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Postcolonial British Generations

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Introduction

This volume of *in esse: English Studies in Albania* collects papers from the diverse areas of Postcolonial Studies, which explore various problems resulting from the socio-cultural heritage of colonial history, such as identity formation, narrative difficulties, immigrant experiences and hybridity, as depicted in various literary fields from British South Asian literature through Black British fiction to Arab-British works. The papers collected here are divided into three sections, titled *New Narrative Modes of Postcolonial Experience*, *Generational Differences in Migrant Narratives* and *Children's Perspectives on Colonial Traumas*.

The first section contains two contributions which focus on the narrative difficulties of telling postcolonial stories and explore texts that experiment with alternative narrative modes of postcolonial experience.

In his paper, Zoltán Mogyorósi from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary argues that traditional narratives of postcolonial experience, which are based on the binary opposition of hegemonic and subaltern need to be revised and transgressed; and he explores Caryl Phillips' *A Distant Shore* (2001) as a text that is able to offer a more dynamic and relativistic approach to narrative. By contrasting the novel with more mainstream postcolonial texts, Mogyorósi points out how the juxtaposition of different characters does away with hegemonic power in Phillips' text.

Mária Palla from the Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Hungary in her paper explores the spatial specificities of migrant narratives. She analyses Ravinder Randhawa' *A Wicked Old Woman* (1987), and argues that the unfolding of the characters' life-stories takes place parallel to London's transformation into a multicultural, multiracial location; furthermore she points out that Randhawa's text depicts the hybridity and liminality of space and identities as interconnected.

The contributions in the second section explore the generational differences in migration narratives, diaspora experience and hybridity.

Henriette-Juliane Seeliger from the University of Bamberg, Germany, investigates in her paper the connections between the effects of British colonial rule and present-day migratory processes through the analysis of three generations of characters in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things* (2009), Monica Ali's *Brick Lane* (2004), and Zadie Smith's *White Teeth* (2000). She pays close attention to how the role of language and the concept of history are intertwined with identity formation, the passing on of ambivalent subject positions and the generational clashes between first, second and third generation immigrants in the United Kingdom

In her paper, Nawel Meriem Ouhiba from University of Saïda, Algeria, analyses hybridity as a fusion of different cultural backgrounds and the dialogue between Arab, British and American characters in Ahdaf Soueif's *The Map of Love* (1999), which text explores distant generations' experiences in transculturality through its double narrative thread a century apart.

The last section contains one contribution, which focuses on children's (post)colonial experiences and the effects of colonial traumas on their development. Flóra Bajnay, from the University of Debrecen, Hungary, explores children's colonial narratives from cross-continental cultural contexts: Rhodesian identity formations in Tsitsi Dangarembga's *Nervous Conditions* (1988), childhoods both under the South-African Apartheid regime in J. M. Coetzee's *Boyhood – Scenes from Provincial Life* (1997), and Nigeria's quest for independence in Ben Okri's *The Famished Road* (1991), furthermore, the allegorical coming-of-age story in independent India in Salman Rushdie's *Midnight's Children* (1981). Her main concern is to highlight the children's lives, development, and perceptions under postcolonial realities, and concludes that regardless of gender, ethnicity and cultural background they have

similar problems, so their psychic, social symptoms show similarities.

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.

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