

Call for Papers

Reform and [yet] Durability in Human Sciences

1st Edition: 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and its consequences in German, Scandinavian and Dutch cultural spaces

October 19th - 20th, 2017

Location: University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Literatures and Languages

Languages: German and English

The Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest is pleased to announce its first annual international multi-disciplinary conference in the series “Reform and [yet] Durability in Human Sciences” to be held on October 19th – 20th 2017 at the University of Bucharest.

Being since at least Heraclitus fully aware that “everything flows”, stating along with Galilei despite all intrusion of nonscientific factors that “And yet it moves”, thinkers, artists and scholars from all over Europe have always had a certain flair for change. Moreover, thinkers, artists and scholars were always in the avant-garde of change, advocating the need for constant improvement of social conditions. They even coined new words expressing this need, transferring them from the scientific or religious vocabulary into politics: “reform”, “revolution”, “emancipation” and “progress” are but some examples. [And yet:] Once such words become public and thereby subjected to the political discourse irrespective of its doctrine, they can inspire mere change for the change’s sake which can only compromise a durable development.

The Conference of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Bucharest aims at shaping a functional pattern of change within Human Sciences—the more so as Human Sciences are not affected by breakthrough discoveries or inventions such as photons, quarks or nanorobots—in order to prevent hazardous, unsustainable and unsubstantial reforms in a common future that scholars from all European countries are to build together.

This year’s focus is the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and its consequences in the German, Scandinavian and Dutch cultural spaces. We invite all interested scholars and doctoral candidates in philology, philosophy, history, social sciences, religious studies etc. to join the conference and present papers that address its theme. Topics might include but are not restricted to:

- Protestant reverberations in the German/ Scandinavian/ Dutch cultural spaces in the 16th century and ever since – a historical approach (e.g. The Reformation in Iceland; Is there still a latent “Kulturkampf” in Germany?; Luther vs. Calvin; Dutch Calvinist moderation; The legacy of the Calvinist teaching; The religious, political, social and economic separation between the Dutch North and the Flemish South; Convergences between Protestantism and the Orthodox Church etc.)
- The Lutheran Reformation and its consequences for the modelling of scientific contents within Human Sciences, especially philology and philosophy, from the 16th century to nowadays Germany, Scandinavia and the Netherlands (e.g.: Protestant exegesis and the expansion of the hermeneutical method toward worldly topics; or: Existentialism and the leftovers of a demythologized Bible, etc.)

- Martin Luther and his spiritual heirs (e.g. Olaus Petri and the Reformation in Sweden; Johannes Honterus and the 16th century Transylvania, etc.)
- Martin Luther's reflections on translation
- Martin Luther - the movie character
- Impartiality and Tolerance in the Dutch Golden Age
- The women's voice in the Reformation (e.g. Katharina von Bora, Katharina Zell, Argula von Grumbach)
- Diachronic and synchronic perspectives on Germanic Languages (e.g. The linguistic impact of the Reformation – vocabulary, idioms, phraseology; „Vulgarizing the Holy Word”: first exploits in translating the complete Bible in German/ Dutch/ Swedish and Norse languages: Oddur Gottskálksson's translation of the Bible into Icelandic and its importance for the development of the Icelandic Language; Christian I's New Testament 1524 and King Christian III Bible 1550; Gustav Vasa's Bible, 1541, and the first reformation books in Sweden – *En nyttig undervisning*, *Swenske songer eller visor*, etc.)
- How does Protestant and Neoprottestant „Weltanschauung” work in literature? (e.g.: From the 16th century chapbooks to the modern reception of the Faust legend – Goethe, Klinger, Lenau etc.; Nature vs. God in Joost van den Vondel's tragedies; The Protestant Drama in Germany; Did Protestantism kill the burlesque hero?, Protestantism and the renewal of the “Bildungsroman”; The Reformation reflected in August Strindberg's plays *Master Olof* and *Gustav Vasa* etc.)
- The pious subject of Pietism and the culture of emotions in the 18th century literature
- Protestant ethics and “the cool conduct” within the German “Neue Sachlichkeit” (or similar artistic phenomena in the Netherlands or in Scandinavia)
- Toward a Protestant aesthetics – from precursors (Dürer, Grünewald) to Expressionism
- Modern Psalmists – from Luther and the Swedish Protestant Psalmists of the 16th and 17th century to Paul Celan
- Superseding the medieval city: sociological and anthropological perspectives (e.g.: Protestant subcultures in German, Dutch and Scandinavian cities and their literary image)

Each presentation is strictly limited to 20 minutes, followed by a 10-minute discussion.

Please submit a **250-word abstract in German or English** along with a short biographical note and the institutional affiliation by **May 15th, 2017** to one of the following addresses:

raluca.radulescu@lils.unibuc.ro – for German topics
carmen.vioreanu@lils.unibuc.ro – for Scandinavian topics
alexa.stoicescu@lils.unibuc.ro – for Dutch topics

Registration fee:

50 Euro (early bird registration fee; deadline July 15th, 2017)
100 Euro (regular registration fee; after July 15th, 2017 but not later than September 5th, 2017)

The fee covers coffee breaks, lunch for both conference days and publication.