo ter opremljeni z znanjem za praktično uporabo. Trenutno poteka četrta faza – 4-mesečni akcijski projekt, kjer socialne delavke in delavci preizkušajo nove možnosti uporabe IKT v praksi. Zaključna faza bo vključila poglobljene intervjuje z mladimi in strokovnjaki za evalvacijo integracije IKT. Raziskava poudarja nujnost razvoja smernic za etično uporabo IKT, kontinuirane izgradnje digitalnih kompetenc in vzpostavitve institucionalnih podpornih mehanizmov. Premišljena integracija IKT lahko pomembno izboljša stik z mladimi in okrepi njihovo vključenost, ob hkratni podpori organizacijskih in izobraževalnih struktur.

The use of ICT in social work with young people

The research addresses the current challenges of integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in youth social work in Slovenia. In our digitalized society, where young people's communication patterns and behaviors have fundamentally changed, ICT use has become an essential part of modern social work. The historical resistance to technology in social work stemmed from legitimate concerns about maintaining human connection and avoiding surveillance practices. However, the research emphasizes that this perspective needs updating in the digital age. Rather than viewing technology as oppressive or harmful to relationship-building, we must see it as a tool whose impact depends on how it's used. Young people, as "digital natives," perceive technology as an integral part of their lives, which is why ICT in social work shouldn't replace traditional methods but complement them. Maintaining social work's core values while adapting to new social conditions is crucial for effectively supporting youth who primarily express themselves and communicate through digital media. This doctoral research is based on a social constructionist paradigm and employs a mixed-methods approach. The first phase involves social workers with varying levels of experience, with preliminary results showing that digital literacy positively influences ICT usage frequency. The most commonly used tools are computers (86%) and smartphones (58%), with 61% of participants believing that ICT increases youth engagement in help processes. Focus groups highlighted challenges such as professional boundaries and the need for systematic training. The third phase involved group training where participants learned about ethical standards for ICT integration in social work and gained practical implementation knowledge. The fourth phase is currently underway – a 4-month action project where social workers are testing new ways to use ICT in practice. The final phase will include in-depth interviews with youth and professionals to evaluate ICT integration. The research emphasizes the necessity of developing guidelines for ethical ICT use, continuous development of digital competencies, and establishment of institutional support mechanisms. Thoughtful ICT integration can significantly improve engagement with youth and strengthen their involvement, while maintaining organizational and educational support structures.

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Medgeneracijski prenos kulta Device Guadalupe skozi družinske vezi

Devica Marija je s svojimi prikazovanji po svetu spodbudila ustanovitev številnih lokalnih kultov, posvečenih njenemu čaščenju. Eden izmed bolj izstopajočih je kult Device Guadalupe v Mehiki, saj je njeno prikazanje v prvi polovici 16. stoletja na hribu Tepeyac, blizu današnjega Mexico Cityja, močno vplivalo na širjenje krščanstva po celotni Srednji in Latinski Ameriki. Ta dogodek simbolizira kulturno-religijsko združitev med španskimi osvajalci in avtohtonim prebivalstvom ter tako predstavlja temelj za oblikovanje edinstvenega Marijinega kulta, ki združuje evropske in azteške elemente čaščenja. Z razvojem mehiške države je simbol Device Guadalupe postopoma presegel zgolj religijske okvire in postal močan nacionalni simbol, ki se danes odraža na religijski, kulturni in družinski ravni. Posledično je čaščenje Guadalupske Device neločljivo povezano z nacionalnimi, družbenimi in družinskimi vrednotami, ki se že več kot pet stoletij prenašajo iz roda v rod. V tej raziskavi se osredotočamo na medgeneracijski prenos kulta Device Guadalupe v treh generacijah žensk v izbranih družinah. Poseben poudarek smo namenili izkušnjam in odnosu mladih žensk do Device, pri čemer nas je zanimalo njihovo doživljanje, občutenje in morebitne prakse, povezane z Guadalupsko Gospo. Za boljše razumevanje medgeneracijskega prenosa kulta smo v raziskovalni vzorec vključili tudi njihove matere in babice, kar je omogočilo celovitejše razumevanje načinov prenosa in ohranjanja kulta Device v družinskem okolju skozi generacije. Raziskavo smo izvedli znotraj metropolitanskega območja Guadalajare, glavnega mesta mehiške zvezne države Jalisco, ki je skozi zgodovino veljalo za vplivno središče katolištva in si tekom razvoja kulta prizadevalo, da bi mehiški kult postal enakovreden drugim Marijinim kultom po svetu. Raziskava ponuja vpogled v trajno vlogo Device Guadalupe v mehiški družbi ter njen vpliv na povezovanje in čaščenje med generacijami znotraj družinskih linij. Ugotovitve kažejo, da se kult primarno prenaša (praviloma) med ženskimi družinskimi članicami, vendar se pri mlajši generaciji v ta proces aktivno vključuje tudi izobraževalno okolje kot sekundarni dejavnik. Medgeneracijski pristop raziskave tako omogoča poglobljen prikaz pomena Guadalupske Device skozi prizmo različnih generacij v sodobni mehiški družbi, kjer kult Device ostaja živahen in trajen vidik mehiške kulturne krajine.

Intergenerational transmission of the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe through family ties

Virgin Mary's apparitions around the world have led to the formation of numerous local cults dedicated to her veneration. One of the most notable is the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexico, which links itself back to an apparition in the first half of the 16th century on the hill of Tepeyac, near present-day Mexico City, that had a profound influence on the spread of Christianity throughout Central and Latin America. This event symbolizes the cultural and religious fusion between the Spanish conquistadors and the indigenous population, thus laying the foundations for the creation of a unique cult of the Virgin Mary, combining European and Aztec elements of worship. As the Mexican State developed, the symbol of the Virgin of Guadalupe gradually transcended a purely religious framework and became a powerful national symbol, which can be observed today at the religious, cultural and family levels. As a result, the veneration of the Virgin is inseparably linked to national, social and family values that have been passed down from generation to generation for more than five centuries. The study at hand focuses on the intergenerational transmission of the cult of the Virgin of Guadalupe in three generations of women in selected families. Particular attention was devoted to the experiences and attitudes of young women toward the Virgin, with a view to understanding their experiences, feelings, and potential practices related to Our Lady of Guadalupe. To gain a deeper understanding of intergenerational transmission, the research sample included mothers and grandmothers of the young women. This approach allowed an enhanced understanding of the mechanisms by which the cult of the Virgin is transmitted and perpetuated within the family context across generations. The research was conducted within the metropolitan area of Guadalajara, the capital of the Mexican state of Jalisco. Historically, Guadalajara has been considered an influential center of Catholicism and has played a crucial role in promoting the Mexican cult by advocating for the equal recognition alongside other Marian cults in the world. The research offers insights into the enduring role of the Virgin of Guadalupe in Mexican society and cult's influence on intergenerational connections and veneration within family lines. The findings indicate that the cult is primarily transmitted among female family members, but that the younger generation also actively involves the educational environment as a secondary factor in this process. The intergenerational approach of the research thus allows for an in-depth portrayal of the significance of the Virgin of Guadalupe through the prism of different generations in contemporary Mexican society, where the cult of the Virgin remains a vibrant and enduring aspect of the Mexican cultural landscape.

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Algorithms as Tools of Visual Creation

Today, as we live in an era surrounded by artificial intelligence, the question arises of how aware we truly are of the influence that automated algorithmic processes have on our aesthetic experience, creativity, and everyday aesthetic choices, and whether these processes impact the development of our culture. The rise in data production within the internet as led to the development of advanced algorithmic systems for data analysis and processing. However, sophisticated algorithms that recognize and predict user behavior online (on platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, etc.) are used to directly influence the aesthetic choices and experiences of network users (Manovich, 2019), controlling and shaping our cultural experiences. The triumph of 'generative media,' which in 2022 enabled generation of images based on text prompts, eliminating the need for prior technical knowledge of image creation (DALL·E 2, Midjourney, and Stable Diffusion), has raised the question of how comparable the capabilities of computational algorithmic systems are to human creative processes. However, what has actually occurred is that AI models have marked a pivotal stage in the progressive exploitation of the virtual archive of images, which has become a resource capable of generating infinite variations of new images through algorithms (Manovich, 2022). The creation of new processes in image production not only raises questions about creativity but also about copyright, yet significantly less attention is given to the preservation of cultural heritage. Commercial algorithms often overlook the specifics of smaller cultural communities and rare cultural elements, while models trained on their own generated data may lose the ability to accurately represent the real world (model collapse). However, algorithms as a medium in the process of aesthetic expression are not a novelty; they have been recognized among artists since the 1960s. Margaret A. Boden, as early as 1977, explored how AI could transform our understanding of the mind, consciousness, and creativity. The only difference today is that contemporary artists have access to much more sophisticated techniques and systems for analyzing algorithms, which results in different forms of production and aesthetics in their artistic works. However, creativity, as a complex process of generating original ideas, new concepts, and innovative solutions realized through practical skills within a specific medium, remains unchanged to this day.

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Zamrznjeni konflikti in kolektivni spomin: Primer Kosova

Kljub pričakovanjem, da bo kosovski konflikt rešen z vojaško intervencijo ob koncu 20. stoletja, nedavni dogodki, kot je oborožen napad srbskih milic na kosovske policiste septembra 2023, ponovno opozarjajo na nevarnost eskalacije napetosti na Balkanu. Ta incident, ki je sprožil mednarodne pozive k umiritvi razmer, razkriva, kako globoko so posledice vojne še vedno prisotne v vsakdanjem življenju prebivalcev in v politični dinamiki regije. Konflikt, ki naj bi bil rešen že pred desetletji, je znova v središču javnega interesa, kar spodbuja vprašanja o naravi trajnih konfliktov in njihovem vplivu na prizadete skupnosti. Prispevek se osredotoča na vpliv kosovske vojne na civilno prebivalstvo in izpostavlja pričevanja, ki razkrivajo trpljenje, izgube ter povojno travmo, ki zaznamuje življenja mnogih tudi dve desetletji po koncu konflikta. Analizirani bodo tudi spomeniki, posvečeni žrtvam, ki niso le simbolični opomniki, temveč tudi del kolektivnega spomina, ki spodbuja politične in etnične delitve. Skozi simboliko teh javnih spomenikov ter skozi pričevanja civilistov ta prispevek razkriva, kako se ti spomini še vedno aktualizirajo v javnih razpravah, kar dodatno zapleta politične napore za trajno spravo. S pomočjo teorije družbenega vpliva raziskujem, kako različne družbene skupine – od civilistov in veteranov do političnih elit – prispevajo k ohranjanju ali reinterpretaciji spominov na konflikt, ter kako te družbene dinamike vplivajo na oblikovanje narodne identitete. Zamrznjeni konflikti puščajo globoke sledi v kolektivnem spominu prizadetih populacij. Skozi analizo opravljenih intervjujev in fokusnih skupin na Kosovu (maj 2023) in simbolike spomenikov prispevek osvetljuje medgeneracijski prenos travme ter trajno prisotnost vojne v vsakodnevnem življenju in identiteti Kosova.

(Un)resolved Conflicts and Collective Memory: The Case of Kosovo

Despite expectations that the Kosovo conflict would be resolved through military intervention at the end of the 20th century, recent events—such as the armed attack by Serbian militias on Kosovo police officers in September 2023—have once again highlighted the risk of escalating tensions in the Balkans. This incident, which triggered international calls for de-escalation, reveals how deeply the consequences of the war remain embedded in the daily lives of residents and in the political dynamics of the region. A conflict that was assumed to have been resolved decades ago is back in the public spotlight, raising questions about the nature of protracted conflicts and their impact on affected communities. This paper focuses on the impact of the Kosovo war on the civilian population, highlighting testimonies that expose the suffering, losses, and post-war trauma still affecting many lives even two decades after the conflict ended. Monuments dedicated to victims are also analyzed; they are not only symbolic reminders but also part of the collective memory that fuels political and ethnic divides. Through the symbolism of these public monuments and the testimonies of civilians, this paper reveals how these memories continue to surface in public discourse, further complicating political efforts toward lasting reconciliation. Using social influence theory, I examine how different social groups—including civilians, veterans, and political elites—contribute to the preservation or reinterpretation of memories of the conflict and how these social dynamics shape national identity. Unresolved conflicts leave deep traces in the collective memory of affected populations. Through an analysis of interviews and focus groups conducted in Kosovo (May 2023) and the symbolism of monuments, this paper sheds light on the intergenerational transmission of trauma and the enduring presence of war in the daily lives and identity of Kosovo.

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Hybridity as a Poetic Process in Peter Handke's Literature

Handke's works offer a poetic-existential world of experience in which language as a hybrid construct makes new cultural connections comprehensible. Self-reflection and Foreignness raise questions about one's own aesthetic experience and the narrator becomes the mediator of an aesthetic that is enriched by intertextuality and multiple perspectives. In this context, space serves not only as a setting for action, but also as a place of poetological reflection. The protagonists drive cultural change by utilising transculturality as a form of expression that incorporates foreign and self-referential references. The in-between space enables an uncanny return of the past into the present, which leads to the development of a multiple personality of the literary character. These characters oscillate between different places, use this to find their identity and experience emotional ambivalence and spatial movements. The in-between space allows different cultural elements to coexist, even without a direct connection, and revolves around common themes. This coexistence offers a rich exploration of identity and culture that deepens Handke's literary and theoretical concepts to understand hybrid identities and the dynamic nature of culture. In Handke's narratives, finding oneself is understood as projecting oneself into the Other, a projection that is enabled by the foreign cultural structure and is not arbitrary. These interactions with other cultures open alternative perspectives and enrich one's own identity, often resulting in new social orders that promote respect and appreciation. The mixing of cultures promotes a liberation from one-sided imprints and leads to a dynamic, diverse culture that emphasises global participation of all groups. Such encounters create communities based on the pursuit of an ideal world that enables harmonious coexistence despite different experiences and perspectives. In Handke's works, the pursuit of identity and the confrontation with space and cultures is essential for personal and communal development. Handke's texts can change people's lives by promoting a worldview that eliminates discrimination between cultures and keeps the dream of world peace for all people alive. His Poetic Language thus becomes an instrument for creating an empathetic society in which understanding Diversity of Human Experience is fundamental.

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Student sex work in Slovenia between physical and digital reality

Student sex work is not a new phenomenon, but a well-established social fact, which has also come to the attention of the Slovenian media landscape and popular culture in recent years. It can be described as a form of sex work that young people perform temporarily or occasionally while they are actively engaged in the study process. Reasons for being involved in the sex industry vary among the student population; the most common are the desire to improve their financial situation, to finance their studies, the desire for material goods, the liberalisation of sexual expression, and the romanticisation of the profession of sex worker, to name but a few. Furthermore, we should not forget the negative aspects of student sex work, where young people are forced into it either by their partners, family or society, or by the various life circumstances, factors, and vulnerabilities they encounter. In the context of Slovenia, we will look at how student sex work moves between physical and digital realities, what challenges and opportunities the student population entering the sex industry face, and how this is all influenced by strip culture and the associated digitalization of sexuality. International surveys suggest that at least 2% of the student population is engaged in sex work, and this form of work has recently been rising to the forefront of potential job and career opportunities among students looking for high earnings and the 'perceived' benefits of working online. This research is based on several years of observation in the digital ethnographic field and interviews with student sex workers in Slovenia. We will also focus on the impact that digital platforms and social networks have on the student population's entry into the sex industry, and how digitalisation shapes or changes the interactions they have with clients. We will also question the motivations, and the complex dynamics involved in the construction of anonymity through the so-called 'working identity' that sex workers use online.

