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Encounters
of Literatures

Call for papers

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED: 17 November 2013

Travelling Texts: Encounters of Literatures

Institute of English Studies, Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland

13-15 March 2014

Papers are invited for an international conference dedicated to mutual **influences and inspirations between authors**. The special focus of this conference will be **J.M. Coetzee** as well as those **Central/Eastern European and South African authors** with reference to whom his writing (fiction and non-fiction) may be studied.

Bruno Schulz, Zbigniew Herbert, Josef Škvorecký, Milan Kundera, Sándor Márai, Franz Kafka, Rainer Maria Rilke, Günter Grass, Aharon Appelfeld, Osip Mandelstam, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, Josif Brodski, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy are among the Central and Eastern European writers who have been of great interest to Coetzee, both as writer and literary critic. Addressing the issues of censorship, oppression, totalitarianism and the role of the writer – all particularly pertinent not only to the countries which were once trapped behind the Iron Curtain, but, despite the geographical distance, to the Republic of South Africa - Coetzee has often turned to Central and Eastern European history, experience and literary works.

We shall also welcome comparative papers on questions of **intertextuality, influence and thematic convergences** in the writings of J.M. Coetzee and South African writers (or writers with a South African background) such as Breyten Breytenbach, Damon Galgut, Nadine Gordimer, Doris Lessing, Alan Paton, Helen Suzman, Ivan Vladislavić and many others.

We also wish to trace other, less conspicuous **links between Central and Eastern European literatures and South African writing**.

We hope that the conference, thanks to the participants' expertise in their native literatures, will not only reveal new aspects in the writing of J.M. Coetzee but will also demonstrate the pertinence of his preoccupations as a writer to a variety of cultural, historical and literary contexts.

Following the conference, we plan to publish selected papers (between 4000-6000 words in length) in book form in the Peter Lang series "Text-Meaning-Context: Cracow Studies in English Language, Literature and Culture".

The conference fee is 130 euro. Proposals for 20-minute presentations should include a brief biographical note with your title and institutional affiliation and a 150-word abstract. They should be submitted by e-mail to travelling.texts@gmail.com by **17 November 2013**. Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 25 November.

Organisers: Prof. dr hab. Krystyna Stamirowska, Dr hab. Bożena Kucała, Dr Robert Kusek