

EDITORIAL

Representations of Endurance, Solidarity and Empathy

We live in a world of high connectivity on multiple levels, making communication and cooperation of central importance to communities across the globe.

Unfortunately, recent history has made us witnesses to a heavily unstable political, social and economic climate, in a European and international context. In the light of the most recent events in the global and European history, coping with crises on multiple levels has become crucial. The impact of societal changes accompanied by the dramatic implications of war have brought about significant mutations in the world. The troubled state of nations involved in or threatened by war or natural calamity rests on tension, a feeling of discontent and fear which, in turn, can generate suffering, fragmentation, and even chaos.

In order to offset or at least alleviate the consequences of these events, including wars and dramatic social changes, manifestations of solidarity and empathy have emerged. These manifestations aimed at strengthening the capacity of the human being to withstand and overcome hardship, loss and distress. Efforts of cooperation, mutual understanding and support, as well as of sharing the suffering of others have become evident in many countries that have been either involved in or just impressed by the horrors of wars, such as those from the Middle East, the war from Ukraine or the Israel-Gaza war.

Various studies in the humanities have looked at understanding and analysing the causes, forms and characteristics of current wide-scale problems, as well as the responses and solutions formulated for these issues. This disturbing reality, together with other changes and challenges across the globe have inspired the articles in the current issue of the journal, as will be next explained selectively.

Sadagat Aliyeva approaches the media representation of women in Azerbaijan, how their roles have changed over the recent years and which of them have endured through time.

Emilia Avrămiea, Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu and Gabriela Andrioi-Grigoraș stress the importance of language recovery through music therapy, which assists patients to endure and overcome hardship.

Marking the commemoration of one year since the start of the Israel-Palestine war, Silviya Dimitrova conducts a cross-linguistic comparative analysis of news headlines from British, German, Bulgarian and Turkish Media reporting on the events of 7th October 2023.

In their article, Raluca-Andreea Donici (Nechifor), Nadia-Nicoleta Morărașu and Mihaela Culea explore the language of suffering and redemption through discursive manifestations of the religious in film reviews.

Oleksandr Kapranov's article focuses on the issue of climate change and its framing by King Charles III, from the perspective of central concepts regarding the topic, such as responsibility, sustainability, and threat.

Elisabetta Marino's study approaches Elizabeth Dickerson Rice Bianciardi's narrative portrayal of Italy, stressing such notions as solidarity, hybridity and transnationalism in relation to her work. Born in America, the 19th century writer offered, in her writings, a more sympathetic and positive image of Italy and the Italians compared to the images popularized by contemporary travel writers.

Last but not least, Nina Sirkovic deals with the concept of empathy in literature, as revealed by a critical reading of Josip Novakovich's *April Fool's Day*.

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