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Beyond Laughter - Patriarchal Portrayals in Azerbaijani Comedy

This paper critically analyses the portrayal of women in popular Azerbaijani comedy TV shows, examining how patriarchal control, sexism, and male infidelity are not only normalized but celebrated as sources of humour. Through an exploration of well-known shows this study highlights the recurring patterns of male dominance, objectification, and trivialization of women's autonomy. In these comedies, men are often depicted as dominant figures entitled to infidelity and control, while women are reduced to passive roles, valued primarily for their physical appearance or domestic contributions. Also, men frequently speak to women with overt rudeness or condescension, a behavior that female characters routinely accept, reinforcing a submissive ideal for women. Moreover, the diminished importance of girl children compared to boys is depicted as a humorous reflection of family values, subtly enforcing the notion that girls are secondary within the household. The analysis reveals that such portrayals perpetuate harmful stereotypes, where women's consent, agency, and emotions are downplayed, sometimes even mocked. These recurring themes in Azerbaijani comedy not only reflect but reinforce a culture that trivializes women's experiences and upholds traditional gender roles. Comparisons with similar trends in global media, such as Bollywood and Latin American telenovelas, underscore the widespread issue of using humour to perpetuate patriarchal ideals. This paper advocates for a reimagining of Azerbaijani comedic narratives, urging media creators to abandon the objectification and reduction of women to mere stereotypes. By fostering more nuanced and respectful representations, Azerbaijani media can contribute to societal progress and help dismantle entrenched gender biases. This study aims to deepen discussions around media ethics, gender representation, and the significant role of entertainment in shaping cultural norms.

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30 Years of Diplomatic Relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and China – Reflections, Achievements, and Prospects

This paper explores the 30-year development of diplomatic relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and China and analyzes the historical, political, economic, and cultural factors that influenced their bilateral engagement since 1995. Through a variety of sources and insights from seven expert interviews, this study provides both in-depth and practical perspectives on ongoing initiatives and potential future cooperation between the two nations. The analysis commences by investigating the initial diplomatic initiatives that resulted in the establishment of bilateral ties, as well as the subsequent development of political and economic interactions. This includes discussions of key agreements, significant investments, and collaborative projects, particularly in the areas of infrastructure and energy. The paper further explores the role of cultural diplomacy and people-to-people exchanges and highlights educational partnerships and cultural outreach initiatives between the two nations. Moreover, it addresses the geopolitical implications by situating BiH within China's strategic interests in the Balkans, particularly focusing on the impact of the Belt and Road Initiative and the broader regional dynamics, including BiH's aspirations for EU membership. The conclusion offers an assessment of prospects and challenges and identifies opportunities for cooperation amid a rapidly evolving global landscape. Utilizing contemporary geopolitical analysis, this paper adds to the expanding literature on Sino-Balkan relations, therefore providing both academic and practical insights.

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Spolna identiteta kot mehanizem družbenega nadzora v dramatiki Matjaža Zupančiča

Foucaultovo razumevanje seksualnosti je konec 70. let radikalno spremenilo pogled ne le na spol in seksualnost, temveč tudi na spolno identiteto. Ta se po Foucaultu izgrajuje na relacijski osi spol-seksualnost-družbena moč, vsaka od teh kategorij pa je družbeno pogojena. Spolna identiteta je tako razumljena kot družbeni konstrukt, ustvarjen kot mehanizem družbene organiziranosti; njen glavni cilj je nadzor nad telesi in obnašanjem subjektov ter reprodukcija obstoječih družbenih razmerij. Spolne identitete v družbi, ki jo Foucault poimenuje družba normalizacije, posledično delujejo kot biopolitični agent, saj prav na podlagi le-teh oblastna razmerja kategorizirajo in upravljajo s porazdeljevanjem družbene moči. Kot pomemben mehanizem družbene klasifikacije in nadzora se spolne identitete kažejo tudi v slovenski dramatiki, vendar ta v slovenskem prostoru takemu raziskovanju še ni bila podvržena. V pričujočem prispevku želimo zato raziskati, kako spolne identitete kot biopolitični agenti delujejo v dramatiki Matjaža Zupančiča, ki se v svoji dramatiki ukvarja zlasti z vprašanji nadzora, spektakla in samouprizarjanja. Z metodo literarne interpretacije, natančnega branja ter sociološke in literarnovedne analize spolnih identitet bomo analizirali njegovi drami Hodnik (2004) in Pesmi živih mrtvecev (2014), v katerih avtor prevprašuje motive seksualnosti, nadzora in porazdeljevanja družbene moči. V dramah bomo funkcijo spolnih identitet kot družbenih organizatorjev in izvajalcev družbenega nadzora, tj. biopolitičnih agentov, raziskovali z analizo 1) reprezentacij spolnih identitet, pripisanih dramskim likom, 2) pozicij (ne)moči, ki jih dramski liki zasedajo, 3) razmerij med upodobljenimi oblastnimi institucijami in dramskimi liki, 4) načinov ubesedovanja, s katerimi dramski liki skozi medosebne izražajo družbeno moč, ter 5) dejanj, s katerimi dramski liki s pripisanimi marginalnimi spolnimi identitetami izpostavljajo napetosti med oblastjo in svobodo ter izzivajo obstoječe mehanizme nadzora.

Gender Identity as a Mechanism of Social Control in the Drama of Matjaž Zupančič

Foucault's understanding of sexuality, formulated in the late 1970s, fundamentally altered perspectives not only on gender and sexuality but also on gender identity. According to Foucault, gender identity is constructed along a relational axis of gender, sexuality, and social power, with each of these categories being socially conditioned. Gender identity, therefore, is understood as a social construct, created as a mechanism of social organization. Its primary function is to regulate the bodies and behaviours of individuals, while simultaneously reproducing existing social relations. In a society Foucault terms the society of normalization, gender identities function as biopolitical agents, as power relations categorize and manage the distribution of social power through these identities. As a significant mechanism for social classification and control, gender identities also appear in Slovenian drama, though this area has yet to be thoroughly explored in the Slovenian context. This paper seeks to investigate how gender identities, as biopolitical agents, operate within the drama of Matjaž Zupančič, whose works address themes of control, spectacle, and self-performance. Through literary interpretation, close reading, and a sociological and literary analysis of gender identities, we will analyse his plays Hodnik (2004) and Pesmi živih mrtvecev (2014), in which the author interrogates issues of sexuality, control, and the distribution of social power. In these plays, we will explore the role of gender identities as social organizers and agents of social control (i.e., biopolitical agents) by analysing: 1) the representation of gender identities attributed to the characters, 2) the positions of power or powerlessness occupied by the characters, 3) the relationships between the depicted power institutions and the characters, 4) the modes of expression through which characters convey social power in interpersonal interactions, and 5) the actions through which characters with marginal gender identities highlight the tensions between authority and freedom, challenging existing mechanisms of control.

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Avtonomno socialno delo in razgraditev Trdnjave Evrope

bell hooks (1990) razvije koncept margine kot prostora radikalne izključenosti, nasilja, zatiranja in Drugosti kot tudi prostora, v katerem živeta izkušnja omogoča odpor, solidarnost in avtonomijo strategij preživetja. Koncept lahko zlahka uporabimo za razlago konteksta ljudi na poti: meje so prostori (in konteksti) nasilja, pušbekov in eksplicitnega nasilja, obenem pa so prostori liminalnosti, transgresije, subverzije, ki margini omogočajo poseganje v razmerja moči v centru. Na enak način lahko koncept uporabimo pri določanju pomena avtonomnega socialnega dela, ki se namensko in zavestno umešča na margino, hkrati s političnimi posledicami, s tem ko »zavrača vpletenost v prakse mejnega nadzora, izkoriščanje migracij za lastno korist ter uvajanje oblik skrbi-nadzora, ki podrejajo življenja in glasove migrantov« (Dadusc, 2019: 20). Avtonomno socialno delo ima tako za svoje politično izhodišče pa tudi praktično vodilo avtonomijo migracij [autonomy of migration] in skupno dobro migracij [migration commons]. Koncepta se osredotočata na avtonomno delovanje [agency] ljudi na poti in načine, na katere vsakdanje izkušnje ljudi na poti tvorijo nezaznavne politike [imperceptible politics], s katerimi subvertirajo obstoječi mejni režim, proizvajajo nove subjektivitete in prevprašujejo oblike organizacije skupnosti onkraj teritorializacije (Balibar). Raziskovanje avtonomnega socialnega dela se ozre na delo, ki te prakse omogoča, krepi, razširja. Prevladujoči koncept, na katerem temelji, je avtonomija migracij, ki jih ne moremo razumeti kot odziv na zunanje dejavnike, temveč kot »konstitutivno silo suverena« (Mezzadra, 2011), ki ima »lastne zakonitosti, lastno motivacijo in lastno smer gibanja.« (Papadopoulos in Tsianos 2013: 184). V kolikor se želi avtonomno socialno delo izogniti reproduciranju razmerij moči, pasti kompleksa belega rešitelja ali romantiziranja subjektov migracij, morajo srečevanja na margini vključevati tveganje (kriminalizacije, ilegalizacije) in izbiro margine kot (politične in materialne) pozicije. Katera so načela avtonomnega socialnega dela? Katere prakse zajema? Kakšni so njegovi izzivi? V čem se razlikuje od drugih podpornih praks (humanitarno delo, formalno socialno delo)? Kako lahko razširimo prostore in kontekst margine, da bodo vanje vpete nezaznavne politike zunaj konteksta meja? Dobrodošli na margini, pozdravljamo vas kot osvoboditelji (hooks).

Autonomous social work and dismantling of Fortress Europe

bell hooks' (1990) concept of the margins as a place of radical exclusion, violence, oppression and Otherness is also as a place where lived experience enables resistance, solidarity, autonomy of survival strategies. The concept can be easily used to explain the context of the people on the move: borders are places (and contexts) of violence, pushbacks and explicit oppression, while simultaneously being places of liminality, transgression, subversion enabling those on the margins to intervene in the power relations of the centre. The concept can also be used to determine autonomous social work, consciously and purposely positioning itself at the margins, including all the political consequences this entails, by refusing "to become complicit in practices of border control, to capitalise from migration and to implement forms of care-control that subject migrants' lives and voices." (Dadusc, 2019: 20). Autonomous social work is rooted in the political perspective of autonomy of migration and migration commons, both concepts focusing on the agency of people on the move as well as the ways in which their every day experiences shape imperceptible politics that subvert the existing border regime, create new subjectivities and question the organization of communities beyond territorialization (Balibar). Researching autonomous social work is a reflection of the work that enables, strengthens and proliferates these practices. The prevailing concept of autonomy of migration, which can't be understood as a response to external factors but rather "a constituent force of the sovereign" (Mezzadra, 2011) with "its own logics, motivation and trajectories" (Papadopoulos and Tsianos 2013: 184). For the autonomous social work to not reproduce power relations and fall in the trap of a white saviour complex or romanticizing the migrant subject, the encounters require risk (of criminalization, illegalization) and choosing the margins as a (political and material) position. What are the principles of autonomous social work? What are the practices and challenges it entails? How is it different from other (humanitarian, formalized) support practices? How can we expand spaces and context of the margins to embed imperceptible politics in a context outside of borderlands? Welcome to the margins, we greet you as liberators (hooks).

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Framing the Future: How U.S. News Outlets Normalize and Challenge AI Through Media Discourse

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly evolving in various aspects of modern life, and the way it is portrayed in the media is crucial in shaping public discourse. Thus, this study explores how U.S. news outlets contribute to normalizing AI through discourse, revealing its portrayal as both a resolution and a disruptive potential. To understand these dynamics, the research applies Fairclough's Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) using NVivo to analyse 9 selected articles published in 2024 from leading U.S. media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Wired. The articles are organized into three key themes: Policy and Regulation around AI Discourse, Technological and transformative Impacts of AI, and Ethics and Misinformation around AI Discourse with three articles selected from each outlet to ensure a rigorous and deep analysis. The analysis focuses on metaphors, personification, and agency related to AI discourse, to provide a comprehensive view of how AI is presented in media discourse. These linguistic tools are instrumental in constructing AI as an inevitable and integral part of the socio-political context, while also reflecting societal tensions and ethical issues. To illustrate, metaphors often depict AI as a powerful force shaping the future or as a disruptive agent. In one case study, an article from Wired titled "The AI Reporter That Took My Oto Job Just Got Fired" employs the metaphor, "this dystopia is here," to describe AI's unsettling role in journalism. This metaphor conveys a sense of loss, emphasizing the replacement of human creativity with automated systems and causing concerns about the deterioration of authenticity in news reporting. At the same time, other articles represent AI as a driver of progress and innovation, promoting public acceptance by portraying it as a natural evolution in technology. Through personification, AI is sometimes described with human-like qualities, making it more relatable or normalized. Ultimately, this study underscores the power of language in shaping not only public perceptions but also policy priorities and societal and media attitudes toward AI.

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Novi pristopi v raziskovanju Dantejevih virov

V zadnjem času dantistične študije zaznamuje vedno večja raznolikost hermenevtičnih pristopov, kar je dobrodošla novost v sicer nepregledni in brezkončni bibliografiji. V prvi vrsti gre za pristope, ki jih omogočajo nova digitalna orodja, ki nikdar prej niso bila na voljo raziskovalcem in ki so zamenjala analogne pripomočke, kot so konkordance in nepopolne analize medbesedilnih navezav. Predvsem je postalo jasno, da so se »stari« pri iskanju npr. Dantejevih klasičnih virov morali omejevati na bolj ali manj dobesedne, slogovno dokazljive navezave, medtem ko vsebinskim (in težje dokazljivim referencam) niso dajali veliko pomena. (Livraghi) Danes se skuša osvetliti oba tipa navezav z novimi orodji, kot je Hypermedia Dante network, ki skuša z najsodobnejšo tehnologijo vmesnikov olajšati iskanje medbesedilnih referenc, ne le znotraj Dantejevega korpusa, temveč tudi pri drugih katalogiziranih avtorjih. Digitalnemu se pridružuje bolj konvencionalni, filološki pristop, ki skuša Danteja razumeti v zgodovinskem kontekstu, s perspektive Dantejevih sodobnikov. To nam omogoča veliko število ohranjenih komentarjev k Božanski komediji, ki so neprecenljiv vir za razumevanje zahtevnejših mest in brez katerih bi bil kakršen koli poskus interpretacije povsem arbitraren. (Mazzucchi) Tudi tu je raziskovalcu v veliko pomoč digitalni bralnik, ki so ga zasnovali v sklopu Dartmouth Dante project. Ta omogoča recimo vzporejanje Dantejevega besedila in dveh izmed nabora tako rekoč vseh obstoječih komentarjev, začenši z najzgodnejšimi in najpomembnejšimi, kot so Jacopo Alighieri (italijanski, 1322), Graziolo Bambaglioli (latinski, 1324), lombardski Anonimnež (latinski, 1325 (circa)), in tudi ti. »Ottimo« (italijanski, 1333/1338) in Petro Alighieri (latinski, 1340-42/1344-55 (circa)/1359-64). Nazadnje je tu še Verlagov sodobni filozofski komentar (ur. Imbach), ki v ospredje postavlja filozofsko branje Dantejevih del, predvsem Convivia in Monarhije, čeprav bi bilo tako branje možno tudi na primeru Komedije, kar mdr. dokazuje sočasna Comedia anonimneža, ki svojo pesnitev zasnuje kot metafizično potovanje skozi pekel. V prispevku želim predstaviti nekaj primerov – case studies, ki bi pokazali uporabnost nekaterih novih (digitalnih) orodij in pristopov, ter na kakšen način lahko spremenijo razumevanje sicer kanoničnega avtorja.

