

### EDITORIAL

#### Adapting to Change and Bridging Cultural Gaps

Culture, in general, is essential to the development of human civilisation given that it makes the human being hope and dream by always offering new ways of perceiving reality, by stimulating the senses and by kindling passions in pursuit of ideals. Hence, culture should be seen as a set of distinctive material and spiritual features that characterise a society and a social group. This set includes literature and arts, religion, value systems, traditions, ways of life and social practices. If shaping and changing mentalities is much more difficult, to manifest at the cultural level is the most accessible way to build the bridge to the future.

Cultures also reflect the general human ability to encode and communicate experiences symbolically and to convey symbols in a way validated by a particular community. The similarities and differences between cultures are either clearly observable or more subtle (Şerbănescu 2017: 108). The dynamism of great cultures has drawn history which is not "a continuous whole" (Cioran 1990: 3) since in the historical world there is a so-called "orthogenesis of cultures" which justifies the individuality of each culture through original conditions, through a specific impulse, which, even if in the utopian way it would be similar, what would result would be totally different. The political and historical conditions were not and are never identical so that gaps were noticed between cultures that minor cultures tried to bridge following cultural models that constituted in all ages an engine of progress.

Whenever there are gaps between civilisations, the less advanced ones benefit from the influence of the more advanced ones, and this influence is exerted in two ways: first, through imitation, forms of the higher civilisation are adopted, then, after "implantation", they are stimulated to create an ideological fertile ground. The contemporary world has become a "global village" where borders and distances have disappeared, but cultural gaps have not disappeared.

The authors of the articles included in this issue consider the ways in which language and literature alike adapt to societal and cultural changes and the resourceful ways in which scholars contribute to bridging the cultural gaps that are either profound and visible when brought to the surface of texts or veiled under the cover of tropes.

## CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES - EDITORIAL

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### References

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