

UNIVERSITY OF NOVA GORICA
WOMEN WRITERS ROUTE ASSOCIATION
DIMITRIE CANTEMIR CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, BUCHAREST
UNIVERSITY OF GOTHENBURG
UNIVERSITY OF TURKU



*Call for
papers*

CENSORING INTIMACY IN
WOMEN'S READING AND
WRITING IN THE LONG
NINETEENTH CENTURY

- EXPLORATORY WORKSHOP -

23-24 AUGUST 2022, LJUBLJANA,
SLOVENIA

The University of Nova Gorica, The Women Writers Route Association, Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, Bucharest, Gothenburg University and The University of Turku are pleased to announce the 3rd international exploratory workshop CENSORING INTIMACY IN WOMEN'S WRITING AND READING IN THE LONG NINETEENTH CENTURY.

The workshop will strive to explore the issue of intimacy and its connection with censorship and self-censorship, starting from the evidence that suggests that extensive research has to be done from new points of departure, considering recent theoretical developments and the awareness of situating phenomena historically and geographically. The workshop will focus on women's writing and reading in the long 19th century and the way in which they may generate discussions about the actuality of the gender censorship connected to women's writing and reading in 20th and 21st century Europe.

The first initiative in exploring intimacy connected to women writers was the exploratory workshop "RETHINKING INTIMACY IN WOMEN'S READING AND WRITING (1700S-1900S)" arranged at the Faculty of Foreign Languages at Dimitrie Cantemir University, Bucharest in September 2016. The second workshop held at the University of Gothenburg "RETHINKING INTIMACY IN WOMEN'S READING AND WRITING AT THE PERIPHERIES OF EUROPE" narrowed the scope and focused on the peripheries of Europe. The workshops initially aimed at inviting the research community to identify possible areas of investigation of intimacy aspects related to women's reading and writing practices, moving on to situating the cultural category of intimacy historically and geographically at the fringes of Europe in the long Nineteenth Century. The third workshop will look at censorship and the mechanisms that may hinder, but may also foster women writers' creativity in articulating issues related to intimacy in a broader European context.

Historically, various forms of censorship (from state censorship to editor, publisher, and translator intervention to self-censorship) have greatly shaped the creative process of writers. However, topics related to gender and intimacy (love, sexuality, family relationships, friendship) have been embedded in a broad field of morality, dictating to women what was (in)appropriate (in everyday life as well as in the realm of artistic expression). They reacted to this with various strategies: by concealing authorship (pseudonyms), encoding, gaps in texts, choosing different literary genres, masquerading, fragmenting and leaving their works unfinished.

Consequently, we will be looking at the ways in which women writing intimacy faced censorship from both state administration and self-appointed censors (literary mentors, friends, and guardians who attempted, sometimes with advice, but often with more aggressive intervention in the texts to shape the poetics of women writers). Where women writers did not conceal their authorship, they often received critical judgments based on ideological assumptions on what was appropriate for a woman writer and what was not. Such reactions triggered processes of self-censorship which can be traced in ego documents (letters, diaries, autobiographical notes, etc.). Alternatively, these processes stimulated new literary strategies. Also, particular forms of censorship and self-censorship can be found in attempts to restrict women's reading.

The workshop welcomes contributions on (but is not limited to) the following topics:

- censorship and intimacy in a transnational/ transcultural context, e.g. translating modes of censoring intimacy from one space to another;
- reflections on the relationship between censorship and women writers' creative processes;
- addressing questions on women writers' responses to social and literary expectations regarding their gender in articulating intimacy;
- studies based on women writers' testimonials about the reactions of family, friends, mentors, publishers, editors, and critics;
- examining the forms of these reactions (attempts at suppression, control, silence) and the interaction between them;
- studies on the relationship between literary production and censorship; interrogating whether censorship was also a productive force, a stimulus to creativity, and whether or how it led to new literary genres, themes, and other literary devices;
- studies on interventions in women writers' texts (interventions by specific readers, such as mentors, editors, translators, and other cultural agents);
- theoretical reflections on the relationship between gender and censorship or self-censorship (New Censorship Theory);
- studies on various forms of suppression of literary texts in canonizing processes.

Keynote speaker: TBA

Proposals:

We invite proposals for individual papers. Abstracts should be limited to 250 words including the first and last names of presenter, the title of the proposed presentation, the 5 key word, the institutional affiliation (if applicable), the mailing address and email address.

Participation costs 60 euros and includes coffee breaks and lunches, as well as the workshop package. Participants should make their own travel and accommodation arrangements and cover other expenses. To allow more time for discussion and in view of anticipated common future initiatives the number of participants will be limited to 15 papers respecting and acknowledging the criteria of balanced representation about various European women writers.

Proposals must be received no later than the **1st of March 2022** and should be addressed to:

The Organizing Committee (CENSORINGintimacy@gmail.com)

Contributors will receive notes of acceptance by the 15 March 2022.

Workshop language: English

Presentation time: 20 Minutes

Organizing Committee:

Head of organizing committee:

Prof. Dr. Katja Mihurko Poniž, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Members:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Carmen Duțu, Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, Romania

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Birgitta Lindh Estelle, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alenka Jensterle Doležalova, Charles University, Czech Republic

Prof. Dr. Viola Parente-Čapková, Turku University, Finland

Publication:

A selection of workshop papers will be offered for publication as an edited volume with an international academic publishing house.

The workshop will be held as an event in the project Transformations of intimacy in the literary discourse of Slovene "moderna" funded by the Slovenian Research Agency (J6-3134) and the Czech Science Foundation (21-47320L).



Universitatea Creștină
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