New Approaches in the Study of Dante's Sources

Dante studies have been in recent years characterised by an increasing diversity of hermeneutical approaches. These approaches were made possible by new digital tools, that were not available to researchers in the past, when analogue tools such as concordances and incomplete analyses of intertextual references were being used. It has become clear that the "old" way of analysing Dante's classical sources, for example, had to limit itself to literal references, that could be proven on stylistic level, while giving little or no importance to contextual references that are harder to prove. (Livraghi) Today, attempts are being made to shed light on both types of reference with new tools such as the Hypermedia Dante network, which seeks to facilitate the search for intertextual references, not only within Dante's corpus but also with other catalogued authors, using state-of-the-art interface technology. In addition to digital innovation there is still an evolution of an existing and more conventional, philological approach that seeks to understand Dante in a historical context, from the perspective of Dante's contemporaries. This is made possible by the large number of preserved commentaries on the Divine Comedy, which are an invaluable resource for understanding the more complex passages and without which any attempt at interpretation would be completely arbitrary. (Mazzucchi) Here again is of use the digital reader designed by the Dartmouth Dante Project. It allows, for example, to compare Dante's text with two of virtually all existing commentaries, including those earliest and most important, such as Jacopo Alighieri (Italian, 1322), Graziolo Bambaglioli (Latin, 1324), the Lombard Anonymous (Latin, 1325 (circa)), and also "Ottimo" (Italian, 1333/1338) and Petro Alighieri (Latin, 1340-42/1344-55 (circa)/1359-64). Finally, there is Verlag's Contemporary Philosophical Commentary (ed. Imbach), which underlines a philosophical reading of Dante's works, especially of the Convivio and the Monarchia, although such a reading would also be possible in the case of the Divine Comedy. In this paper I would like to present some examples - case studies - that would show the usefulness of some new (digital) tools and approaches, and how they can change the understanding of an otherwise canonical author.

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Sad and beautiful: Representations of female sadness in social media trends

This paper analyses the representations of female affective states, specifically sadness and melancholy, in social media trends. Trends on TikTok such as "sad girl" and "sad girl core" romanticize and aestheticize feelings of sadness, helplessness, and anxiety through various retro lenses and contemporary styles from popular culture. On one hand, these trends may draw from the history of art, while on the other hand, they find their grounding in popular culture—films, TV series, video games, fashion, and even comics. Utilizing gender studies, we will explore the social and cultural representations through which the narrative of female suffering and madness has been constructed and transformed over time, with a particular focus on literature as a more specific field of research. The paper will address several questions: What are the main characteristics of these trends and micro-trends? When did such representations emerge in popular culture? How has the social media Tumblr, popular in the early 2010s, contributed to their development? How has the emergence of sad girls in the music scene influenced the construction of this myth (e.g., Lana Del Rey, Marina and the Diamonds)? How does this seemingly simple trend continue the representations of female suffering and psychological instability in art history and culture? How is this trend, which highlights beauty, connected to representations of female death in literature and culture, particularly concerning the integrity and beauty of the body? How did Ophelia's suicide influence the construction of this myth? Why does the phenomenon of female suffering and madness appear as a substitute for suicide in the works of Serbian writers of the 20th century, due to the strong internalization of patriarchal norms. Finally, how does female suffering remain a conceptual blind spot into which society inscribes its own anxieties?

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Meditation in Education: How can meditation help students learn?

Meditation, an ancient practice, has gained considerable attention in modern times, both as a tool for personal and spiritual growth and as a subject of scientific inquiry. Since the 1990s, there has been a surge in studies exploring the effects of meditation on the human body, brain, and overall well-being. With its integration into Western contexts, meditation has become largely secularized and adapted into a practice that retains its numerous positive impacts. These benefits make meditation an appealing method to introduce into various spheres of human activity, including education. Research has consistently demonstrated that meditation can positively influence learning processes, memory retention, and emotional regulation among students. Additionally, it has been shown to reduce stress, enhance a sense of control over emotions, foster empathy and solidarity, and improve the functioning of specific brain regions associated with focus and emotional resilience. In our study, we examined how a six-week meditation program impacts concentration, memory, and learning among university students. A total of six students, with an average age of 21.7 years, participated in the program. Before and after the program, each participant completed interviews in which they self-assessed their ability to concentrate, memorize, and learn effectively. These interviews were subsequently analyzed using thematic analysis. The findings revealed that meditation directly improves both the quality and duration of concentration, enhances memory retention and recall, and supports emotional regulation during learning. Participants also reported feeling less stressed and experiencing a heightened sense of control over their emotions. Given these promising results, meditation emerges as a valuable tool for classroom and lecture hall settings. Its potential to improve focus, memory, and emotional self-regulation while simultaneously reducing stress makes it an exciting avenue for integration into educational environments. While further research is essential to deepen our understanding of these effects, current findings offer compelling evidence for the benefits of meditation in education.

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»Hočemo živeti, akoravno smo pohabljeni«: Vojni invalidi prve svetovne vojne v obdobju med obema vojnama

Prispevek obravnava položaj in obravnavo vojnih invalidov iz prve svetovne vojne v času med vojnama s posebnim poudarkom na Avstro-Ogrski in njeni naslednici Kraljevini Srbov, Hrvatov in Slovencev (kasneje Kraljevini Jugoslaviji). do okupacije leta 1941. Z integracijo teoretičnih pogledov na invalidnost z zgodovinsko analizo prispevek raziskuje razvijajoče se družbene, politične in zakonodajne okvirov, ki so oblikovali oskrbo in rehabilitacijo vojnih invalidov. Prispevek raziskuje, kako so se pri opredelitvi življenjskih izkušenj vojnih invalidov prepletali politika in družbeni odnosi, pri čemer se osredotoča na podobo vojnih invalidov v takratnih slovenskih časopisih (Slovenec, Slovenski narod, Naprej, Bojevnik, Ljubljanski zvon, Domovina, Glas svobode, Štajerc in Vojni invalid). Časopisi so soustvarjali diskurze, ki so vplivali na javno in samopodobo vojnih invalidov ter na širša družbena pričakovanja do njih. Ugotovitve kažejo, da so vojni invalidi obstajali v zapletenem prepletu marginalizacije, stigmatizacije in poblagovljenja svojih invalidnih teles. Številni vojni invalidi so bili kljub temu, da so bili simbolični žrtveni liki, zmanjšani na družbeno breme, zaradi česar so se morali nenehno boriti za uveljavljanje svojih pravic in ohranitev dostojanstva. Politične stranke in zagovorniška gibanja so občasno obravnavala njihovo stisko, vendar so bila ta prizadevanja zaradi sistemske izključenosti in omejene odgovornosti države pogosto neustrezna. Ta raziskava poudarja dvojno zgodovinsko pojavnost vojnih invalidov kot slavljenih in marginaliziranih osebnosti v družbi. Z osredotočanjem na načine, na katere so se politika, družbeni odnosi in medijske reprezentacije prepletali, da bi oblikovali njihov status, ta prispevek osvetljuje zgodovinske temelje invalidnosti in socialne vključenosti. Vabi k nadaljnjemu razmisleku o tem, kako te zgodovinske zapuščine še naprej vplivajo na današnje pristope do invalidskih pravic, oskrbe veteranov in širše dinamike družbene odgovornosti.

»We want to live, however crippled we are«: the disabled soldiers of the First World War between the two wars

This paper examines the position and treatment of war invalids from the First World War during the interwar period, with a specific focus on the Austro-Hungarian Empire and its successor, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes (later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia) until its occupation in 1941. By integrating theoretical perspectives on disability with historical analysis, the research explores the evolving social, political, and legislative frameworks that shaped the care and rehabilitation of war invalids. The study investigates how state policies and societal attitudes intersected to define the lived experiences of disabled veterans, focusing on their representation in Slovenian newspapers of the time (Slovenec, Slovenski narod, Naprej, Bojevnik, Ljubljanski zvon, Domovina, Glas svobode, Štajerc and Vojni invalid). These media sources reveal the discourses that influenced public and self-perceptions of disabled veterans, as well as the broader societal expectations placed upon them. The findings indicate that war invalids navigated a complex interplay of marginalization, stigmatization, and commodification of their disabled bodies. Despite being symbolic figures of sacrifice, many war invalids were reduced to societal burdens, necessitating repeated struggles to assert their rights and maintain their dignity. Political parties and advocacy movements occasionally addressed their plight, but these efforts were often inadequate in the face of systemic exclusion and limited state responsibility. This paper highlights the double historical occurrence of war invalids as glorified and marginalized figures in society. By focusing on the ways in which policies, social relations and media representations have interwoven to shape their status, this paper illuminates the historical underpinnings of disability and social inclusion. It invites further reflection on how these historical legacies continue to influence today's approaches to disability rights, veterans' care, and the broader dynamics of social responsibility.

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Generacijski prehodi v transnacionalnih skupnostih in vprašanja reprezentacije nacionalne identitete: primer Slovencev v Avstraliji

Prispevek podrobno preučuje, kako se nacionalna identiteta, kultura in transnacionalne vezi razvijajo in prehajajo med različnimi generacijami Slovencev, ki živijo v Avstraliji. Poseben poudarek je na dinamiki medgeneracijskega prenosa kulturnih vrednot, jezika in nacionalne identitete ter na tem, kako se različne generacije prilagajajo življenju v tujini, hkrati pa ohranjajo stike z izvorno domovino. Migranti prve generacije so se v Avstralijo preselili predvsem iz ekonomskih razlogov ali zaradi političnih okoliščin v Sloveniji po drugi svetovni vojni. Za to generacijo je ohranjanje vezi z domovino ključno, kar se kaže v pogostejših stikih s Slovenijo tako prek družinskih vezi kot tudi kulturnih in verskih organizacij. Ti migranti so pogosto ohranjali slovenski jezik, organizirali skupnostne dogodke in vzdrževali tesne stike s svojo kulturno dediščino. Slovenske cerkve, društva in šole v Avstraliji so igrali ključno vlogo pri ohranjanju narodne zavesti in skupnosti. Pri naslednjih generacijah, predvsem pri otrocih in vnukih teh migrantov, pa pride do sprememb. Druga generacija, ki je rojena ali odrasla v Avstraliji, pogosto doživlja močan proces asimilacije v avstralsko družbo. Čeprav ohranjajo določene povezave s Slovenijo, te vezi pogosto postanejo manj intenzivne, še posebej v smislu jezika in aktivnega sodelovanja pri slovenskih kulturnih dogodkih. Vpliv domače kulture staršev pogosto zbledi, saj se mlajše generacije bolj povezujejo z avstralsko družbeno realnostjo in identiteto. Prispevek izpostavlja tudi pomembnost izobraževalnih, kulturnih in verskih institucij, ki prispevajo k ohranjanju slovenske identitete med mladimi. Slovenske šole, ki ponujajo jezikovne tečaje in izobraževanje o slovenski kulturi, ter slovenska društva so ključna orodja za spodbujanje zanimanja med mlajšimi generacijami. Vendar pa se soočajo z izzivi, saj je zanimanje mlajših vse manjše zaradi hitre integracije v avstralsko okolje. V prispevku se torej pokaže, da so transnacionalne vezi skozi generacije vedno bolj krhke, vendar še vedno prisotne, zlasti prek organiziranih oblik ohranjanja slovenske kulture in jezika ter aktivnega delovanja posameznikov v skupnosti. Prispevek poudarja pomen skupnostne podpore, ki pomaga ohranjati kulturno identiteto Slovencev v Avstraliji skozi čas, in opozarja na najrazličnejše identifikacije, ki v posameznih generacijah odigrajo pomembno vlogo in s tem pomenijo reprezentacijo nacionalne identitete posameznikov.

Generational transitions in transnational communities and issues of national identity representation: the case of Slovenes in Australia

This paper examines in detail how national identity, culture and transnational ties develop and transition between different generations of Slovenes living in Australia. Particular emphasis is placed on the dynamics of intergenerational transmission of cultural values, language and identity, and how different generations adapt to life abroad while maintaining ties to their homeland. First generation migrants moved to Australia mainly for economic reasons or because of the political circumstances in Slovenia after the Second World War. For this generation, maintaining ties with their homeland is crucial, which is reflected in more frequent contact with Slovenia, both through family ties and through cultural and religious organisations. These migrants have often preserved the Slovenian language, organised community events and maintained close contact with their cultural heritage. Slovenian churches, associations and schools in Australia played a key role in maintaining national consciousness and community. However, in the next generations, especially among the children and grandchildren of these migrants, a change is taking place. The second generation, born or raised in Australia, often experience a strong process of assimilation into Australian society. Although they retain some ties to Slovenia, these ties often become less intense, especially in terms of language and active participation in Slovenian cultural events. The influence of parents' home culture often fades as younger generations become more connected to Australian social reality and identity. The paper also highlights the importance of educational, cultural and religious institutions that contribute to the preservation of Slovenian identity among young people. Slovenian schools, which offer language courses and education about Slovenian culture, as well as Slovenian associations are important instruments for awakening the interest among the younger generations. However, they face challenges as the interest of younger people is declining due to rapid integration into the Australian environment. The paper thus shows that transnational ties have become increasingly fragile over the generations, but are still present, especially through organised forms of preserving Slovene culture and language, and through the active engagement of individuals in the community. The paper emphasises the importance of community support in preserving the cultural identity of Slovenes in Australia over time and draws attention to the various identifications that play an important role in each generation and thus constitute the national identity of the individuals.

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Narratives of Memories and Trauma in Fantasy

Fantasy literature, though often seen as a form of escapism, does more than that when it comes to engaging with the real world; especially considering its exploration of politics, trauma, and memory. Far from being detached from reality, the genre frequently incorporates political situations and historical events, leaving the connection between the real and the fantastic to become a deeper symbiotic relationship that allows fantasy to further address important societal issues. Politics and fantasy form a partnership that allows authors to represent real-world events and issues through symbolic and representative means. In doing so, the genre serves not only as an escape but also as a reflection and critique of the world from which it arises. It being a reflection of the real world, each and every aspect within a fantasy world, directly or indirectly, is inspired from real life events and politics. Moreover, trauma narrative and memory studies work together within literature writings and contribute as elemental themes in the genre's worldbuilding and thematic plots. Memory studies in the context of literature and literary studies, relate directly to using memory as a tool in the written form to remember and recall on the past. Therefore, memories are a great assisting literary tool when it comes to fantasy worldbuilding; by allowing the fictional realms to develop their own cultures, histories, and socio-political perspectives. Fantasy becomes a vehicle for processing and representing trauma, in addition to becoming a rather powerful lens through which the impact of historical and political events can be further explored.

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Mutual Engagement of Academia and Heritage Practice in Project-Based Safeguarding Activities: Opportunities and Challenges

Although researchers' contribution to safeguarding intangible cultural heritage is generally recognised as positive, it can also give rise to different challenges as academic community's agendas might differ from those of heritage communities, and their interests might diverge. In this regard, it is not surprising that critical and analytical approaches are often viewed sceptically by heritage practitioners for being detached from on-the-ground realia, as theorists behind them do not face the challenges of actual implementation. Yet, the rise of engaged scholarship presents an opportunity to reconsider the role of scholars and to scrutinise whether their active involvement can narrow the gap between academia and the real world in the heritage field. Project-based activities are a common format of heritage practitioners' work that has recently become an integral part of academia as well. In this paper, I will draw on my fieldwork experience as a research team member of an international project on living heritage and sustainable development in the Nordic and Baltic countries, and Poland. Relying on the insider's perspective complimented with the data collected using traditional ethnographic methodologies (i.e., participant observation, interviewing), I will explore existing modes of cooperation between scholars and heritage practitioners on different levels, reflecting on the opportunities and challenges they entail. Moreover, I will examine further possibilities of developing a transdisciplinary framework to facilitate mutual contributions of scholars and heritage practitioners to the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage.

