



## EDITORIAL

*Synergy* 1/2021 is a mirror of the times we live in: after a year (2020) in which we learned to deal with a global pandemic both on a personal and on a professional level (but how are we to clearly separate the two when most of our work as academics is now taking place in the private space of the home which we have learned to share with our co-workers, students and colleagues?). Teaching, research, conferences, most our work is now done online and from home, and we have been constantly searching for mechanisms and instruments to help us cope with this constant discovery of teaching and assessment methods and intense search for meaningful activities in the new medium, and also with the all too frequent burnouts or increased stress levels.

First and foremost, we would like to share a very important success our academic journal has had: *Synergy* has been awarded “A” category in “Philology” by the National Council of Scientific Research (CNCS). This is the result of 15 years of constant and sustained work of our editorial team and of the authors who trusted us with their original manuscripts. So, this national recognition of the value of our journal is matched by its international one, as it is listed with some of the most important international data bases: EBSCO, ERIH+, etc.

Thus, we are extremely happy to present this new issue with original articles containing the research results of our authors and including the familiar rubrics. Below, as usual, a short description of *Synergy* 1/ 2021 and an invitation to read, think about and engage in a dialogue with the editors and the authors of the journal.

The first section, LITERARY STUDIES, includes two articles: Monica Got presents Chicana literature from an intersectional perspective (gender, ethnicity, race, social group) and analyses its relationship with canonic American literature, starting from the idea of traumatic memory (FORGING A NEW TYPE OF FEMINIST IDENTITY: CHICANA FEMINISM, FEMININITY, AND THE INSTITUTION OF MEMORY). Monica Alina Toma discusses the blurred relationship between authorship and readership in two of Borges’ writings (CHALLENGES OF THE TEXT IN BORGES’S “TLÖN, UQBAR, ORBIS TERTIUS” AND “PIERRE MENARD, AUTHOR OF *THE QUIXOTE*”).

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CULTURAL SYNERGIES is once again a consistent section of our journal, which takes us to a journey among cultures and genres. In her article MAY THE LOVE BE WITH YOU: FROM THE JOY OF LIFE TO THE TRANSCENDENCE OF EXISTENCE IN TAKAHATA ISAO’S ANIMATION WORKS Maria Grajdian uses the phenomenological approach to analyse some animation movies by prominent Japanese director Takahata Isao. Dominic Negrici makes an exploratory study (QUELQUES RAMIFICATIONS

TANGIBLES DE LA SOCIABILITÉ EN LIGNE: UN RAPPORT ENTRE VIE RÉELLE ET VIE VIRTUELLE DANS *WORLD OF WARCRAFT*) of the world of online gaming in order to verify its reception by the Romanian culture through a series of interviews with its players. Angelica Marinescu invites us into the world of Indian traditional dances and looks into its connections between the Medieval socio-religious contexts in which it originated and its nowadays practitioners (BETWEEN ‘CELESTIAL MAIDEN’ AND ‘SACRED PROSTITUTE’: THE MYTH OF THE *DEVA-DĀSĪ* IN THE IMAGINARY OF THE CONTEMPORARY INDIAN CLASSICAL DANCE PRACTITIONERS).

The APPLIED LINGUISTICS section includes a topical article, by Antonia Enache and Marina Militaru: THE RHETORIC OF CRISIS: POLITICAL COMMUNICATION ON SOCIAL NETWORKS DURING THE 2020 CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK. The two authors analyse the political communication related with the coronavirus pandemic on social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter and Instagram), done by relevant political actors in the USA, Canada, France, the UK, the EU and Romania.

In the *Book Reviews* section Roxana-Elisabeta Marinescu presents cross-culturally THE TYRANNY OF MERIT. WHAT’S BECOME OF THE COMMON GOOD by Michael Sandel (Penguin, 2020) and Anca-Teodora Șerban-Oprescu explores business communication with actual real-life, as presented by Jessica Higgins in her book 10 SKILLS FOR EFFECTIVE BUSINESS COMMUNICATION. PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR THE WORLD’S GREATEST LEADERS (Tycho Press Publishing House, 2018).

Irina David presents the textbook PERSPECTIVES ADVANCED. STUDENT’S BOOK by Amanda Jeffries, Lewis Lansford, Daniel Barber (National Geographic Learning, 2017) in *Recommendations for Teaching Resources*, and emphasizes its versatility (it can be used for both face-to-face and online classes) and its diverse type of materials (TED talks, printed and online material, video and listening), with student-centredness at its core.

In the hope of better times, we are inviting you to read this issue of *Synergy*.

Roxana Marinescu