

CALL FOR PAPERS



Minor Cultures in Dialogue: Resisting Homogenization through Exchanging Experiences and Collaboration

Katowice, 26 and 27 May 2017

On May 26th and 27th, 2017 the Centre for the Study of Minor Cultures (University of Silesia), in collaboration with Ulster University and Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, will host an international conference on the condition of indigenous minor(ity) cultures in Europe. The conference is part of an ongoing research project which has been developed jointly by the three universities and contributors from other academic and non-academic institutions over the last two years. The Centre for the Study of Minor Cultures is honoured to have joined the project recently and to have the opportunity to hold the conference in Katowice.

The conference seeks to expand on the discussions and the research presented during the Paris and Belfast symposia. Its primary aim is to offer all the participants a platform for exchanging ideas and strategies concerned with both nonantagonistic and antagonistic confrontations between minor and major cultures so that we can learn from each other and make informed conclusions, based on analogies and meaningful differences. We want to take a closer look at various aspects of those confrontations and the political, social, linguistic and other ramifications which follow from all sorts of interactions between cultures and/or communities. What is of particular interest to us is the negotiations and (self-)narratives of identities and differences between minority cultures as part of mutual reinforcement and alliance in their efforts to mount resistance to dominant cultures. Therefore, we want to pay special attention to the regional, the local, the peripheral, the marginal, the indigenous - whether those categories relate to languages, cultures or, more narrowly, to literatures.

Some suggested themes (samples):

- Historical, social, political analogies between minor(ity) cultures
- Instances of (past or present) collaboration between minor(ity) cultures
- Minor literatures as sites of resistance to cultural dominance
- Ulster-Scots, Bretons, and Silesians (and/or other minor cultures) in the contexts of territory, borderland, and homeland
- Language, dialect, ethnolect – between politics and linguistics
- The political rationale for preserving minor(ity) cultures
- Discourses of cultural identities in contemporary Europe (e.g., minor/major; stable/fluid; endangered/dominant; diasporic/entrenched, etc.)
- Civil strategies of resistance – defying centralization and homogenization of minor(ity) cultures

The conference will comprise three sections: paper presentations, an open roundtable discussion and an informal brainstorming session (which will involve members of the research project). We invite abstracts (ca. 200 words) concerned with the above mentioned areas but reserve priority to members of the research project and, if necessary, we will also limit the number of presentations on the grounds of relevance. We hope to publish a selection of the proceedings either in a monograph form or in our new journal concerned with minority cultures.

Please send titles and abstracts (minorc@us.edu.pl) of your proposed presentations by February 28, 2017. We will let you know if your paper is accepted by March 15, 2017. Presentations should not exceed 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

The conference fee is 300 PLN (75 EUR). It includes conference materials, refreshments, dinner and participation in all conference-related activities.

The conference organizers: Leszek Drong (drong@us.edu.pl; minorc@us.edu.pl); Zbigniew Kadłubek