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Kritika prevladujoče kliničnopsihološke paradigme in prakse

Fragmentaren način klinične obravnave – ločenost diagnostičnih in terapevtskih postopkov –, ki izhaja iz funkcijske in hierarhične organizacijske strukture zdravstvenih ustanov, je postal še izrazitejši s kliničnim pristopom, imenovanim z dokazi podprta medicina (angl. *evidence-based medicine*). V osemdesetih letih prejšnjega stoletja so ga začeli promovirati klinični epidemiologi, ki imajo od tedaj s svojimi raziskavami vse večji vpliv na klinično prakso. Ideologijo in metodologijo z dokazi podprte prakse (v tem primeru psihoterapije) je prevzelo tudi Ameriško psihološko združenje (APA). Gre za promocijo in uporabo zgolj terapevtskih postopkov, za katere se je v kliničnih raziskavah, izvedenih na podlagi predpisane metodologije in kriterijev, izkazala posebna »učinkovitost«. Tako so vse psihoterapevtske modalitete, ki dosegajo ta merila, zgolj oblike kratkotrajnih vedênjsko-kognitivnih postopkov (pridobivanja uvida in spreminjanja vedênja). V okviru psihiatrične administracije psihotropnih zdravil in z vidika zdravstvenega menedžmenta so ti procesi dojeti kot najučinkovitejši (namesto najkvalitetnejši) načini »zdravljenja« duševnih motenj in težav. Zagovarjali bomo, da so tovrstne behavioristične procedure dejansko zgolj redukcija psihoterapevtske teorije in prakse na podporno psihoterapijo, ki se osredotoča predvsem na (začasno) lajšanje simptomov, in (re)edukacijo v obliki »kognitivnega prestrukturiranja«, pogojevanja ter predpisovanja zaželenega vedênja. Psihoterapevtski in diagnostični procesi tako potekajo v skladu s psihoterapevtovo normativno predstavo o tem, »kako je treba živeti«, torej kako razumeti samega sebe, socialne odnose, svoje vedênje, doživljanje, svet okoli sebe in svoje mesto v družbi. Cilj pa je optimizacija posameznikovega delovanja v dani družbeni stvarnosti. Pod vprašaj postavljamo znanstveno utemeljenost in legitimnost postopkov kliničnopsihološkega ocenjevanja in psihiatrične diagnostike. Oboje temelji na družbeno konstruiranih in udejanjanih ločnicah, kot so normalno/abnormalno, funkcionalno/disfunkcionalno, sprejemljivo/nesprejemljivo, zdravo/nezdravo, prilagojeno/neprilagojeno/deviantno (vedênje in doživljanje). Na tej podlagi trdimo, da sta kliničnopsihološka in psihiatrična diagnostika dejansko v funkciji vzpostavljanja in konformističnega uveljavljanja prevladujočega pravnega in socialnega normativnega okvira in standardov, kar pa presega prej nakazano znanstveno (ne)utemeljenost, namen (zdravljenja) in pooblastila. Tradicionalno – že od Pinela, očeta moderne institucionalne psihiatrije, ki je denimo uvedel pojem moralne blaznosti, dalje – postopki strokovnjakov s področja duševnega zdravja ne služijo zgolj lajšanju duševnega trpljenja osebe, temveč tudi kot mehanizmi in instrumenti socialne eksaminacije in nadzora (kar Foucault imenuje biopolitika). To poteka s pomočjo orodij psihološkega detektiranja, sankcioniranja in prisilne adaptacije v obliki normalizacije posameznikovega delovanja, njegove osebnosti, doživljanja, čustvovanja in mišljenja.

A critique of the prevailing paradigm and practise of clinical psychology

The fragmentation of clinical care – the separation of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures – resulting from the functional and hierarchical organisational structure of healthcare institutions has been exacerbated by the clinical approach known as evidence-based medicine (EBM). This was first propagated in the 1980s by clinical epidemiologists, whose research has since had an increasing influence on clinical practise. The ideology and methodology of evidence-based practise (in this case psychotherapy) has also been adopted by the American Psychological Association (APA). This is the promotion and application of only those therapeutic procedures that have been shown to be particularly 'effective' in clinical research, based on a predetermined methodology and criteria. Thus, all psychotherapeutic modalities that meet these criteria are merely forms of short-term behavioural-cognitive processes (knowledge acquisition and behaviour change). In the context of psychiatric administration of psychotropic drugs and from a health management perspective, these procedures are seen as the most effective (rather than the highest quality) methods of 'treating' mental disorders and problems. It is argued that such behaviourist procedures are in fact merely a reduction of psychotherapeutic theory and practise to supportive psychotherapy, focusing primarily on the (temporary) relief of symptoms on the one hand and (re)education in the form of "cognitive restructuring", conditioning and prescription of desired behaviour on the other. The psychotherapeutic and diagnostic processes are thus based on the psychotherapist's normative idea of 'how one should live', i.e. how one should understand oneself, one's social relationships, one's behaviour, one's experiences, the world around one and one's place in society. The aim is to optimise the functioning of the individual in a given social reality. The scientific validity and legitimacy of clinical psychological assessment and psychiatric diagnostic procedures are called into question. Both are based on socially constructed and enforced distinctions such as normal/abnormal, functional/dysfunctional, acceptable/unacceptable, healthy/unhealthy, adapted/maladapted/deviant (behaviour and experience). On this basis, we argue that clinical psychological and psychiatric diagnosis in fact has the function of establishing and conformistically enforcing the prevailing legal and social normative framework and standards, which goes beyond the above-mentioned scientific (in)validity, (treatment) purpose and justification. Since Pinel, the father of modern institutional psychiatry, who introduced the concept of moral insanity, for example, the procedures of mental health professionals have traditionally served not only to alleviate a person's mental suffering, but also as mechanisms and instruments of social control and governance (what Foucault calls biopolitics). This is done through the instruments of psychological recognition, sanctioning and coercive adjustment in the form of normalisation of the individual's functioning, personality, experience, feelings and thinking.

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From Admirers to Participants: Shaping New Social Spaces through Korean Influence

Korean media society offers a groundbreaking framework to explore the evolving dynamics of interaction and emotional well-being through digital innovation. By utilizing advanced communication platforms and AI-driven tools, it fosters "one-and-a-half-sided parasocial relationships," a concept that blends traditional one-sided admiration with interactive engagement. Fans and fandoms, traditionally seen as passive admirers, are now becoming active participants, seeking meaningful connections through digital tools and mediated spaces. This transformative communication model influences social spaces worldwide, reshaping interpersonal dynamics and fostering emotional support. Korean society's innovative use of these tools redefines the boundaries of connection, introducing new perspectives on how mediated interactions impact mental health and social belonging. A pivotal shift occurs as fandoms actively engage with creators, transitioning from admiration to participation. This reimagining of social spaces demonstrates the potential of digital tools and AI to cultivate a deeper sense of community and redefine relationships. These dynamics highlight the emotional and social influence of Korean media practices, illustrating how they bridge cultural and geographic divides to foster inclusive global narratives. This theoretical proposal examines how these mediated interactions transform relationships and collective experiences, offering valuable insights into the interplay between media consumption, identity, and mental health in an increasingly interconnected world.

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Vpliv različnih metodoloških pristopov oblikovanja loga na uspešnost prenosa atributov korporacijske znamke

Namen prispevka je predstaviti raziskovalno nalogo, ki preučuje vpliv različnih metodoloških pristopov oblikovanja loga na uspešnost prenosa atributov korporacijske znamke ter se osredotoča na problematiko razkoraka med strateškimi in kreativnimi procesi pri oblikovanju logov in, posredno, korporativnih identitet. To problematiko, ki jo izpostavljajo številni avtorji, vključno z Gonzalesom, Valom, Jutelom in Iriartem (2016), običajno spremlja popačenje med tem, kar znamke želijo komunicirati, in tem, kako so dejansko percipirane s strani ciljnih javnosti. Posledica navedenih kontradiktornosti so slabši poslovni rezultati in prehitro propadanje samih znamk, čemur smo bili priča tudi v Sloveniji v zadnjih desetletjih. V središču te ambivalentnosti se nahaja ključni označevalec znamke – logo. Kot navaja Milton Glaser, prav logo predstavlja "vhod" v znamko in je zato najhitrejše komunikacijsko orodje za odklepanje asociacij, ki so z njo povezane (Wheeler, 2014). Podobno trdijo tudi Simoes (2005, v Das in Van Hoof, 2015) in drugi, ki loge vidijo kot najbolj oprijemljive vidike korporativne identitete, saj ti prvenstveno odražajo kulturo podjetja in njegove temeljne vrednote. Kreativni procesi oblikovanja loga, kot poudarja Machade (2015), zato zahtevajo sistematičen pristop, ki omogoča povezovanje strateških in kreativnih elementov ter s tem preseganje omenjenega razkoraka. Pričujoča empirična raziskava z aplikacijo triadnega semiotičnega modela Charlesa S. Peircea, apliciranega na sodobne identitetne modele, predvsem na model Johna M. T. Balmerja analizira tri segmente znakotvornega procesa: sintaktičnega, semantičnega in pragmatičnega, na vzorcu 30 slovenskih korporacijskih logov, oblikovanih po letu 1991. Z analizo različnih dejavnikov oblikovanja in transferja atributov vrednot raziskava prepoznava značilne statistične razlike med različnimi metodološkimi pristopi oblikovanja logov.

The impact of different methodological approaches to logo design on the successful transfer of corporate brand attributes

The aim of this paper is to present a research thesis that examines the impact of different methodological approaches of logo design on the successful transfer of corporate brand attributes and focuses on the issue of the gap between strategic and creative processes in logo design and, indirectly, corporate identities. This problem, highlighted by a number of authors including Gonzales, Val, Jutel and Iriarte (2016), is usually accompanied by a distortion between what brands want to communicate and how they are actually perceived by target audiences. These contradictions result in poorer business results and a premature decline of the brands themselves, as we have seen in Slovenia in recent decades. At the heart of this ambivalence is the central signifier of the brand - the logo. As Milton Glaser argues, it is the logo that represents the "entrance" to the brand and is therefore the quickest communication tool to unlock brand associations (Wheeler, 2014). Similarly, Simoes (2005, in Das and Van Hoof, 2015) and others see logos as the most tangible aspects of corporate identity, as they primarily reflect a company's culture and core values. Creative logo design processes, as Machade (2015) points out, therefore require a systematic approach that allows for the integration of strategic and creative elements, thus bridging the aforementioned gap. The present empirical study, applying Charles S. Peirce's triadic semiotic model to contemporary identity models, in particular John M. T. Balmer's model, analyses three segments of the sign-making process: syntactic, semantic and pragmatic, on a sample of 30 Slovenian corporate logos designed after 1991. By analyzing various design factors and the transfer of value attributes, the research identifies significant statistical differences between different methodological approaches to logo design.

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Ideologies in Media: Corpus Analysis of International Media Discourse on Elections in Serbia

Media discourse surrounding elections is often imbued with ideological messages, reflecting the political divisions often most emphasized at the time. The elections in Serbia are just one of many examples of social polarization, as observed through the language and narratives present in public conversations, media coverage, and social media platforms. This study specifically examines the ideological messages within the media coverage of the elections in Serbia, focusing on two contrasting media outlets: the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the Russian media outlet RBC (RosBusinessConsulting). The methodological framework is a combination of corpus linguistics and critical discourse analysis, a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods. The analysis is conducted using LancBox X, a software developed at Lancaster University, which facilitates a detailed examination of linguistic patterns and ideological undercurrents. The results indicate that both the BBC and RBC carry distinct ideological positions, although the stance of RBC is more overtly expressed. This clarity highlights the different ways in which media can shape public perception and influence political discourse. All in all, this methodological framework has demonstrated its usefulness for researching ideologies in media discourse. Taking into account the possibilities of corpus analysis regarding the scope of content that this type of analysis can cover, it is recommended to expand the corpus to more media outlets from various countries, as well as to conduct a comparative analysis of different elections in Serbia or in other countries around the world. Such research would not only enhance our understanding of media influence but also contribute to the broader field of political communication studies.

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From Turtle Island to Palestine: Women's Resistance as a Practice of Care

The socio-political conjuncture of the here and now can be defined as a profound systemic crisis. For more than a year we have been witnessing a livestream of genocide in Gaza and an acceleration of state repression worldwide. Throughout recorded human history, manyfold similar instances of oppression have been met with fierce resistance. Not infrequently, it was, in fact, women have been at the forefront of organized popular resistance, as well as individual, everyday resistance. Both forms of resistance required courageous imagination and creativity. Thus, the crisis at hand requires a more radically honest and historically grounded reflection on modes of resistance expressive of different spatial and temporal configurations which can be politically instructive. In doing so, I draw upon the practical-analytical legacy of David Graeber, who articulated that 'imagination and creativity are always the ultimate source of power'. With that in mind, I examine the ways in which women have resisted oppression from early modern capitalism to the present day. My intention is to illuminate the formation of specific class and gender regimes of labor exploitation and oppression – both products of and producers of primitive accumulation in Europe and the colonies. Furthermore, the goal is to examine how colonial powers adjusted their mechanisms of oppression and exploitation through creation of novel and violent forms of racialized and gendered/sexualized social relations of super-exploitation. Contrary to popular understanding, the violence of enslavement and colonization was frequently met with fierce and imaginative resistance. Therefore, in examining women's resistance in various ways, I intend to show that behind these acts of resistance, regardless of the consequences, lies a deep and genuine care. Thus, the hypothesis is that acts of everyday resistance preformed individually or collectively, from Turtle Island to Palestine are acts of care.

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Telecare acceptance among informal carers of older people: Extending the technology acceptance model

The global rise in life expectancy has increased the prevalence of chronic health conditions, underscoring the vital role of informal carers in supporting older adults. These carers face numerous challenges, including reduced leisure time, loss of personal freedom, lifestyle changes, financial strain, and declining health. Telecare, encompassing various assistive technologies for older adults and their carers, offers potential solutions for enabling aging in place. However, its adoption remains limited, with low implementation readiness and inadequate user acceptance highlighting the need for further research. While technologies such as personal emergency alarms and mobility-related devices have been extensively studied across various populations, their acceptance among informal carers is underexplored. Existing research often overlooks the unique needs and circumstances of informal carers, which are critical to understanding slow adoption rates. Applying the Technology acceptance model (TAM), this doctoral research addresses this gap by developing a comprehensive conceptual model tailored to informal carers of older people. The study integrates insights from caregiving frameworks and TAM, focusing on contextual factors that influence telecare acceptance. These include carers' burden, technological optimism, awareness of telecare, and care recipients' perceptions of such technologies. The model aims to explain how these factors shape informal carers' intention to use telecare. To empirically test the proposed model, a large-scale survey will be conducted among informal carers aged 40 and above actively providing unpaid care to older (65+) family member(s) at home due to illness, disability, or frailty over the last 6 months. By incorporating contextual factors informed by qualitative studies, this research enhances the applicability of TAM in informal care settings. The findings aim to address critical gaps in technology acceptance research, contributing to a deeper understanding of informal carers' perspectives and promoting more effective integration of telecare in home-based care practices.

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Terms and Concepts as Complex Socio-Cultural Constructs

This paper argues for a shift in defining and analyzing the general cultural specificity of language by applying frame semantics and discourse linguistics. Traditional contrastive lexicographic and terminological approaches often prioritize generalized definitions devoid of cultural nuance and neglect the embeddedness of concepts within unique social and cultural systems of reference, which according to Geerarts (2006), however, serves as an indispensable criterion for semantic analysis. By contrast, a frame-semantic approach underscores how knowledge structures surrounding concepts are activated through discourse, dynamically modeling their semantic fields (Spitzmüller & Warnke, 2011) through functional structural constituents, which depict the recursiveness and relationality of conceptual elements (Varga, 2020). By reflecting distinct socio-cultural narratives, this approach enables a deeper exploration of cultural specificity in concepts by presenting them as cognitive and communicative constructs, leading to variations not just in lexical and terminological definitions but in the unique building blocks of knowledge segments. This paper therefore calls into question the structuralist perspectives on language, arguing that such frameworks do not adequately account for the complex epistemic dimensions of semantics. A discourse-based frame-semantic model, on the other hand, reveals how semantic fields emerge as products of discourses, diverging significantly from universalist tendencies in language description and allowing for a new stance on the perception of equivalence in cross-cultural contexts. By shifting focus from static definitions to dynamic frames, this approach advances our understanding of cultural specificity in language, offering practical insights for intercultural communication, localization, and translation studies. This will be exemplified by English, French and German terms from various subject areas.

