

Images of remote countries in the literatures of Central and Eastern Europe

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The idea for this issue of *WORLD LITERATURE STUDIES* was to methodologically draw on the theory of interculturality and comparative imagology, hoping that such epistemological framework will contribute to a critical understanding of cultural otherness which, in turn, will facilitate a deeper understanding not only of the “exotic” topoi of remote and “non-similar” texts, but of Central and Eastern Europe as well.

The issue originated from the initiative of the Czech and Slovak Association of Comparative Literature and is dedicated to the XXII Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association in Macau. It is thus a logical continuation of the issue *WORLD LITERATURE STUDIES* entitled “Comparative Literature Studies as Cultural Criticism” (eds. Gáfrík – Zelenka 2/2013), by which the Czech and Slovak Association of Comparative Literature resumed its activity before the 2013 Congress of the ICLA in Paris, as well as of the issue devoted to comparative literature entitled “Frontier Orientalism in Central and East European Literatures” (eds. Sabatos – Gáfrík 1/2018).

In designing the issue, the editors attempted to select the texts which would show how the images of remote countries and cultures are reflected in Central European and East European literatures as well as to what extent these images could possibly influence the literary critical and theoretical discourse – especially its semantics and terminology – in this part of the world. Moreover, an indirect theoretical intention of the issue is to draw attention to the analysis of the possibility of transferring the concepts historically created in a certain context to a typologically and structurally different cultural area.

It is hoped that this type of imagological intercontinental comparative studies, as an integral part of contemporary research into East-West studies, could provide new theoretical impulses and literary historical material.

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