

TRANSCENDING BOUNDARIES: LITERATURE, GEOCRITICISM AND FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

Abstract: The talk aims at discussing literary studies at the cross-roads with history, geography, ethnicity in an attempt to identify the most recent critical approaches which blur the boundaries between literary texts and other disciplines belonging to the humanities. The analysis has been inspired from, and will focus on, the association of space, the city, and literature, and the interconnection between geography and literary criticism (Westphal, Tally), which has led to the mixed concept of geocriticism. The talk will look at the connection between the real and imaginary cartography of literary texts, hybrid borders and spaces as well as at representations of cityspace (Soja), an umbrella term under which history, geography, sociology, economy, and ecology mix to reveal new and challenging meanings of the literary text, whether fictional or poetic.