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Transhumanism, theosis and positive psychology: technological, spiritual, and mental approaches to self-transcendence

The desire for self-transcendence is a natural part of human nature, but the paths to achieving it are varied. In today's context, "transhumanism" refers to innovative technologies designed to enhance human intellectual, physical, and psychological capabilities beyond their natural limits. While these transhumanist technologies can significantly improve human abilities, often at a relatively low monthly subscription fee, they may also hinder personal growth. In contrast, Hesychasm—the Eastern Christian standard for spiritual life—advocates for a "narrow path" of asceticism, prayer, and a faith-centered existence. This approach aids individuals in overcoming their weaknesses and developing their strengths, ultimately guiding them toward theosis, which represents the highest level of self-transcendence and unity with God. Positive psychology is a modern field that aims to promote happiness and well-being, similar to transhumanism. However, it focuses on cultivating virtues, empathy, and altruistic behaviour, which closely align with the Christian perspective. Within positive psychology, self-transcendence is viewed as the ultimate step in human development and signifies the pinnacle of life fulfilment. Thus, these three approaches—transhumanism, Hesychasm, and positive psychology—share the common goal of ST in technological, spiritual, and mental forms. While transhumanism and positive psychology have similar objectives of happiness and well-being, Hesychasm and positive psychology both direct towards virtuous behaviour. In my presentation, I explore these three dimensions of ST, examining the correlations among their aims and tools while also critiquing the transhumanist approach, which undermines many principles of human transformation based on sustained and intensive self-improvement.

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Metanarrative and Ethical Dimensions of Autofiction

In recent times social sciences and humanities have experienced a "narrative turn" to which contemporary fiction has responded in a sensational way by reflecting on how different kinds of narratives can affect and shape our lives. In this 'narrative turn' we are witnesses of the emergence of new genres in literature which are formed out of the mutation of already existing ones, among them there is the genre known as autofiction, which is a blending between autobiography and fiction and has the focus on finding one's own narration. Metanarrative, on the other hand, has the focus on self-reflexivity, paying attention not only to the narration of narratives themselves, but the cultural processes that have helped creating a narrative sense-making, and the impact that the narratives have on ourselves, this is particularly salient in metanarrative autofiction. This metanarrativity is directly linked to another turn in literature known as the ethical turn, which emphasizes the responsibility a narrator has towards the reader. By paying attention to theoretical aspects from literary critics, particularly Martha Nussbaum's work on narrative empathy and moral philosophy, as well as Hana Meretoja's theories on the ethics of storytelling, the present article is an attempt to unfold how metanarrative texts beside merging facts and fiction also faces the reader with ethical implications of narration. Through close readings of contemporary autofiction, this article will argue that metanarrative autofiction, as a new genre, not only challenges traditional ways of reading the novel, but also leaves space for discussion on more nuanced ethical engagement with personal and cultural narratives which help us understand ourselves and the other better.

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Contemporary Challenges in Teaching: Opportunities, Limitations, and the Importance of Applying AI in High School Literature Classes

Life in modern society, during the fourth industrial revolution, where technologies are so integrated into everyday life that they are perceived as extensions of our physical senses, demands that the educational process adapt to the new trends in technological development. It must also prepare students for work and functional living in a constantly evolving, technology-driven world. The teacher's role, within the legal and pedagogical-methodological framework, is to introduce the motivated and purposeful use of modern technologies into classroom practice, providing students with personalized learning experiences that not only aim at achieving specific subject outcomes but also foster the development of key competencies. Teachers must guide students in critically and ethically engaging with technology, showing them how to apply it to solve problem-based tasks across various subjects. Therefore, the goal of this paper is to explore and draw conclusions about the benefits and limitations of using AI in the interpretation of poetry in high school. We aim to highlight the existence of a legal and pedagogical framework for the integration of AI into the educational process and demonstrate how this can address the challenges of modern teaching. Additionally, we want to emphasize how it helps bridge the generational gap between students and teachers, enhances students' digital competencies, and supports their continuous preparation for life and work in the 21st century. Through examples of student and teacher activities in classes where the interpretation of lyrical poems, written by Serbian modernist and postmodernist authors, is facilitated by AI, we intend to illustrate both the strengths and weaknesses of using chatbots in literature classes while also emphasizing the importance of their application in the modern classroom.

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Language and Literature as Reflections of Society: Derrida's Rams Uninterrupted Dialogue - Between Two Infinities, the Poem

In a rapidly changing world, to establish "an interdisciplinary dialogue that addresses the areas of society that significantly influence and shape it, while pointing to the current problems we face collectively and globally" could prompt one think of the nature of areas that significantly influence and shape society. Just as importantly, could these current problems be called constant, continual, and continuous, or in other words, timeless and universal as societies carry on through time? What is understood by collectively and globally on each, individually? Throughout times, language of literature has been identified as a mirror of human experience, and its criticism, a criticism of life itself. And, frequently, by different means, any innovation in art and science has established an attempt of deconstructing dialogues and carrying them forward. Poetry, being probably one of the most undervalued genres by audience, constantly proves its permanence and power nevertheless in being identified with language and human mind in its most sublime state, hence, on this paper, I intend to explore and interpret Derrida's external and internal dialogue, the question of narrative as an interpretation of life, and his deconstruction of Paul Celan's poem Great Glowing Vault. Through Derrida's deconstructive prism one could see how Celan's language-literature, specifically his last line of the poem "The world is gone, I must carry you" becomes a space where meaning is deferred, where silence could be as meaningful as speech, and where the attempt to establish a dialogue about what we encounter - what Derrida refers to in German as "Unheimlichkeit" or the unrepresentable and at times the untranslatable reveals both the necessity and the limit of language - infinities, in the face of immense personal and public conflicts, internal and outside conflicts. This also unveils how the very element of reading, language and literature, is its "infinite process", where to think, and to weigh, do not mean to isolate - but to carry, to carry in oneself and carry upon oneself the other, hence world, where beginning and end, birth and death bring us together, not apart.

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Bridging participatory research elements and the walkthrough method to explore adolescents' experiences on social media

This study presents an application of a participatory walkthrough method (PWM) as an innovative approach for exploring adolescents' experiences on social media, focussing on the topic of morality. The method was developed based on the principles of participatory paradigm combined with the element of walkthrough method. Originally designed by software engineers to analyse and refine program codes for enhanced usability, the walkthrough method has recently been adapted to examine cultural and social practices, as well as ideologies mediated by digital applications. In our study, this concept was reimagined to allow researchers to "walk with" adolescents through their social media experiences. Aligned with the participatory approach, adolescents took on an active role of co-researchers in the study. Over a period of three weeks, they explored their social media environments for immoral content and documented their findings using a specially designed data collection form. This process involved generating a variety of qualitative data, including written reports, photos, and video recordings. The validity of the PWM was evaluated by comparing the data it generated with findings obtained through other established qualitative methods, such as open-ended questionnaires. The results demonstrated that while the data collected through both approaches shared similarities, the PWM led to more diverse and concrete insights. Additionally, new important information was uncovered, showing added value of the method. The added value of the method was also recognised through the insight into adolescents' use of social media before and after encountering immoral content, as well as the role of social media affordances in shaping their experiences. A further evaluation of the method was conducted through debriefing interviews with adolescents after the data collection phase. These interviews provided valuable feedback and recommendations for refining the method in future applications. Our study highlights usefulness of the PWM as an innovative and promising method for researching and understanding adolescents' social media experiences.

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Letargičnost bivanjske in pripovedne (ne)zmožnosti: postmoderni subjekt v romanih Gašperja Kralja

V hitro spreminjajočem se svetu je ena od prepoznavnih potez postmodernega pripovednega subjekta v sodobnem slovenskem romanu njegova paradoksalna statičnost, iz katere se rojevata tako bivanjska kot pripovedna (ne)zmožnost. Prispevek se v teoretičnem delu osredotoči na koncept postmodernega subjekta, ki ga opredeljuje fluidnost osebne identitete, vse bolj egoistični in narcisoidni jaz, iz njega izhajajoča potreba po prvoosebni pripovedi, in postmoderni spleen kot posebna oblika (duševne, čustvene, bivanjske itn.) brezbrižnosti in omrtvičenosti. Letargičnost bivanjske in pripovedne (ne)zmožnosti je nato analizirana na primeru dveh romanov Gašperja Kralja, Rok trajanja (2016) in Škrbine (2020), kjer je izražena na dveh ravneh – vsebinski in narativni. Romaneskna letargičnost v romanih rezonira s tematikami smrti, starizma, brezbrižnosti in dolgočasja, spolno zavrtostjo, neartikuliranostjo travm ter občutij in/ali z ustvarjalno (ne)zmožnostjo. Vsebinska raven romanov se osredotoča na subjektovo nezmožnost do aktivne življenjske drže, saj se ta pri vztrajnem (samo)osmišljanju življenja in samega sebe pasivno prepušča silnicam zunanjih akterjev. Z zupanovskim pridihom obarvano brezciljno beganje zdolgočasenega moškega subjekta izgublja vsakršno subverzivnost vitalističnega (pod)tona in se razceplja bodisi v shizofrene odmeve lastnega pripovednega glasu bodisi v (več)perspektivično dialoškost pri »(samo)stvarjenju« lastne zgodbe. Na narativni ravni se bivanjska in pripovedna (ne)zmožnost navezujeta na vprašanje razmerja med zgodbo in pripovedjo, ki se v duhu žanrskega sinkretizma sprva podrejata spoju klasičnih žanrskih vzorcem. Romana med drugim vsebujeta elemente ljubezenskega, kriminalnega in/ali psihološkega romana, vendar se le-ti v gradaciji pripovedi upogibajo, ironizirajo in mestoma parodirajo. Na ta način postaja žanrska shema le še mesto (samo)osmišljanja fragmentarnosti tako samih pripovednih postopkov kot zunanjega in notranjega sveta subjektov, ki želijo prevzeti polnopraven nadzor nad pripovedjo prav s subverzivnostjo žanrskih lomov in dvomom v koherentnost zgodbenosti. (Samo)potrjevanje osebne identitete je zaznamovano z nezanesljivo pripovedjo, toda prav pisanje paradoksalno postaja poslednja trdna entiteta v disharmoniji sveta. Oblikovanje (osebne) zgodbe postajajo subjektovi identitetni oprimki, čeprav pripovedovalec hkrati z ironizacijo žanra dvomi celo v evokacijsko moč fikcijskosti. Na obeh ravneh predvsem roman Rok trajanja izraža nezmožnost subverzivnega preseganja spolne stereotipnosti in freudovske klišeizacije, s čimer se ujame v lastno kritiko vrstne (ne)zmožnosti.

Lethargy of existential and narrative (in)ability: the postmodern subject in the novels of Gašper Kralj

In a rapidly changing world, one of the recognizable features of the postmodern narrative subject in the contemporary Slovenian novel is its paradoxical staticity, from which both existential and narrative (in)ability occurs. In the theoretical part, the article focuses on the concept of the postmodern subject, which is defined by the fluidity of personal identity, an increasingly egoistic and narcissistic self, which often results in the need for first-person narrative, and the postmodern spleen as a special form of (mental, emotional, existential, etc.) indifference and numbness. The lethargy of existential and narrative (in)ability is then analyzed on the example of two novels by Gašper Kralj, "Rok trajanja" (2016) and "Škrbine" (2020). In the novels it is expressed on the level of content and narrative. The novelistic lethargy in the novels also resonates with the themes of death, ageing, indifference and boredom, sexual inhibition, inarticulateness of traumas or feelings and with creative (in)ability. The content level of the novels focuses on the subject's inability to take an active stance in life, as he passively surrenders to the forces of external actors while persistently making sense of his own life and himself. The aimless wandering of the bored male subject, colored with a "Zupanian" touch, loses any subversiveness of the vitalist (under)tone; it splits into either schizophrenic echoes of his own narrative voice or into (multi)perspective dialogicity while "(self)creating" its story. On the narrative level, existential and narrative (in)ability are related to the question of the relationship between story and narrative, which, in the spirit of genre syncretism, initially submit to the combination of classical genre patterns. The novels contain genre elements of a love, crime and/or psychological novel, however those elements are bent, ironized and sometimes parodied in the gradation of the narrative. In this way, the genre scheme becomes only a place for (self)interpreting the fragmentary nature of both the narrative procedures themselves and the external and internal worlds of subjects. They now want to take full control of the narrative precisely through the subversiveness of genre breaks and through the doubt in the coherence of the story. The (self)affirmation of personal identity is marked by an unreliable narrative, however writing itself paradoxically becomes the last solid entity in the disharmony of the world. The formation of the (personal) story becomes the subject's identity anchors. The narrator, at the same time ironizing the genre, doubts even the evocative power of fiction. On both content and narrative levels, the novel "Rok trajanja" expresses the inability to subversively overcome sexual stereotypes and Freudian clichés, thereby becoming caught up in its own critique of the genre and narrative (in)ability.

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Cyber Diplomacy in Post-Communist Europe: Insights from the 2004 Enlargement Countries

A range of cyber operations is often conducted by foreign intelligence agencies infiltrating systems aiming to gain an information advantage (e.g., Stuxnet malware attack, 2015 hack of US Office of Personnel Management, 2017 NotPetya malware attack, SolarWinds hack). These incidents underscore the pressing need for establishing norms in international law and diplomatic negotiations regarding state behavior in cyberspace. This article argues that diplomacy plays a crucial role in addressing the complexities of cyber espionage operation. Cyber diplomacy is becoming an increasingly significant component of international relations as governments recognize cyberspace as a vital frontier for national security and diplomatic leverage. Ministries of foreign affairs (MFAs) have been responding to these challenges by creating specialized departments to coordinate multilateral efforts and address security threats in the digital realm. This is especially pertinent fot Central and Eastern European countries that joined the European Union in 2004, namely Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. By comparing their approaches, the study provides a comprehensive understanding of their cyber diplomacy frameworks and identifies potential gaps and areas for enhancement. This research is vital for understanding how post-communist countries adapt their foreign policies to contemporary challenges, informing future policy and development and strengthening international cooperative efforts in cybersecurity. All eight countries have identified cyberspace security as a challenge and have set up an entity at their respective MFAs. These departments vary in institutional organizations, size, cooperation with international bodies, and threat perception. Estonia stands out as the only country with a distinct Department for Digital and Cyber diplomacy, functioning as an independent entity. In contrast, other countries house their cybersecurity or cyber diplomacy units within broader departments, often under multilateral affairs. The Baltic states have a more heightened perception of threats related to Russia and engage actively in NATO's Cooperative Cyber Defence Center of Excellence while others tend to have a more reactive and broader threat perceptions.

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Exploring Gender Issues in Selected Works of African Writers

Abstract: This study examines the representation of gender issues in selected works of prominent African writers. Through a critical lens, this research analyzes the portrayal of patriarchal systems, sexism, polygamy, and female empowerment in the works of some selected writers. The paper reveals how these writers challenge harmful traditional practices and societal norms, highlighting the resilience and agency of African women. Gender inequities exist in Africa, notwithstanding efforts made toward achieving gender equality. This study analyzes the intricate interconnections of gender, culture, and power, stressing African women's resistance and the importance of equity. A mixed-methods approach combining qualitative and quantitative data uncovers ingrained sexism, polygamy, and colonialism's enduring consequences on African women's lives. The study investigates the cultural and historical circumstances that promote prejudice against women, encompassing patriarchal structures, harmful traditional behaviors, and socioeconomic inequality. It underlines the important need for gender fairness, acknowledging the complementary strengths of both men and women to promote harmonious and balanced societies. This research paper contributes to the current body of information on gender studies, African feminism, and development. The study's proposals include policy reforms, education and economic empowerment, inclusive decision-making, cultural transformation, and conversation and collaboration between genders. Ultimately, it intends to generate critical discussions and educate evidence-based solutions to promote gender equity and empower African women to fulfill their full potential. It also investigates the cultural and historical factors that sustain gender-based discrimination, including patriarchal regimes, socioeconomic inequality, and limited access to education and healthcare. It illustrates the importance of gender parity, acknowledging that both men and women should promote harmonious and balanced societies.

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Gender identity construction in contemporary Japanese novel: A Narratological Analysis of Works by Kawakami Mieko, Murata Sayaka and Tsumura Kikuko

Literature is not only a medium that conveys stories and meaning about identity and subjectivity, but it is also a field of identity and reality construction. The aim of this paper is to examine and identify the modes and strategies of gender identity construction and representation of identity and reality in three contemporary Japanese novels written by Kawakami Mieko, Murata Sayaka and Tsumura Kikuko. The research strategy will be based on textual analysis, combining content and thematic analysis. The goal of the proposed research methods is to identify characteristic themes and narrative strategies or dominant narrative strategies in selected literary texts, define and interpret their effect (on the reader) in the representation of relationship: literary person – social/cultural (in various aspects) reality, and thus the construction of (non-traditional, hybrid, temporary) gender identities. Qualitative analysis of selected novels will be conducted from the lens of a narratological-theoretical perspective. The analysis will demonstrate that the construction of hybrid, temporal identities as a place of resistance to the traditional, heteronormative and stereotypical gender roles and cultural norms is evident in their works. They created new paradigm for the intimate, social and political life on individual and collective level, and new ways of thinking and living inside and outside the established (hierarchical) structures and spaces of contemporary Japanese society, which is corresponding to changes in the socio-cultural and political context of postmodern Japan in the last two decades.

