

International Research Conference
“From What Perspective May Perspective Be Viewed?”
On (After)images in the Humanities
Warsaw, 21st – 22nd September 2018

To adopt a perspective – means to practice the art of looking: at others, at objects, at the world, and at oneself. Today we wish to go beyond the boundaries of our own discourse, and ask questions concerning the humanities looking at them from the perspective of other arts, sciences and ways of thinking. This is the central aim of the international conference “From What Perspective May Perspective Be Viewed?”, to be held on 21st-22nd September 2018 at the University of Warsaw.

We will examine the very structure of the term and ask whether phenomena (*spectra*) can be used as a medium to look through them (*per + specere*), using the optical art (*perspectiva ars*), at a certain well-known (*perspectus*) object. We would like to learn whether perspective is merely a condition for viewing someone or something, or a mechanism which situates ourselves within the field of viewing.

Our intention is to look at perspective from many different points of view (those of poetics, culture studies, philosophy, history of art, archaeology, geography, physics, and landscape architecture) and through an analysis of various objects (works of art, discursive works, language styles) reflect on the quasi-transcendental purity of perspective and of the pure subject that supports it. We will look at the concepts of perspective in various disciplines and examine whether in all those disciplines perspective is a semiotically textualised phenomenon, related to the mechanisms of sense production or of testing the existing ideological, metaphysical and political senses.

Having observed a peculiar kind of affinity between the literal and metaphorical meanings of the term “perspective”, we wish to examine how this affinity works. Concerning the spatial-temporal understanding of perspective, we intend to examine its stability (as the basis for repetition and the guarantee of the repeatability of cognitive experience) as well as its lability. What are the consequences of the exhaustion of the mechanism of perspective? What does it mean that it has been exhausted? Does a stable, “frozen” perspective bring a promise of stability and of well-defined cognition, or is it only a tool for naturalising a convention? Does it facilitate our view of the object, or conversely – it causes us to relax our vigilance? All this leads to the question: “From what perspective should perspective be viewed?”

The conference will be held in Polish and English (the latter language being preferred since the proceedings of the conference will be published in English). Please send your entries in Polish and English in the form of an abstract (max. 200 words) by 12th August 2018 to the following address: perspektywa.2018@gmail.com. The conference fee is 400 PLN.

THE ORGANISERS
Department of Poetics, Literary Theory and Methodology of Literary Studies
of the University of Warsaw
Magda Nabiałek, PhD
Jadwiga Biernacka, MA
Helena Markowska, MA
Magdalena Stańczuk, MA
Agata Balsamo