
Boundaries, separation and integration processes in the Slavic world of history, culture, languages and literatures

V Congress of the Association of Italian Slavists (AIS)
22-24 September 2011 - Faenza (Italy)



The V Congress of the Association of Italian Slavists (AIS) was held from 22-24 September, 2011 in Faenza (Italy), with the sponsorship of the Center for Central-Eastern and Balkan Europe, together with the Association of Italian Russianists (AIR). The Congress theme was "Boundaries, separation and integration processes in the Slavic world of history, culture, languages and literatures" and it consisted of nine **sessions**, four **panels** and two **round tables**.

Sessions

Boundaries and linguistic contacts

Giuseppe Dell'Agata (University of Pisa) discussed the classification of the Slavic languages in different eras. The paper of **Francesca Fici** (University of Florence) was about the linguistic boundaries in the Ukraine: taking the cue from the M. Matios' novel *Solodka Darusja*, she presented some historical, literary and linguistic peculiarities of the Ukrainian language in the south-western territories.

Crossing boundaries in the Slavic literatures - XIXth- XXth centuries

Giuseppe Ghini (University of Urbino) discussed the boundary between myth and literature, specifically in Chekhov's *Steppa* (1888) and in Bunin's *Grammar of Love* (1915) that can be read as two initiatory stories on the border between literature and religious ritual. **Bianca Sulpasso** (University of Macerata) discussed S. Przybyszewski in the Russian silver age culture.

Boundaries and Western and Slavic semantic overruns

Sanja Roić (University of Trieste) in her paper presented the ever-present issue, namely *Il regno degli Slavi* of M. Orbini, focusing on Croatian and Serbian translations and interpretations of this famous work. **Giovanna Moracci** (University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara) in her paper, "Beyond the semantic and morphological borders. Loans from Italian to Russian" proposed to reconsider the subject, starting from the apparently Italian origin of lexical material in *Puteshestvie stolnika P. A. Tolstogo po Evrope 1697 - 1699*,

and then traced its sources and its diachronic presence in the Russian. **Lilia Skomorochova** (University of Genoa) spoke of the linguistic practice of Karamzin, questioning the Europeanism or patriotism of the Russian author; Skomorochova examined 54 cases of substitution of foreign words with Russian words in the various editions of the Karamzin's *Letters of a Russian Traveler*. **Salvatore Del Gaudio** (University "T. Shevchenko", Kyjiv) reported on the influence on the Italian language of Ukrainian immigrants.

The memory of segregation, separation and integration

Claudia Pieralli (University of Macerata) focused on women's poetry in Stalin's Gulag (1940-1950), raising the question of the relationship between two different cultures, not subjected to censorship: "zone" literature (prison, concentration camps, exile) and literature of elsewhere (generally understood as emigration or exile), in the context of the wider conflict between official and prohibited culture. **Ljiljana Banjanin** (University of Turin) treated the theme of exile in Serbian literature. Her analysis focused on some key points of the definition of exile, examining in particular the experience of exile as related by Miloš Crnjanski and David Albahari. **Maria Rita Leto** (University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara) presented a paper with a literary and anthropological theme, centering on the ritual of having coffee between integration and disintegration in the former Yugoslavia, as a motif of Croatian and Serbian literature; she explored the frequent declaration by the ex-Yugoslavs: "Yet we were drinking coffee together."

The Slavic space and Eastern Europe

The president of the AIS, **Marcello Garzaniti** (University of Florence), in his paper entitled "The contribution of the Italian slavistics to the definition of *Slavia Latina* and *Slavia Orthodoxa*" spoke of R. Picchio's reasoning on *Slavia Latina* and *Slavia Orthodoxa*, coming out of the disciplinary boundaries of history of the language and literature, to deal with more general historical aspects, particularly the less frequently dealt with concept of *Slavia Latina*. Inspired by the fact that in 2011 it is seventy years since the publication of E. Damiani's *Avviamento agli studi slavistici in Italia*, **Gabriele Mazzitelli** (University "Tor Vergata", Rome) underlined the need for the knowledge of the Slavic world to become part of the cultural heritage of the Italians, the hope that there will be libraries worthy of the name of Slavic Studies and emphasized the importance of having biographic tools available. **Andrea Trovesi** (University of Bergamo) in his paper "Changes and fluctuations in the image of Eastern Europe in Italy (1989-2009)" presented a textual and linguistic survey conducted on the Italian press, aimed at analyzing the evolution of discourse on Eastern Europe in Italy after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Differences and integration in the Slavic Middle Ages

Cristiano Diddi (University of Salerno) in his paper presented the perspectives of research in the study, according to the polysystematic theory, of translated literature in the Slavic Middle Ages. **Alberto Alberti** with his paper on the Moldovan scriptoria and medium-Bulgarian tradition, discussed the case of the Gospel of Elisavetgrad (early XVIIth century), one of the several manuscripts that share the cycle of miniatures (but not the text) of the Gospel of Ivan Aleksandar (1356). The purpose of the paper of **Francesca Romoli** (University of Urbino) was to analyze three Vitae (Ioann of Novgorod, Antonij the Roman and Isaiah of Rostov) that develop within them the motif of the prodigious journey.