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Sodelovanje

Prispevek na kratko predstavi različne vidike povezanosti med demokratičnimi inovacijami in populizmom. V literaturi so demokratične inovacije prepoznane kot skupina institucionalnih mehanizmov, ki bi lahko pomagali utrjevati demokracijo. Njihov cilj je povečati vključenost državljanov v politično odločanje in v oblikovanje ter izvajanje javnih politik, krepitev lokalnih skupnosti in zagotavljanje večje legitimnosti obstoječih institucij. Tovrstne politične inovacije so utemeljene na pristopu neposredne ali deliberativne demokracije, kar pomeni, da politične odločitve sprejemajo državljani v procesu posvetovanja v javni sferi. Temeljijo na predpostavki, da je vključenost ljudstva normativno zaželena kot nekaj, kar povečuje legitimnost in demokratično kakovost oblikovanja politik ter preprečuje občutek pomanjkanja odzivnosti, ki pogosto spodbuja populizem. Običajni državljani se pretežno še vedno udejstvujejo zgolj v uveljavljenih oblikah predstavniške demokracije (volitve) in še pri teh je redna udeležba redka. Nedavne raziskave kažejo, da so politično izključeni državljani in tisti s populističnimi stališči, t. i. »populistični državljani«, bolj nagnjeni k podpori in vključenosti v demokratične inovacije. Tovrstni državljani na splošno podpirajo demokratična načela, a so nezadovoljni s prakso demokracije v svojih državah. Vendar povezava med demokratičnimi inovacijami in populizmom še ni popolnoma razložena. Znano je, da tovrstni mehanizmi lahko postanejo tudi predmet manipulacij populističnih voditeljev v smislu proceduralnih instrumentov za uveljavljanje »volje večine« proti zavoram in ravnovesjem liberalnih demokratičnih sistemov ter za izogibanje »uveljavljenim« političnim strankam. V prispevku me bo zanimala predvsem povezava med populističnimi državljani in demokratičnimi inovacijami. S pregledom literature bom poskušal odgovoriti na vprašanje, ali t. i. »populistični državljani« bolj sodelujejo v demokratičnih inovacijah kot običajni državljani.

Participation of

This paper briefly outlines the different aspects of the link between democratic innovations and populism. The literature identifies democratic innovations as a group of institutional mechanisms that could help to deepen democracy. They aim at increasing citizens' involvement in political decision-making and in the design and implementation of public policies, strengthening local communities and ensuring greater legitimacy of existing institutions. Such political innovations are based on the approach of direct or deliberative democracy, which means that political decisions are taken by citizens through a process of deliberation in the public sphere. They are based on the assumption that popular involvement is normatively desirable as something that enhances the legitimacy and democratic quality of policy-making and avoids the sense of lack of responsiveness that often fuels populism. »Ordinary« citizens are still predominantly engaged only in established forms of representative democracy (elections), and even in these, regular participation is rare. Recent research shows that politically excluded citizens and those with populist views, the so-called 'populist citizens', are more likely to support and engage in democratic innovations. Such citizens are generally supportive of democratic principles but dissatisfied with the practice of democracy in their countries. It is known that such mechanisms can also be manipulated by populist leaders as procedural instruments to enforce the "will of the majority" against the checks and balances of liberal democratic systems and to circumvent "established" political parties. In this paper, I will be particularly interested in the link between populist citizens and democratic innovations. Through a literature review, I will try to answer the question whether so-called 'populist citizens' are more involved in democratic innovation than »ordinary« citizens.

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Razumevanje poetoloških konceptov Julie Kristeve: Kako razumeva človek, kako umetna inteligenca?

Julia Kristeva v svoji monografiji La révolution du langage poétique na svojevrsten – na psihoanalitičen in dekonstuktivističen – način razlaga zgradbo pesniškega besedila. Njena razlaga zgradbe pesniškega besedila je precej abstraktna, saj gre v prvi vrsti za filozofski (in ne literarno metodološki) konstrukt, ki pa ga je precej težko v popolnosti aplicirati na metodologijo literarne vede. V prispevku bom poskušal predstaviti osnovna načela, ki jih v študiji utemeljuje Kristeva, nato pa bom preizkusil, kako jih lahko literarni teoretik aplicira na samo literarno analizo določenih besedil. Glede na to, da pa novi trendi v humanistiki kotirajo tudi na področje digitalnega, bom preveril, kako si pri uporabi konceptov Kristeve lahko pomagamo z umetno inteligenco (s Chatom GPT), oz. natančneje: preveril bom, kako globoko lahko umetna inteligenca razločuje med plastmi literarnega dela, o katerih teoretizira Kristeva, ki svojo študijo gradi praktično le teoretično, aplikacije na prakso pa ne predlaga.

Understanding the Poetological Concepts of Julia Kristeva: Human vs. Artificial Intelligence

In her monography La révolution du langage poétique, Julia Kristeva offers a unique—psychoanalytic and deconstructivist—interpretation of the structure of poetic texts. Her interpretation is highly abstract, as it is primarily a philosophical construct rather than a methodological literary approach, making it difficult to fully apply to literary methodology. In this paper, I aim to present the basic principles established by Kristeva in her study, followed by an exploration of how these principles might be applied by literary theorists to the analysis of specific texts. Given that new trends in the humanities are increasingly moving towards the digital realm, I will explore how artificial intelligence (Chat GPT) can aid in the application of Kristeva's concepts. More specifically, I will examine how deeply artificial intelligence can distinguish between the layers of a literary work theorized by Kristeva, who constructs her study primarily on a theoretical basis without providing practical applications.

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Ecocriticism in the novel Hummingbird Salamander by Jeff VanderMeer

The subject of this paper is the ecocritical elements in the weird novel Hummingbird Salamander by Jeff VanderMeer. In this novel, the author combines the topics of climate change and ecocriticism with topics of bioterrorism, cyber (in)security and world trade of wild and endangered animals. The main protagonist, who is a seemingly normal and quite ordinary woman and mother, entangles the plot and in the same time becomes involved in the preservance of nature. Her journey is one of self-discovery, as she reflects on her identity and her place in a world on the verge of ecological collapse. In this way, the novel encourages readers to develop their own "eco-identity," by contemplating their relationship with the planet and their role in its preservation. The novel also presents utopian resolutions and explores human possibilites in protecting the Earth, demonstrating how individuals might take action to address environmental crises. Hummingbird Salamander fits within the "new weird" genre by presenting an atmosphere of unease, using elements of the bizarre, surreal, and uncanny. However, it also belongs to the realm of ecocriticism, a field that analyzes literature's treatment of environmental issues. The novel explores the consequences of environmental destruction and climate change using elements of the new weird fiction to raise awareness of the ecological crises we face in the 21st century. Jeff VanderMeer's portrayal of the black market for wild animals reveals how interconnected global trade networks can be weaponized in the service of ecological harm. The novel shows us how new weird fiction addresses the themes of global challenges and incorporates worry for the environment in the literary work. The novel points out the urgency of environmental issues, offering a new weird literary view through which readers can confront the ecological problems threatening the planet.

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Geolocation and Intimacy: Analyzing Dating Practices on Tinder in Ljubljana, Slovenia

This research explores the transformative role of geolocation technology on the mobile dating app Tinder, focusing on its use in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Drawing on a mixed-methods approach that combines a technical walkthrough of Tinder and 26 interviews with users aged 18-32, the study investigates how geolocation shapes digital dating practices, trust, and safety in a specific cultural context. Geolocation is framed as a cultural technique that organizes social interaction by prioritizing physical proximity. Geolocation is not merely a technical feature; it acts as a warranting mechanism, perceived as more objective and reliable than user-generated data. It bridges the gap between the desire for connection and the anxiety surrounding interactions with strangers, helping users balance curiosity and caution. The findings highlight geolocation's dual role in facilitating connection and shaping users' perceptions of their intimate landscapes. Tinder users in Ljubljana typically set their search radius to within 30 kilometers, focusing on potential partners in the city. This enables them to create a mental map of single individuals, and geolocation acts as a navigation tool through the space of potential intimacy, giving users a sense of control over their knowledge of the city's intimate life. However, Ljubljana's small urban context brings unique challenges. Users frequently encounter familiar faces, leading to discomfort but also reinforcing trust due to shared physical and social spaces. Safety concerns, particularly among women, further illustrate geolocation's complexities. Female participants reported engaging in "safety work" to mitigate risks, including verifying profiles via linked social media and sharing date locations with friends. These practices, while protective, expose users to risks of overexposure and harassment, underscoring the paradox of geolocation as both a trust-building and vulnerability-enhancing tool. This research contributes to the understanding of the ways digital dating technologies mediate intimacy, trust, and safety, emphasizing their cultural and gendered dimensions in contemporary digitally mediated lives.

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Manjšina kot instrument kulturne diplomacije države matičnega naroda

Ko govorimo o kulturni diplomaciji, ne moremo mimo njej nadrejenega koncepta mehke moči, ki jo definiramo tudi kot moč privlačnosti oziroma kot značilnost države, ki izhaja med drugim tudi iz njenih kulturnih virov. Kulturna diplomacija je znotraj koncepta mehke moči v drugi polovici 20. stoletja, še posebej po koncu hladne vojne leta 1990, postajala čedalje pomembnejša oblika diplomacije pri doseganju zunanjepolitičnih ciljev države, v praksi pa predstavlja odličen primer udejanjanja mehke moči držav in postaja v mednarodnih odnosih vse bolj pomemben vir ne samo za politično in gospodarsko diplomacijo ampak tudi za kulturno diplomacijo kot vse bolj samostojno dejavnost. Kultura pa je koncept, ki se močno navezuje na narodne manjšine, ki so v sodobnem času pogost akter kulturne diplomacije. Zato je cilj prispevka prikazati in poudariti koncept narodne manjšine kot instrumenta za udejanjanje kulturne diplomacije države matičnega naroda. Tematika se nam zdi pomembna zato, ker sta raziskovanje in konceptualizacija potenciala manjšine kot instrumenta diplomacije in zunanje politike v literaturi pogosto spregledana. V našem raziskovalnem problemu nas zanima, če so manjšinske skupnosti lahko instrument za doseganje zunanjepolitičnih in diplomatskih ciljev države matičnega naroda ter če imajo manjšinske skupnosti potencial, da sodelujejo pri oblikovanju in izvajanju kulturne diplomacije države matičnega naroda. Proces vključitve manjšine v zunanjepolitične in diplomatske interese države matičnega naroda predpostavlja dva predpogoja: a) država matičnega naroda se mora zavedati, da je njena manjšina lahko instrument diplomacije in zunanje politike nasploh; b) manjšina mora občutiti pripadnost tako do države matičnega naroda kot tudi etnično pripadnost. Pri tem nas ne zanima samo njena sposobnost postati instrument kulturne diplomacije države matičnega naroda, ampak tudi potencial, da lahko postane instrument. Eden glavnih ciljev bo oblikovanje enovitega in sinhronega dinamičnega modela odnosa med državo matičnega naroda in manjšino (s pomočjo konceptualizacije in operacionalizacije spremenljivk, ki definirajo tako značilnosti manjšin kot države matičnega naroda). Preverjanje teoretičnega modela in potenciala manjšine bo izvedeno na konkretnem primeru slovenske manjšine na Hrvaškem, kar bo vodilo do popravkov in dopolnitev postavljenega teoretičnega modela.

The minority as an instrument of cultural diplomacy of the country of origin

The exploration and conceptualisation of the potential of the minority as an instrument of diplomacy and foreign policy is often overlooked in the literature. When we talk about cultural diplomacy, we cannot bypass the overarching concept of soft power, which is also defined as the power of attraction, or as a characteristic of a country that derives, among other things, from its cultural resources. Within the concept of soft power, cultural diplomacy became an increasingly important form of diplomacy in the second half of the 20th century, especially after the end of the Cold War in 1990, in the pursuit of a country's foreign policy objectives, and in practice it is an excellent example of the exercise of soft power by states and is becoming an increasingly important resource in international relations, not only for political and economic diplomacy, but also for cultural diplomacy as an increasingly autonomous activity. Culture is a concept that is strongly linked to national minorities, which are a frequent actor in cultural diplomacy in modern times. Therefore, the aim of this doctoral thesis is to present and highlight the concept of national minorities as an instrument for the implementation of cultural diplomacy of the state of the nation of origin. The subject of the dissertation is whether minority communities can be an instrument for achieving the foreign policy and diplomatic goals of the home nation state and whether minority communities have the potential to participate in the formulation and implementation of the cultural diplomacy of the home nation state. The process of minority inclusion in the foreign policy and diplomatic interests of the home nation state presupposes two preconditions: a) the home nation state must be aware that its minority can be an instrument of diplomacy and foreign policy in general; b) the minority must feel a sense of belonging to the home nation state as well as an ethnic belonging. One of the main objectives will be to develop a unified and synchronous dynamic model of the relationship between the home nation state and the minority (through the conceptualisation and operationalisation of the variables that define both the characteristics of minorities and the home nation state). The verification of the theoretical model and the potential of the minority will be carried out through in-depth interviews in the case study of the Slovenian minority in Croatia, leading to corrections and additions to the theoretical model. The dissertation will map a new research sub-field in the field of diplomatic studies, national issues and minority protection.

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Stiske neformalnih oskrbovalcev ljudi z demenco v Sloveniji

Neformalna oskrba ljudi z demenco ima ključno vlogo pri zagotavljanju pomoči ljudem z demenco tako v domačem kot v institucionalnem okolju. Ta oblika oskrbe predstavlja velik izziv za oskrbovalce, saj se soočajo s fizično, čustveno in finančno obremenitvijo. V Sloveniji in drugod so družinski člani pomembni pri oskrbi ljudi z demenco, kar odraža potrebo po večji družbeni podpori za izboljšanje te situacije. Prispevek temelji na raziskovalnih podatkih, zbranih v okviru temeljnega raziskovalnega projekta Dolgotrajna oskrba ljudi z demenco v teoriji in praksi socialnega dela (številka: J5-2567). Glavni cilj prispevka je predstaviti izzive in stiske, s katerimi se soočajo neformalni oskrbovalci oseb z demenco v Sloveniji ter raziskati značilnosti neformalne oskrbe oseb z demenco v primerjavi z mednarodnimi raziskavami. Zaradi demografskih sprememb, staranja prebivalstva in pojavov, ki te spremembe spremljajo, pridobiva neformalna oskrba vse večji pomen tako med raziskovalci kot tudi pri političnih odločevalcih. Podatki za raziskavo vključujejo pet intervjujev z osebami z demenco ter pet intervjujev z njihovimi neformalnimi oskrbovalci, izvedenih v različnih delih Slovenije v času trajanja projekta. Rezultati raziskave so skladni z nekaterimi ugotovitvami mednarodnih študij: neformalno oskrbo oseb z demenco v Sloveniji najpogosteje izvajajo žene in hčere, kar kaže na izrazito spolno razsežnost te vloge. Sogovorniki so poročali o podobnih izzivih kot v drugih državah, zlasti o težavah pri usklajevanju neformalne oskrbe z delovnimi obveznostmi, skrbjo za gospodinjstvo in družino. Poleg tega so izpostavili zahtevnost vloge neformalnega oskrbovalca, pomanjkanje časa zase in intenzivno časovno vpletenost v skrb za osebo z demenco.

