


 EDITORIAL

We are inviting you to read *Synergy 2/2022* and reflect upon the research topics included in this issue. Please find below their short descriptions, hoping they will ignite your interest.

The first article in the section **Synergies in Communication and Education**, REFLECTION ON NEW TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION ASSESSMENT by Teodora Șerban-Oprescu and Irina David discusses evaluating and grading in higher education, as impacted by the global pandemic, as well as the way teaching and learning methods influenced assessment. In VOCABULARY ACQUISITION IN TEACHING LSP, Olivia Cristina Rusu (Samson) presents a case study of teaching lexical items for French for specific purposes to first-year Romanian medical students as the target group, a research based on the author's dissertation paper for the ASE Master's Programme in *English Language Education and Research Communication for Business and Economics* in 2020. And in the last article of this section, DEVELOPMENTS AND APPLICATIONS OF SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORKS IN BORDER AND COAST GUARDING COURSE DESIGN, Ileana Chersan examines a specific training programme in course design for the Sectoral Qualifications Framework for Border and Coast Guarding, with a focus on recent developments and practical applications in this area of higher education.

The section **Interdisciplinary and Cultural Synergies** includes three articles underlying the variety of approaches of our collaborators. Monica Alina Toma explores the meaning associated with food in the film *The Hundred-Foot Journey*, directed by Lasse Hallström (2014); the title symbolizes the distance between two restaurants, as well as between two food cultures – French and Indian. Levente Nagy & Ildikó Hortobágyi look into the challenges of minority languages in times of globalization of English and its imposition as lingua franca, and propose some methods that language education could use to increase these languages' usage and recognition (CONTEMPORARY EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES TO MINORITY LANGUAGE MAINTENANCE). In DIALOGISM AND MEANS OF REFORMULATING IN THE PUBLIC DIPLOMATIC DISCOURSE FOLLOWING CRISIS SITUATIONS, Corina Popa uses the 2013 Syrian crisis to analyse different genres of texts (press releases, interviews, public discourses) pertaining to Romanian diplomacy to emphasise their rhetoric and discursive manner.

The article in the **Literary Studies** section discusses the novel *Henderson the Rain King* by Saul Bellow from the point of view of character design, in association with space and time: CHARACTER DESIGN IN RELATION TO LANDSCAPE AND

TIME DIMENSIONS IN HENDERSON THE RAIN KING BY SAUL BELLOW
by Valentina Robu.

We also included two book reviews in this issue: in the first one, Nicoleta Stanca presents HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON TRANSLATING MYTH AND REALITY IN WOMEN IMAGERY ACROSS DISCIPLINES (IGI Global, 2021), edited by Roxana Ciolăneanu and Roxana-Elisabeta Marinescu, an excellent instrument for those interested in women's studies from a transdisciplinary perspective. In the second book review, LIGHTS AND SHADOWS IN THE POST-9/11 AGE. LITERATURE, TRAUMA, GEOPOLITICS, Alina Buzarna-Tihenea (Gălbează) presents the book with the same title by Florian Andrei Vlad (Ed. Universitară, 2021), which examines some literary texts dealing with 9/11 and its implications in American culture: John Updike's *Terrorist* (2006), Jonathan Safran Foer's *Incredibly Loud and Extremely Close* (2005), and Don DeLillo's *Falling Man* (2007).

Roxana Marinescu