



## *Re-Examining American Literature Student Symposium (REAL)*

### CALL FOR PAPERS

## **American Pasts and American Futures in Literature and Culture (Online Symposium)**

March 25, 2023

The Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań

“The disruption of the anticipated American future that was simply to have unrolled out of the solid American past, out of each generation’s getting smarter for knowing the inadequacies and limitations of the generations before, out of each new generation’s breaking away from the parochialism a little further, out of the desire to go the limit in America with your rights (...)”

— Philip Roth, *American Pastoral*

The 4th REAL Student Symposium seeks to explore the future and the past as concepts, ideals, and ideologies. The United States, as a nation that always looks ahead trying to reinvent itself, enjoys a troubled relationship with both its past and its future. We are interested in ways in which the past(s) and the future(s) of America conjured up in literary and cultural texts reflect and comment on the current state and possible developments in the United States.

Our keynote speaker will be prof. Paweł Frelik, who is Associate Professor and the Leader of Speculative Texts and Media Research Group at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. His teaching and research interests include science fiction, video games, and fantastic audiovisualities. He has published widely in these fields, serves on the boards of *Science Fiction Studies* (USA), *Extrapolation* (UK/USA), and *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds* (UK), and is the co-editor of the New Dimensions in Science Fiction book series at the University of Wales Press. In 2017, he was the first non-Anglophone recipient of the Thomas D. Clareson Award for Distinguished Service presented for outstanding service to the field of science fiction studies. He now serves as President of the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts.

We cordially invite B.A., M.A. students and doctoral candidates, to submit conference papers (approx. 20-minute presentations) on American literature, theater, film and art, concerning (but not restricted to) the following issues:

- Imagining American pasts and futures
- Documentary poetry and prose
- Genres of the past and of the future
- Contemporary and historical utopias and dystopias
- Collective and individual memory in literature
- Traumatic pasts and apocalyptic landscapes
- Historical and futuristic narratives and forms
- The future of humanity, post-humanism
- Speculative literature, escapist fantasies, virtual reality
- Gender, race, ethnicity and the future
- Avant-gardes and arrièrè-gardes
- Literary theory and the future/past
- The past and future of American Studies
- Revisions of the past and future myths

Please send an abstract of 200-300 words, stating also your name, email address and institutional affiliation by **January 15, 2023** to: [kkasia@amu.edu.pl](mailto:kkasia@amu.edu.pl) and [malgorzata.olsza@amu.edu.pl](mailto:malgorzata.olsza@amu.edu.pl) All submissions must include a 100-word biographical statement. The submissions will be evaluated by the scientific committee and you will receive our decision by January 25, 2023. All queries should also be sent to the above addresses.

**There is no conference fee. The Symposium will take place online on MS Teams.**

#### **REAL Organizing Committee:**

dr hab. Paulina Ambroży, prof. UAM  
dr Katarzyna Macedulska  
dr Małgorzata Olsza

#### **Scientific Committee:**

dr hab. Paweł Stachura, prof. UAM  
dr hab. Wiesław Kuhn, prof. UAM  
dr hab. Urszula Niewiadomska-Flis, prof. KUL