The historical dimension of contacts and separations

Gianfranco Giraudo and **Maria Marcella Ferraccioli** (University "Ca Foscari" of Venice) in their paper illustrated the close relationship between the Serenissima and its Slav subjects (from Istria, Dalmatia and especially "Albania Veneta"), and the solidarity of the same subjects at the time of the fall of the Serenissima. **Giuseppe D'Amato** (Moscow) started from the case of the towns of Ivangorod and Narva, and described the administrative changes in those lands during the XXth century.

The Latin-Slavic comparison in diachronic arc of XVIth-XVIIIth centuries

Vittorio Springfield Tomelleri (University of Macerata) in his paper on the Middle Ages and Humanism in Moskovskaya Rus' dealt with the presence of elements of the humanistic Renaissance in Muscovy, examining some features of the Novgorodian period of Old Russian literature. **Giovanna Siedina** (University of Verona), through a poem dedicated to J. Krokovskyj, Archimandrite of the Lavra Pecerskaja and Metropolitan of Kiev, described how neo-Latin Ukrainian poetry, in particular that of Kiev-Mohylane poetics, constitutes an important resource for the reconstruction of the cultural, ideological and political discourse of Kyivan

intellectual elite of the second half of the XVIIth - first half of the XVIIIth century. **Persida Lazarević** (University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara) analyzed the common historical and literary strategies shared by Croats and Serbs during the Enlightenment.



Telling the boundaries. Contemporary Slavic Literatures

Marija Mitrović (University of Trieste) in her paper on "blurred zones" regarding the main stream literatures and the "marginal" ones in Croatia, Bosnia, Montenegro and Serbia during the '90s showed two major trends in the area where the language spoken was once called Serbocroatian: on one hand, there are strictly national projects, and on the other, there is a trend to stabilize cultural exchanges. **Maria Bidovec** (University of Udine) in her paper presented the theme of "different" or "the other" in four Slovenian novels of the last 15 years. **Marco Sabbatini** (University of Macerata) spoke of "liminal spaces" in contemporary Russian poetry, i. e. the poetry that is engaged in civil matters, in the context of the events of "nesoglasnye" and the "31" movement in contemporary Russia.

Panels

European Integration of the current Russian and teaching strategies

Claudia Lasorsa Siedina (University "Roma Tre", Rome) in her paper "Acceleration of the current Russian and the media" focused on the following trends in Russia today: the tendency to analyticity, agglutination, barbarization and the lowering of the culture of speech; the language game, the Anglo-americanisms, or the *runGLISH*; religious discourse; *Brigade vs polk*; the current language policy of the Russian Federation, the impact of education. **Simona Berardi** and **Ljudmila Bulgakova** (University of Bologna-Forlì, CLIR) discussed Russian education today and the new technologies it employs, analyzing the new learning environment created and tested on the Moodle platform of the Language Centre of CLIRO Romagna designed for students of the Faculty of Political Sciences "Roberto Ruffilli" of Forlì. **Valentina Benigni** (University "Roma Tre", Rome) submitted a paper on corpus linguistics and its applications in teaching and research: she mentioned various corpora (Uppsala, Tübingen) and illustrated the *Nacionalnyj Korpus Russkogo Jazyka*, and through a didactically targeted sample, showed how to get the sounds of animals, how to usefully illustrate figures of speech, such as synaesthesia, animal similarities, etc. **Maria Chiara Ferro** (University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara) presented some practical applications of new theories in language teaching methodology, to deal with two difficulties typical of beginners: the impact of the Cyrillic alphabet and the initial silence (i.e. inhibition to speak the Russian language in the early stages of learning). The panel was also attended by **Serafima Alexeevna Khavronina** (Rudna University of Moscow), famous in the methodology of teaching Russian, who described the recent approaches in teaching Russian as a foreign

language, and in particular ethno-cultural and ethno-psychological as well as the importance of TORFL language certification.



The Italian in the Slavic world. Translations of Italian works and authors into Slavic languages until 1800

Natka Badurina (University of Udine) presented a paper about Renaissance translations in the light of postcolonial comparative studies, and called the attention to the cultural turn in translation studies, to the historical and cultural conditions of translations and their subsequent interpretations, particularly with regard to relations between cultures and ethical issues arising from them. **Marcello Piacentini** (University of Padova) discussed *italianismo* and translations between the XVIth and XVIIth centuries in Poland: the meager store of a very few translations from the vernacular should be looked into in order to clarify some as yet unresolved questions and also to explore loans from Italian that came with the translation of literary works.

