

Founded in November 2009, The Albanian Society for the Study of English (ASSE) is devoted to the promotion of English and American studies in Albania. *in esse: English Studies in Albania*, a refereed scholarly journal, is part of the Society's activities. Its aim is to bring to the fore original work in linguistics, literary and translation studies and language teaching by scholars working in Albania and abroad.



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Spring/Autumn 2014

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# English Studies in Albania



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Albanian Society for the Study English

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## Introduction

This volume of *in esse: English Studies in Albania* contains two issues—the first one is a themed issue, which gathers together some papers presented at the Second ASSE International Conference “Nation, nationality, nationhood: What’s in a name?”, which was held in Tirana, Albania, 2-4 May 2013, whereas the second issue is an open issue with papers from literature and language studies.

The first issue contains papers which explore present-day perceptions of concepts like “nation,” “nationality,” and “nationhood” in a globalised context. Although the concepts, usually associated with commonness of culture, language, history, ethnicity, religion and spirit, seem distant in the twenty-first century context marked by multiculturalism, intercultural, cross-cultural and transcultural communication, it is intriguing to revisit them and look into the sensitivities and perceptions we can get of them in this context. The papers collected here view these concepts from cultural and philosophical perspectives. They are divided into two sections, *Cultural Studies* and *Social Philosophy*.

The first section contains two contributions, which bring to the focus uneasy relations between people of different religions or nationalities by drawing on elements of language, national or religious symbolism and folklore.

It opens with Paul Breen’s paper, which discusses the case of Northern Ireland, more precisely, the divisions that still exist between Protestant Unionists and Roman Catholic Nationalists, visibly manifested in the symbols and folklore that characterise each of these two communities. The author questions and assesses the possibility of reconciliation between them and the likelihood of tolerating or coming to terms with the symbols of the other community against the view that this could happen when each community’s symbols are given equal status and legitimacy in the ‘language’ of the State itself. To this end, the author also revisits the concept of ‘nation state’ in the light of socio-cultural and feminist theory.

In his paper, John Braidwood brings to attention a less known uneasy relationship, that between the Hungarians and the Slovaks. In order to analyse the stigmatising attitude of the Hungarians towards the

Slovaks, the author adopts a historically linguistic perspective. To account for this attitude, he examines the use of the word *tót*, a Hungarian designation of stigmatic effect aimed towards the Slovaks. The author, more closely, studies examples from literary works, definitions and meanings from a range of historical Hungarian dictionaries from the mid-nineteenth century into the twentieth in order to identify the stigmatising properties of the term *tót*.

The second section contains three papers which examine diverse matters and forms of nationalism from several cultural perspectives but all from a period time frame that is closer to the present day.

Hans-Georg Moeller presents the case of Contemporary Germany as an exception and discusses it in terms of inverted nationalism. Unlike other peoples who commonly take pride in heroic figures or events and identify with them, Germany has not simply admitted its Nazi past but has instead converted this negative identity into a form of inverted nationalism, which implies that by the act of admission Germany has honoured and made itself morally purer. The author looks into such instances of inverted pride and nationalism to reveal their historical significance and social pervasiveness.

In his paper, Klaus-Jürgen Nagel traces the idea of a “Europe of the Regions” in order to question the emergence and end of what the author calls “‘flirting’ with Europe.” The author notes that the idea has changed since the Second World War and has been recently replaced by the idea of “Independence in Europe,” whose origin and growth he analyses. The author also tries to explain the end of “Europe of the Regions” for many nationalists of stateless nations in Western Europe and to question the implementation of “Independence in Europe.”

This section closes with Mark F. Seilhamer’s paper in which he discusses the question of national identity by showcasing Singapore. Caught in a state of flux, Singapore is seen as a national community by some but as a global community by others, owing also to massive immigration. Thus the author tries to shed light on what constitutes Singaporean identity. The data for this research has been mainly collected from blogs and Internet chat boards.

The second issue of this volume is divided into three sections, *Literatures in English, Language and Book Review*.

The first section contains two contributions—Wojciech Klepuszewski's, which discusses recent academic novels and Pavlína Flajšarová's, which analyses the poetry of Lorna Goodison.

In his paper, Wojciech Klepuszewski draws on Adam Begley's claim that the academic novel has reached an artistic dead-end in order to read recent academic novels. The author concludes that these novels do not match the quality of other works of the genre written decades earlier and that they fail to rise above them.

In her paper, Pavlína Flajšarová compares the poetry of Lorna Goodison, a Jamaican poet, with that of the British romantics. To account for this comparison, the author looks into how landscape and established poetic forms have been dealt with by the British romantics and Goodison. Besides this comparison, the author considers other comparisons such as the use of Standard English vs. creole in order to assess how Goodison presents the Jamaican landscape, which occupies an important place in Goodison's poetry and which Flajšarová identifies more closely with the feminine self and the struggle for individual and national identity.

The second section of this issue contains two contributions from language studies—Joanna Kic-Drgas's paper, which discusses idioms whose meaning alludes to economic and social phenomena and Arjan Shumeli's paper, which proposes a comparative discussion of terminology of agro-mechanics.

In her paper, Joanna Kic-Drgas, after a brief theoretical overview of idioms, discusses the origin of some selected idioms in order to prove that they can provide knowledge of economic and social phenomena. In his paper, Arjan Shumeli studies the terminology of agro-mechanics in Albanian by comparing it with that of English, drawing on the facts that English is an international language and terminology in English is consolidated. For his analysis, the author considers historical, morphological, syntactical and semantic aspects of the terms used in agro-mechanics.

The last section, *Book Review*, contains a contribution by Miloš D. Đurić titled "Re-Visiting Images of *The Balkans in Travel Writing*." It reviews Marija Krivokapić's latest edited collection, *The Balkans in Travel Writing*, which gathers together papers presented at the conference



“The Balkans in Contemporary Travel Writing” organized in June 2014 at the University of Montenegro.

Finally, we would like to thank all our contributors for sharing their views and ideas in this volume. Special thanks also go to our reviewers for their tireless work in selecting and reviewing the contributions for this volume.