

**Esterino Adami\***

University of Turin, Italy

**Alessandra Consolaro\*\***

University of Turin, Italy

**A SHORT REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP "PENSIERI  
NOMADI, CORPI IN MOVIMENTO / EXPLORING INFLUXES AND CULTURES  
IN MOTION" (TURIN, 16 OCTOBER 2014)**

Prikaz

UDC 316.77(450.211 Torino)(049.32)

The international bilingual (English and Italian) workshop "Pensieri nomadi, corpi in movimento / Exploring InFluxes and Cultures in Motion" was held on 16 October 2014 at the Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy). Organised by Alessandra Consolaro and Esterino Adami (Department of Humanities, University of Turin), the symposium involved a group of scholars and specialists from different fields, institutions and countries with the aim to carry on and extend a previous collaborative experience, fruitfully started with the 2013 special issue of the e-journal *Komunikacija i kultura online* titled "W\_ndering. Exploring InFluxes and Cultures in Motion". Grounded upon an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary forms of culture and driven by the adoption of 'nomadic thinking' as a critical paradigm to deconstruct rigid definitions and academic boundaries, the workshop included two sessions.

The meeting was opened by Jelena Kostić-Tomović (University of Belgrade, Serbia), with the presentation of *Komunikacija i kultura online (Communication and Culture online)*, an open access, peer-reviewed academic journal devoted to linguistic, literary and cultural studies, featuring articles in different languages and encouraging new research methodologies. Published by the NGO Focus-Intercultural Communication Forum and supported by the University of Belgrade (Faculty of Philology), the journal aims at creating discussion and collaboration between professionals from different sectors in order to enhance and promote research and investigation across disciplines.

The following speaker, Nenad Tomović (University of Belgrade, Serbia) delivered a lecture titled "Immigration and Foreigners in ELT Books", in which he focused on how famous and widely used didactic English materials culturally build up images and clichés of foreigners, sometimes adopting (and hiding) ideological perspectives, against the backdrop of the present-day multiculturalism.

---

\* University of Turin, Italy; e-mail: esterino.adami@unito.it

\*\* University of Turin, Italy; e-mail: alessandra.consolaro@unito.it

In his talk "English and Mobility: Linguistic and Stylistic Changes in New Anglophone Literatures", Esterino Adami (University of Turin, Italy) employed tools from critical applied linguistics to address the plural meaning of movement and globalization in two postcolonial literary texts (*A Concise Chinese English Dictionary for Lovers* by Xiaolu Guo and *We Need New Names* by NoViolet Bulawayo) that intertwine questions of language, body and identity.

With Jolanda Guardi (Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Terragona, Spain), the focus shifted to Egyptian literature written in Arabic, with a talk titled "The Urmann is a Woman: a Re-Reading of Yūsuf Idrīs's Abū ar-riḡāl", offering a textual analysis of a story encapsulating elements of gender discourse and problematising the issue of homosexuality in a traditional cultural setting, characterized by prescribing norms of behaviour.

In closing the morning session, Elena Bougleaux from the University of Bergamo (Italy) turned a cultural-anthropological lens on the complexities of India, especially in terms of power relations and domination patterns. Her lecture ("Processes of Dis-location and Re-location of Knowledge and Power. An Indian Case-Study") considered the subtle ambiguity of opposition of binary categories in the construction of society and access to means of power such as technologies and knowledge.

The afternoon session featured three delegates, with a final round table. In her speech "The Posthuman Condition in the 'Ur-village': Reading Kuṇāl Siṃh's Novel *Ādigrām upākhyān*", Alessandra Consolaro (University of Turin) analysed a modern Hindi text in the light of the human-environment dialogism to unearth shapes of the posthuman dimension, and its inner repercussions.

It was then the turn of Sara Roncaglia, a member of Associazione AVoce, based in Milan, to deliver her lecture ("Visual Ethnography: Wandering Knowledge Production as a Tool to Study the Work of Women in Agriculture"), specifically devoted to the theme of women working in agriculture today and supported by evidence from fieldwork, utilising biographical interviews to shed light on identity performance and dynamism.

Next was Carola Benedetto (Gruppo del Cerchio, Turin, Italy), who introduced the screening of a fascinating docu-interview with Pierre Rabhi, a Muslim farm-worker settled in the south of France, whose vision of life undermines the 'commodification' of existence and points to the respect for humans and the earth.

At the end of the day, Itala Vivian (University of Milan, Italy) drew some concluding remarks by threading the different research lines proposed during the conference in a cohesive broader framework. She also highlighted the strength

and usefulness of interdisciplinary research traversing a range of subjects and fields. Finally a rich debate ensued engaging the various speakers and others, and laid the foundation for further scientific projects dedicated to the examination of cultural phenomena and new identities in motion, and their plural manifestations in texts, genres and discourses.