Hardships of informal carers of people with dementia in Slovenia

Informal care for people with dementia plays a crucial role in supporting individuals with dementia both in home and institutional settings. This form of care presents significant challenges for caregivers, as they face physical, emotional, and financial burdens. In Slovenia and elsewhere, family members play an essential role in the care of people with dementia, highlighting the need for greater societal support to improve this situation. This paper is based on research data collected as part of the fundamental research project Long-Term Care for People with Dementia in the Theory and Practice of Social Work (project number: J5-2567). The main objective of the paper is to present the challenges and difficulties faced by informal caregivers of people with dementia in Slovenia and to explore the characteristics of informal dementia care compared to international studies. Due to demographic changes, population aging, and associated phenomena, informal care is gaining increasing importance among researchers and policymakers alike. The research data includes five interviews with people with dementia and five interviews with their informal caregivers, conducted in different parts of Slovenia during the project. The research findings align with some conclusions of international studies: informal care for people with dementia in Slovenia is most often provided by wives and daughters, highlighting the pronounced gendered nature of this role. Respondents reported similar challenges to those in other countries, particularly difficulties in balancing informal care with work obligations, household management, and family responsibilities. Additionally, they emphasized the demanding nature of the caregiver role, the lack of personal time, and the intense time commitment required for caring for a person with dementia.

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Novi načini gledanja: transformacija filmske podobe v kontekstu postfilmskega

Od 20. let 19. stoletja, ko je bila po deseturni ekspoziciji posneta prva fotografija, do začetka 21. stoletja, ko je na svetovnem spletu vsako sekundo objavljenih na milijone fotografij in videov, lahko sledimo neslutenemu razvoju vizualne genealogije. Človeštvo je v manj kot dveh stoletjih prehodilo pot od manualne, prek mehanične do digitalne produkcije podob. S konvergenco vseh medijev v digitalno kodo podobno 'usodo' kot slike, glasba in tekst doživi tudi film: postane še en set numeričnih podatkov, ki je na voljo računalniku. Z vseprisotno komputacijo na področju filma prihaja do sprememb v produkciji, distribuciji in razumevanju podob. Koncept filma, kot smo ga poznali in razumeli do sedaj, se spreminja. Nove digitalne medijske tehnologije pomembno (so)oblikujejo dojemanje naše realnosti in pod vprašaj postavljajo tradicionalne koncepte filmskega jezika, strukture, avtorstva in načinov gledanja, ki so bili vzpostavljeni v prvem stoletju filmske zgodovine. Filmi so danes že ustvarjeni kot podatki, kot podatki se pretakajo po internetu, konzumiramo jih prek podatkovnih baz, kot so spletne video platforme, kot podatke pa jih lahko tudi raziskujemo. Od filmskih vse bolj prehajamo v t.i. postfilmske kontekste. Film se od posvečenega objekta, projiciranega v kinodvorani, vse bolj odpira manipulabilnosti. Ena od pomembnejših transformacij, do katere je na tem področju prišlo, se kaže v tem, da film ni več 'zgolj' avdio-vizualni produkt, ki se ga kupuje in prodaja znotraj industrije zabave, ampak je postal tudi pomemben del trga s podatki, saj se prek njegovega stika z občinstvom lahko ekstrahira dodatna vrednost v obliki podatkov. Namen pričujočega prispevka je skozi prizmo tehnološkega razvoja v 21. stoletju obravnavati poglavitne transformacije, ki so se v tem času odvile na področju filma in filmske kulture. Zanimalo nas bo, kako sodobne digitalne medijske tehnologije in z njimi povezani pojavi vplivajo na produkcijo in distribucijo filma, ter predvsem na njegovo recepcijo in refleksijo. Predstavili bomo ključne dejavnike, ki so nas pripeljali do trenutka, ko vstopamo v dobo postfilmskosti, ter pokazali, na kakšen način te spremembe vplivajo na razumevanje in preučevanje filma.

New Ways of Seeing: The Transformation of the Film Image in the Context of the Post-Cinema

From the beginning of the 19th century, when the first photograph was taken after a ten-hour exposure, to the beginning of the 21st century, when millions of photos and videos are published on the internet every second, we can follow the unprecedented development of visual genealogy. In less than two centuries, we have come from manual, through mechanical, to digital production of the images. With the convergence of all media into digital code, film becomes yet another set of numerical data available to the computer. Increased computation in the field of cinema is changing production, distribution, and reflection of images. The concept of film is being modified. New digital media technologies are (co)shaping the perception of our reality and questioning traditional concepts of film language, structure, authorship and modes of seeing that were established in the first century of film history. Today films are created as data, they are circulating through the internet as data, we consume them at online video platforms, and we can research them as data. From the traditional context of film, we are moving into so-called post-cinema context. From a sacred object, projected in a cinema, film is opening up to manipulability. One of the most important transformations that has occurred in this field is, that the film is no longer merely an audio-visual product that is bought and sold within the entertainment industry, but has also become an important part of the data market, his additional value in the form of data can be extracted through its online engagement with the audience. The purpose of this paper is to examine the major transformations that have taken place in the field of film culture through the prism of technological development in the 21st century. We will be interested in how digital media technologies and related phenomena affect the production and distribution of film, and especially its reception and reflection. We will present key factors that have brought us to the moment in which we are entering the era of post-cinema and show how these changes affect understanding and research of film.

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Vzpenjanje po medijski gori: Kritična analiza predstavljanja slovenskih ženskih športnih plezalk v medijih

Športno plezanje je v zadnjih letih pridobilo na priljubljenosti, zlasti po vključitvi v olimpijske igre, kar je privedlo do večje medijske pozornosti. Kljub temu pa še vedno obstaja vprašanje neenakomerne predstavitve ženskih športnic in specifičnih načinov, kako so te prikazane. Namen tega prispevka je raziskati, kako so ženske športne plezalke predstavljene v medijih, pri čemer bomo osvetlili morebitne vzorce ali pristranskosti v prikazovanju njihovih dosežkov, osebnih zgodb in izzivov, s katerimi se soočajo. Študija se bo osredotočila na analizo slovenskih plezalnih medijev, predvsem revije Planinski vestnik, ki pokriva širok spekter gorskih dejavnosti, vključno s plezanjem, saj v Sloveniji trenutno ni medija, ki bi bil izključno posvečen plezanju. Poleg tega bomo preučili tri pretekle slovenske plezalne publikacije (BETA revija, Beta: revija za plezalce in legvane, GRIF), da bi pridobili zgodovinsko perspektivo o tem, kako se je medijska pokritost plezanja spreminjala skozi čas. Osrednja tema prispevka bo vprašanje, ali so dosežki ženskih plezalk enako izpostavljeni kot dosežki moških plezalcev, ali pa se v medijih več pozornosti posveča estetskim vidikom njihove dejavnosti, namesto njihovim tehničnim dosežkom. Prejšnje študije so pokazale, da medijski narativi o ženskih plezalkah pogosto poudarjajo njihove osebne zgodbe in ovire, s katerimi se soočajo, medtem ko moške plezalce pogosteje slavijo zaradi njihovih tehničnih dosežkov in tekmovalnih uspehov. V tem prispevku bom raziskal, ali so te prakse še vedno prisotne v medijskih prikazih ženskih športnic. Namen raziskave je pokazati, kako lahko različni mediji pripomorejo k odpravi spolnih stereotipov v športu in k spodbujanju večje enakosti. S preučevanjem teh vzorcev želimo prispevati k širšim razpravam o vlogi medijev pri oblikovanju družbenih stališč do spola in športa.

Climbing the Media Mountain: A Critical Analysis of the Representation of Slovenian Female Sport Climbers in Media

Sport climbing has become increasingly popular in recent years, especially following its inclusion in the Olympic Games, leading to greater media attention. However, one ongoing issue is the unequal representation of female athletes and the specific ways in which they are portrayed. This paper aims to explore how female sport climbers are represented in media, with a focus on identifying any patterns or biases in the portrayal of their achievements, personal stories, and the challenges they face. The study will primarily examine Slovenian climbing media through Planinski vestnik, a publication that covers a range of mountain activities, including climbing, as there is currently no dedicated climbing media outlet in Slovenia. In the past existed three climbing publications (BETA magazine, Beta: revija za plezalce in legvane, GRIF) which will also be analysed to provide a historical perspective on how media coverage of climbing has evolved over time. A key aspect of the paper will be to assess whether the achievements of female climbers are given equal prominence to those of their male counterparts, or if the media tends to focus more on the aesthetic aspects of their activity rather than their technical accomplishments. Previous studies have suggested that media narratives about female climbers often emphasize personal stories and the obstacles they face, while male climbers are more likely to be celebrated for their technical feats and competitive successes. This paper will investigate whether these trends continue to shape media portrayals of female athletes. Ultimately, this research aims to highlight how various media channels can contribute to challenging gender stereotypes in sports and promoting greater equality. By shedding light on these patterns, the study will engage with broader discussions on media culture and its role in shaping societal views on gender and sports.

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Globalni kratek stik: kriza proizvodnje polprevodnikov kot simptom globalne medpovezanosti in odvisnosti

Delo se skozi študijo primera krize produkcije polprevodnikov v obdobju od leta 2020 do leta 2022 spogleduje z glavnimi izzivi globalizacijskih procesov v svetu, ki je medpovezan, soodvisen in podvržen učinku na daljavo. Globalna kriza, ki je v tem obdobju prizadela tako industrijo kot svet, je vplivala na več kot 160 držav. Študija primera obravnava enega najnaprednejših tehnoloških dosežkov sodobnega časa. Gre za središče mikroprocesorskih čipov in predstavlja ključno komponento vseh elektronskih naprav – polprevodnik. Proces proizvodnje je močno razdrobljen in monopoliziran, vsako odstopanje znotraj procesa pa prinese globalne težave na področju dobavnih verig, tehnološke industrije, mednarodnega trga in gospodarstva ter pri oblikovanju državnih in nacionalnih politik. Omenjena kriza je odraz globaliziranega gospodarstva, v katerem so akterji vedno bolj soodvisni, kot posledica povečanega obsega mednarodnega trgovanja z blagom, storitvami in z delovno silo.

Global short circuit: the semiconductor production crisis as a symptom of global interconnectedness and interdependence

Through a case study of the semiconductor production crisis in the period from 2020 to 2022, the work examines the main challenges of globalisation processes in a world that is interconnected, interdependent and subject to remote impact. The global crisis, which affected both industry and the world during this period, affected more than 160 countries. The case study deals with one of the most advanced technological achievements of modern times. It is the core of microprocessor chips and represents a key component of all electronic devices – the semiconductor. The manufacturing process is highly fragmented and monopolised, and any deviation within the process brings global challenges to supply chains, technology industries, international markets and the economy, as well as national and national policy-making. This crisis is a reflection of a globalised economy in which actors are increasingly interdependent as a result of the increased volume of international trade in goods, services and labour.

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Aporetičnost filozofije: O krizi in napredku filozofije

Štirinajst let po razvpiti razglasitvi Stephena Hawkinga, da je »filozofija mrtva« in da je njeno baklo prevzela znanost, se veda nahaja v nenavadnem položaju. Po eni strani je potreba po kritični refleksiji, ki jo ponuja, velika. Potrjuje jo tudi porast novodobnega sofizma, ki s pomočjo spleta in družabnih medijev dosega v antiki nezamisljiva občinstva. Po drugi strani se veda sooča z institucionalnimi, metodološkimi in vsebinskimi težavami, zaradi katerih v njene spoznavne obete dvomijo tudi mnogi filozofi. Zastavlja se vprašanje, ali in kam veda napreduje. V prispevku obravnavam pojmovanja in možnost filozofskega napredka. Predstavim tako optimistične kot pesimistične interpretacije z različnih področij in smeri filozofije, tako analitične kot kontinentalne. S pomočjo zgodovinskega pregleda pokažem, da so krize, podobne sodobni, ena od stalnic njene zgodovine in da so se pripetile v različnih obdobjih od antike do novega veka. To kriznost razlagam kot neogibno posledico njenih ciljev in metod kot metateoretske veda drugega reda. Disciplinarno kriznost vzporejam z njeno metodološko aporetičnostjo, kakršno srečamo v sokratskih dialogih. Z njo problematiziram globljo dinamiko filozofskega raziskovanja, ki se že pri Platonu praviloma konča na brezpotju, brez razrešitve izvornega problema. Na tem ozadju pod vprašaj postavim razumevanje filozofije kot prvenstveno teoretične, spoznavne, kognitivne vede, ki naj bi pojave opredeljevala pozitivno in tako kot znanost linearno napredovala k popolnejši sliki domnevno objektivnega sveta. Aporetičnost filozofije kliče po raziskovanju alternativnih metafilozofij, ki filozofijo razumejo tudi kot širšo življenjsko prakso, znotraj katere navidezna brezplodnost vede ne bi bila več vzrok za malodušje, temveč produktivno gonilo. Kriza filozofije pokaže potrebo po refleksiji njenih antropoloških predpostavk. Da bi zapopadli njene disciplinarne posebnosti, se zato ne moremo zadovoljiti z njenimi notranjimi samorazlagami, ampak jo moramo preučevati hkrati s preučevanjem človeka kot filozofirajočega bitja. Šele na tej osnovi je mogoče v kriznosti in aporetičnosti prepoznati refleksivno kritičnost, ki filozofijo postavlja nazaj v središče človekovega bivanjskega osmišljanja.

The Aporetics of Philosophy: On the Progress and Crisis of Philosophy

Fourteen years since Stephen Hawking declared philosophy to be dead, its torch of discovery having been taken over by science, the discipline finds itself in a curious place. On one hand, the need for the kind of critical reflection it offers is great, as attested by the rise of contemporary sophists, who have found audiences, unimaginable in antiquity, with the help of the internet and social media. On the other hand, it faces institutional, methodological, and substantive difficulties, which have led even philosophers to doubt its epistemic prospects. They have raised the question whether and whither the discipline is progressing. In this paper, I examine the conceptions and the possibility of philosophical progress. I present both optimistic and pessimistic interpretations from various fields and approaches both analytic and continetal. By way of a historical overview, I show that crises of philosophy, much like the one we face today, are one of the constants of its history from antiquity up to modernity. I show these crises to be an inevitable consequence of its aims and methods as a metatheoretical second-order discipline. I compare its crisis as a discipline with the kind of methodological aporias we find in the Socratic dialogues. Drawing on them, I problematise the deeper dynamic of philosophical investigation, which customarily ended without resolving its initial questions in Plato's works. Against this background, I question the conception of philosophy as a theoretical, cognitive discipline tasked with the positive definition of phenomena and a linear scientific progress towards an ever more perfect understanding of the world. Its aporetic nature calls for the exploration of alternative metaphilosophies which understand philosophy as a broad existential practice, within which the apparent aporias of the discipline are found not to be a cause for despair, but a productive motor. The crisis of philosophy shows a need for the reflection of its anthropological presuppositions. To understand its disciplinary shortcomings, we cannot be satisfied with its internal self-explanations, but must study it in tadem with the study of humans as philosophising creatures. Only against this background can we recognise its crises and aporias as the kind of reflexive criticism that places philosophy back in the center of humans in their efforts to come to terms with their existence.

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A Corpus-Based Study of the Discourse Construction of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the Chinese and American Media Reports

This paper explores the discourse construction of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as represented within Chinese and American mainstream media. The study uses corpus-based Discourse-Historical Approach to compare the nomination and predicative strategies employed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict discourse. In doing so, we used self-built corpus of Chinese media reports on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and a sub-corpus of U.S. media reports. The results of the study reveal that Chinese and American media emphasize different key social actors. Chinese media tend to construct Israel as the 'out-group' and Palestine as the 'in-group', underscoring China's commitment to peace, justice, and a comprehensive, fair, and peaceful resolution of the Palestinian issue. In contrast, U.S. media adopt a more balanced construction of Israel and Palestine as both "in-group" and "out-group" entities but place greater emphasis on the "in-group" image of Israel and the "out-group" image of Palestine, reflecting the U.S.'s clear pro-Israel stance and its diplomatic principles of counterterrorism and upholding international humanitarianism. The study contributes significantly in highlighting the linguistic difference in the discourse construction of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Chinese and American mainstream media.