Self-translation and linguistic, cultural and identity encroachment

Andrea Ceccherelli (University of Bologna) considered the numerous original versions of the novel *Ferdydurke* (1937) by Polish author W. Gombrowicz, given the vicissitudes of the gombrowiczian translations. The various editions and variants of the author are taken into account. **Gabriella Elina Imposti** and **Irina Marchesini** (University of Bologna) spoke about the practice of self-translation in Nabokov's literary output, pointing out the paucity of contributions in Italian in this field, and then highlighting the hybrids of prismatic systems and cultural kaleidoscope of imaginary representations that can be found, starting from the self-translation practice. The paper of **Larisa Poutsileva** (University of Bologna) was about the ethical and aesthetical equivalence problem of self-translation of V. Bykov (1924-2003), famous Belarusian writer, the pioneer of the so-called "truth in the trenches" and a leader of the "prose of war" in the literature: most of Bykov's self-translations aim at perfecting the original texts by recreating Russian versions. **Liana Goletiani** (University of Milan) presented a paper entitled "Beyond the myths and the politicization: Ukrainian witnesses." **Monica Perotto** (University of Bologna) in her paper on the policy on bilingualism in literature and language in post-Soviet and Soviet era, addressed the problem of self-translation as "perevod avtora" which, instead of finding its justification in biographical literature of individual authors, can be attributed to changing sociolinguistic dynamics existing in the national republics and effects of language policies implemented in this area from the 1920's until today.

Quo Vadis?: Identity, space and borders in Eastern Europe in the XX century

Giuseppe Motta (University "Sapienza" of Rome) discussed the commissions for the demarcation of borders in Central and Eastern Europe. **Sara Barbieri** (University of RSM, University of Bologna) presented a paper entitled "From Russia to Russia: the boundaries of space and identity in XX century Russia." **Francesco**

Privitera (University of Bologna) spoke of the Balkans in the variability of movement and space boundaries of Southeast Europe in the XXth century. **Francesco Caccamo** (University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti-Pescara) in his paper on internal and international borders examined the development of the federal states and the crisis in the socialist system, through the cases of the USSR, Yugoslavia and, in particular, Czechoslovakia.



Round Tables

Reviews specialized in Slavic Studies

The editors of the following **journals and magazines** participated at this round table: *AION*, *E-samizdat*, *Europa Orientalis*, *pl.it*, *Ricerche Slavistiche*, *Russica Romans*, *Slavia*, *Slavica Tergestina*, *Slavica Viterbiensia*, *Studi Slavistici*, *A Series of Balkan and East-European Studies*, *Southeastern Europe*. They discussed the current issues of reviews specialized in publishing Slavic studies.



The teaching of Russian language in Italy. Development and Prospects

This round table was in partnership with the AIR, and the discussants were: Giovanna Moracci, Irina Dvizova (University of Florence), Simona Berardi, Carlo Fredduzzi (Institute of Russian Language and Culture, Rome), Paola Cotta Ramusino (University of Milan), Maria Chiara Pesenti (University of Bergamo) and Olga Trinkova ("Rossotrudnichestvo"). **Giovanna Moracci** presented a brief introduction to the work by recalling the Italian law 509 of 1999 which established the University degree course in languages, thus strengthening foreign language as a discipline in its own right. **Irina Dvizova** explained the forms of training for students of the University of Florence, which is the result of fruitful collaboration with the Center for Russian Language and Culture in Florence, where Russian is taught to children, mostly children of Russian compatriots. **Simona Berardi** illustrated the new multimedia technologies, the annual course of Russian Language for MIREES, the programs of the Russian language on the platform CLIRO, virtual conferences MESI in streaming *Informacionnye i kommunikativnye tehnologii v rusistike*. **Carlo Fredduzzi** explained how in 1990 in Genoa the USSR-Italy association was officially dissolved. Currently the Institute of Russian Language and Culture of Rome "inherited" the Roman Section of the Association, and it is visited annually by over 300 students. **Paola Cotta Ramusino**, together with **Elda Garetto** described the inter-faculty courses in the Russian language at the State University of Milan, the international certification connected with the Institute of Russian Language "Pushkin" in Moscow, the platform for distance learning, and the Project with the University of Bochum *Lettura Russa di Alta Qualità*. **Maria Chiara Pesenti** described the preparatory course of literacy, which is held annually for students at the University of Bergamo, and she illustrated the certification sessions that are carried out regarding the stages of student learning. **Olga Trinkova** dealt with the activities of "Rossotrudnichestvo" of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the FR. Already present in many countries, the "Russian Centers of Science and Culture" are opening at a rate of 2 to 3 centers per year.

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