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Conceptualizing Soft Balancing: The Moldova-Transnistria Question, EU/NATO strategy, and European Geo-Security Issues

Transnistria is a self-proclaimed separatist state within the Southeastern European state of Moldova. While not much has changed in this "frozen conflict" since a 1992 short-lived war, the eastwards expansion of the European Union and NATO has slowly brought Moldova to the attention of Western policymakers. The cornerstone of the separatist cause is the Russian Federation, which serves as Transnistria's protector. Recently, both the EU and NATO have expanded their efforts to address the frozen conflict in Transnistria. Such efforts fall into what could be described as 'soft balancing' actions against Russian influence in the conflict and in Moldova in general. Since this strategy is normally observed in the actions of "weaker" actors, in response to the actions of global or regional powers, this behavior is confusing. Usually, actions of the relatively strong actor(s) reflect this strategy, particularly when the conflict in question is not as comparatively salient for the weaker party. Until recently, however, there has been a lack of desire on the part of the West to seek a resolution to the situation, certainly not enough to consider the instruments of a harder power strategy. Recent developments in Ukraine are demonstrating the flaws in such a strategy. Specifically, the incentives offered to separatist leaders or their Russian backers to change behaviors with soft power application has failed to bear fruit, resulting in EU/NATO accomplishing little to resolve the conflict. A residual effect of this has been, as seen in a recent referendum, a failure to create permanent pro-European consensus in Moldova. They do, however, augment Moldova's ability to adapt to the challenges posed by the conflict and provide a thin veneer against more aggressive Russian ambitions in the region. Given events such as the 2008 war in Georgia, the 2014 annexation of Crimea, as well as the current conflict in Ukraine proper, it is necessary to re-evaluate how a Russia-backed separatist region in Moldova, accused of human rights violations and weapons trafficking, fits into the wider discussion of European geo-security and NATO/West-Russian relations for the foreseeable future.

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Širitev univerze in konflikti z lokalnimi skupnostmi: primer Berkeleyja

Univerze v Združenih državah Amerike so skozi zgodovino doživele več obdobij rasti, pri čemer ima vsako svoje edinstvene značilnosti. Od 80. let 20. stoletja dalje so se univerze vse bolj uveljavljale kot pomembni akterji urbanega razvoja, širile so svoje kampuse v mestna območja, kar je pogosto povzročilo konflikte z lokalnimi skupnostmi. V mestu Berkeley v Kaliforniji je bil ta proces zaznamovan s spremembami v financiranju, povečanjem vpisa študentov in študentk ter z razširitvijo univerzitetne infrastrukture. Te spremembe so ustvarile napetosti med univerzo, mestom in lokalnimi skupnostmi, pri čemer usklajevanje njihovih interesov ostaja trajni izziv. Ta prispevek preučuje kompleksna razmerja moči med univerzo, mestom in lokalnimi skupnostmi v Berkeleyju, pri čemer se osredotoča na inkluzivnost strategij univerze pri njenih trenutnih prizadevanjih za širitev. Raziskava temelji na kvalitativni analizi primarnih in sekundarnih virov, vključno z arhivskimi dokumenti, sporočili za javnost in časopisnimi članki. Analizira strategije, ki jih univerza uporablja za doseganje svojih ciljev, pri čemer raziskava preučuje, v kolikšni meri te strategije upoštevajo in vključujejo potrebe ter perspektive lokalnih skupnosti. Čeprav Univerza v Kaliforniji, Berkeley, svoje strategije širitve predstavlja kot inkluzivne, te pogosto ne upoštevajo v celoti raznolikih potreb in perspektiv lokalnih skupnosti. Posvetovalni procesi pogosto le omejeno vplivajo na sprejemanje odločitev, lokalni doprinosi pa niso vedno vključeni v končne načrte, kar še povečuje napetosti med univerzo in skupnostjo. Študija prispeva k razpravi o vplivu širitve univerz na mesta in lokalne skupnosti, pri čemer analizira izzive usklajevanja institucionalnih ciljev s potrebami okoliškega prebivalstva. S poudarkom na inkluzivnosti strategij širitve ponuja vpogled v to, kako lahko univerze učinkoviteje sodelujejo z lokalnimi skupnostmi pri spodbujanju vključujočega in trajnostnega urbanega načrtovanja. Raziskava prav tako naslavlja vrzeli v razumevanju dolgoročnih posledic takšnih širitvenih procesov in osvetljuje poti za razvoj mest, ki upoštevajo tako institucionalne prioritete kot potrebe skupnosti.

University Expansion and Conflicts with Local Communities: The Case of Berkeley

Universities in the United States have experienced several periods of growth throughout history, each with its own distinct characteristics. Beginning in the 1980s, universities increasingly established themselves as prominent actors in urban development, expanding their campuses into urban areas and often causing conflicts with local communities. In the city of Berkeley, California, this process has been marked by changes in funding, increasing student enrollment, and the expansion of university infrastructure. These developments have created tensions between the university, the city, and local communities, with their coordination presenting an ongoing challenge. This contribution explores the complex power dynamics between the university, the city, and local communities in Berkeley, focusing on the inclusivity of the university's strategies in its current expansion efforts. The research is based on qualitative analysis of primary and secondary sources, including archival documents, press releases, and newspaper articles. It investigates the strategies employed by the university to achieve its goals, examining the extent to which these strategies consider and incorporate the needs and perspectives of local communities. While University of California, Berkeley, frames its expansion strategies as inclusive, these efforts may not fully account for the diverse needs and perspectives of local communities. Consultation processes often have limited influence on decisions, and local input is inconsistently reflected in final plans, contributing to ongoing tensions between the university and the community. This study contributes to discussions on the impact of university expansion on cities and local communities by examining the complexities of balancing institutional goals with the needs of surrounding populations. By focusing on the inclusivity of expansion strategies, it offers insights into how universities can engage more effectively with local communities to promote inclusive and sustainable urban planning. The research also addresses gaps in understanding the long-term implications of such expansions, highlighting pathways for urban development that consider both institutional priorities and community needs.

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Vloga učitelja slovenščine ob vpisu učenca priseljenca v osnovno šolo v Republiki Sloveniji

V slovenski vzgojno-izobraževalni sistem se vpisujejo tudi učenci iz drugih držav. To so učenci priseljenci, za katere je treba ob vpisu v slovensko šolo oblikovati individualni načrt izobraževanja, v katerega so vključeni starši, šola in lokalna skupnost, ki s sodelovanjem omogočajo čim boljše vključevanje otroka v šolsko sredino. Učenec ob vstopu v osnovno šolo spozna slovenščino v treh vlogah, in sicer v vlogi jezika okolja, učnega jezika in učnega predmeta. Omogoči se mu učenje slovenščine kot tujega jezika, ki se lahko izvaja med izvajanjem obveznega programa. Nauči se osnovnih besed, besednih zvez in stavkov za vsakdanjo rabo. Na tak način učencu omogočamo začetno sporazumevanje z vrstniki in učitelji. Slednji imajo pri vključevanju učenca priseljenca pomembno vlogo. So posamezniki, ki naj bi imeli poleg socialnih, metodičnih in didaktičnih kompetenc tudi medkulturne kompetence. Skrbijo torej za vključevanje učenca v novo okolje, prostor in družbo, pri čemer je pomemben njihov pozitiven odnos do jezika in kulture učenca priseljenca. Učitelj slovenščine z učencem priseljencem preživi največ ur v šoli, z njim vzpostavi poseben stik, ga nauči prvih slovenskih besed, sporazumevanja v slovenščini in ga pripravi na proces izobraževanja v slovenskem vzgojno-izobraževalnem sistemu. V prispevku bomo razpravljali o vlogi učitelja slovenščine ob vpisu učenca priseljenca v osnovno šolo v Republiki Sloveniji in njegovi usposobljenosti za poučevanje slovenščine kot drugega in tujega jezika. Izpostavili bomo problem napredovanja učenca priseljenca v drugem oz. tujem jeziku do te mere, da lahko brez težav sledi pouku slovenščine in se je kot učnega predmeta uči enako kot njegovi vrstniki, ki so materni govorci slovenščine ali se je učijo že dlje časa.

The Role of the Slovenian Language Teacher upon the Enrolment of Immigrant Students in Elementary Schools in the Republic of Slovenia

Students from other countries also enrol in the Slovenian educational system. These are immigrant students, for whom an individual education plan must be developed upon their enrolment in a Slovenian school. This plan involves the cooperation of parents, the school, and the local community, ensuring the best possible integration of the child into the school environment. Upon entering elementary school, the student encounters Slovenian in three roles: as the language of the environment, as the language of instruction, and as a school subject. The student is provided with lessons in Slovenian as a foreign language, which can be implemented within the mandatory curriculum. They learn basic words, phrases, and sentences for everyday communication. In this way, the student is enabled to begin communicating with peers and teachers. Teachers play a crucial role in the integration of immigrant students. They are individuals who, in addition to social, methodological, and didactic competencies, should also possess intercultural competencies. Teachers ensure the integration of the student into the new environment, space, and society, where their positive attitude toward the student's language and culture is particularly important. The Slovenian language teacher spends the most hours in school with the immigrant student, establishing a special connection with them, teaching them their first Slovenian words and basic communication, and preparing them for the educational process in the Slovenian education system. This paper will discuss the role of the Slovenian language teacher upon the enrolment of an immigrant student in elementary school in the Republic of Slovenia and their qualifications for teaching Slovenian as a second and foreign language. We will highlight the challenge of the immigrant student's progression in the second or foreign language to a level where they can seamlessly follow Slovenian lessons and learn it as a school subject in the same way as their peers who are either native speakers of Slovenian or have been learning it for a longer time.

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Fighting for Peace: The Contrasting Journeys of Two Peace-Loving Religious Communities in Yugoslavia

Yugoslavia officially recognized major religious communities such as the Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches, but smaller ones also existed. 50 such groups could be identified in the 1960s. This study examines the development of two small officially unrecognized religious communities in Yugoslavia: the Protestant Nazarene community and the Bahá'í Faith. The legal framework in socialist Yugoslavia was among the most favourable for religious communities in Eastern Europe. The Yugoslav constitutions of 1946, 1956, 1963, and 1974 guaranteed fundamental religious freedoms, including the freedom of conscience, the separation of church and state, and in 1974 also the principle that no one could be compelled or prevented from joining a religious community. These provisions should have affirmed the equal status of all religious communities and their members before the law. However, the reality of religious freedom in Yugoslavia was marked by conflicts and ambiguities, arising from both government policies and the actions of religious communities. The Nazarene community, predominantly composed of Romanians in the Serbian Banat region, was characterized by its pacifist attitude, which brought it into conflict with the state. The government perceived the Nazarenes as disloyal citizens due to their refusal to swear allegiance to the state or participate in military service. Consequently, they faced strong persecution and were marginalized within Yugoslav society. In contrast, the Bahá'í community, established in 1844 and present in Yugoslavia since the 1920' during this period, did not encounter such challenges. As a young, non-nationalistic religion, the Bahá'í community emphasized principles of peace, equality, and collaboration, which resonated across social, economic, and educational boundaries. The Bahá'ís adhered to the laws of the country and fostered a harmonious relationship with the state, thus avoiding persecution. This analysis highlights the nuanced experiences of smaller religious communities in Yugoslavia and demonstrates how factors such as national identity, legal compliance, and ideological compatibility with the state influenced their treatment within the broader context of religious freedom.

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Dissent in Displacement. Criticality in Artistic Social Engagement Beyond Hungarian Borders

The migration crisis of 2015-16 was a turning point for the Hungarian government in its system of radical nationalistic decision-making. Denouncing not only immigrants but emigrés too, it condemned those who, amidst the educational, economic, social crises, left the country and settled in various European cities. Mass migration of the art field has been the consequence of systematic, non-democratic legislations put into measure against critical art workers (Imre Kováts et. al., 2020). A significant part of the oppositional field becoming expatriates, they have been declared as 'traitors of the motherland' and considered ideologically exiled from Hungary. Although, working restlessly to physically and metaphorically close borders, such actions of the government urged art workers to critically respond in various ways. Despite migrant cultural workers have started new lives abroad, numerous artists and academics still want to contribute to the crisis of their homelands with their new cultural resources to attempt to reestablish criticality and diversity in the Hungarian artistic language. With newly gained, stable economic existences, migrant art workers have the ability to express their dissent towards governmental oppression and non-democratic cultural infrastructures. Can we talk about transnationality in the era of physical and ideological border closures? Can diaspora art workers, do they or should they engage with social and political issues related to their motherland while simultaneously being stigmatized as "undesirables"? The presentation does not intend to discuss the topic in detail due to its density. Instead, by initiating discourse on migration, belonging, self-exile, and solidarity, it wants to highlight the most important artistic actions made since 2010, emphasising that, despite the oppression of cultural ideology, a strong dissent is present in the Hungarian art field, beyond borders.

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Migration as a Gender and Sexual Revolution: Arabic-Speaking Women and Diasporas with Diverse SOGIESC in Slovenia and the Netherlands

In most Arabic-speaking countries like Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, women and people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, gender expressions, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) face severe intersectional discrimination and violence that pushes them to seek refuge abroad, such as in the EU. Mainstream research places asylum-seeking women and people with diverse SOGIESC in the constraints of victimhood. However, the Arabic-speaking diaspora of women and people with diverse SOGIESC in the EU plays a crucial role in maintaining sexual and gender-diverse freedoms through activism and community arts. This role is often overlooked or undocumented. Between homonationalism and anti-gender movements, they play a crucial role in maintaining sexual freedom and democratic values in the EU while continuing their activism for sexual and gender-diverse liberation in their countries of origin. Arabic-speaking queer community artists in the EU maintain a non-binary existence that dismantles polarisation by not fitting into the binary narratives of us against them within homonationalism. The author of this case study is a self-identified queer woman who came from Jordan and lives in Slovenia. At the time of conducting this study, she remains a holder of Jordanian citizenship; she is a community artist and activist. The author conducted focus groups over one year as action research that resulted in the making of two Queer Arabic-speaking community arts: 1. Al Ghawazi and Khawalat and 2. NOT your Scheherazade and Om Badawi. The action research gathered queer community artists and activists who came from Egypt, Syria, and Jordan and live in Slovenia and the Netherlands. The research defines queer Arabic-speaking community arts and activism while providing concrete examples of migration as a sexual and gender-diverse revolution. By analysing the queer Arabic-speaking community arts and activism in the diaspora, the study contributes to research on migration through self-agency and post-rational feminist approaches.

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Stylistic Analysis of the Top 3 Trending Serbian Songs 2024

This paper provides a stylistic analysis of the top trending Serbian songs of 2024 from the playlist "Trending 20 Serbia," specifically examining the first three songs: "CCUTI" by Desingerica and Zera, "Petrov," by Petrov and "Lažeš me, ljubavi" by Barbara Bobak. Each song explores themes of individuality, self-empowerment, and relational dynamics, using distinct linguistic and poetic devices to resonate with contemporary Serbian culture. The opening track, "CCUTI," captures a rebellious attitude. Zera's protagonist dismisses superficial admirers with taunting refrains like "tra-la-la" and "ha-ha-ha," utilizing irony and colloquial language to convey confidence and detachment. French phrases and references to luxury add cosmopolitan allure, enhancing the protagonist's complex and unapologetic persona, one that is both self-assured and resistant to conventional norms. In "Petrov," the narrative shifts to themes of escapism and hedonism. Petrov's lyrics, filled with slang and rhythmic interjections, paint a character entrenched in materialism, yet shadowed by detachment. His iconic "black mask, black cap" suggests a mysterious, elusive identity. The interplay between Petrov and Anya's voices highlights an internal duality, underscoring the protagonist's struggle to reconcile bravado with underlying conflicts. The final song, "Lažeš me, ljubavi" by Barbara Bobak, portrays a protagonist confronting betrayal with decisive empowerment. Through assertive language and repetitive declarations, she asserts her independence, using dismissive imperatives and idiomatic expressions to mark a final severance and affirm self-reliance. Together, these songs reflect Serbian pop culture's engagement with themes of autonomy, resilience, and self-identity. The analysis illustrates how Serbian music employs colloquialism, repetition, and vocal interplay to evoke narratives of empowerment and independence.