

# Editorial

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## Young Scholars in Slovenian Studies: the second century

In the calendar year when the seventh issue of *Slovenika: Journal of Culture, Science and Education* is being published, Slovenian studies at the University of Belgrade have entered the academic year in which the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the lectureship, i.e. four-year parallel study programme of the Slovenian language and culture at the Faculty of Philology is being celebrated, and we are commemorating the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first course of Slovenian literature at the University of Belgrade. After the first individual courses in the Slovenian Language and Literature at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a regular course in the Slovenian Language at the University of Belgrade was established after World War II, as a series of lectures over two terms for the students of the Serbo-Croatian language and/or South Slavic literature. The four-year comparative studies of the Slovenian Language and Culture that could be continued within masters and PhD programmes were introduced by the Bologna reform in 2006/2007, in response to students' interest. Throughout this period, there has been an active scholarly cooperation between Serbia and Slovenia, along with collaboration in the fields of culture and art. The papers presented in this issue draw upon previous studies on the development of Slovenian studies in Serbia, scholarly and cultural cooperation, migration, mutual influences of the two cultures, and other topics.

Connecting the two anniversaries, the seventh issue of *Slovenika* is entitled *Young Scholars in Slovenian Studies: the second century*. It

presents scholarly and technical papers by young authors who studied at the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade and/or have collaborated with scholars in Slovenian studies from Belgrade. This central section is accompanied with papers that are primarily thematically related to Slovenian language studies in Belgrade.

Three papers dealing with literary topics open the section of scholarly and technical papers. Vanja Petrović and Darko Ilin discuss the work of Sonja Sever in the context of her simultaneous belonging to the Slovenian and Yugoslav literary traditions and in the light of various aspects of the poetics of Socialist Realism and its influence on the composition of literary works, character shaping and ideologizing the worldview. They also address her methods of transcending the narrow framework and matrix of this literary form, interweaving it with special requirements and functions of literature for children and youth. The article by Sašo Puljarević shifts literary topics from the Yugoslav to a wider regional context. In this study, the author seeks to explore the ways in which the reality of concentration camps is presented in three literary works – *If This is a Man* by the Italian writer Primo Levi, *Fatelessness* by the Hungarian author Imre Kertész, and *Necropolis* by the Slovenian writer Boris Pahor. He highlights that documentary literature typically remains referential and that it comes into being through memory and the act of narration. The third paper on literary topics takes us to Slovenia, through the vision of the Nobel Prize laureate Ivo Andrić. Nevena Lukinić analyzes how the writer observes and forms the image of Slovenia in his works using linguistic means. Through an analysis of selected texts by Ivo Andrić and using a comparative method, the author draws attention, on the levels of poetics, structure, narrative and images, to their dialogue, based on which the reader builds awareness of Andrić's imagination of Slovenia in his time.

The following group of articles covers linguistic topics. In his discussion on a beginners' mistake typical of Serbo-Croatian speaking learners of Slovenian who choose the form *imejo* as correct, Dr. Marko Simonović explains that this is due to the influence of Serbo-Croatian – not at the level of form, but at the level of an abstract rule, which is also present in some varieties of Serbo-Croatian. He also connects the infinitive with the third person plural of the present tense. As demonstrated by a detailed formulation of the rule, the mistake is expected in those Neo-Štokavian varieties that have a contrasting tone and quantitative differences limited to syllables with an accent and/or a high tone, such as the Belgrade speech. The proposed analysis has implications for the representation of thematic vowels in the Serbo-Croatian language, where they are presented as morphemes with lexically specified prosody. Maja Kovač discusses the professional development of Slovenian language teachers, who are required, in the

context of post-professional modernity, to get involved in versatile lifelong learning. In the paper, the author presents various training programmes and forms, to conclude that in regulations and legislation in general, the term Slovenian language assumes different roles, as a language of communication, the language of the teaching process, the language of the environment, and a teaching subject. The group of articles dedicated to linguistics closes with the contribution of Aleksandar Trifunović, who takes us to the pastures of the Balkans, all the way to the Carpathians, and presents his conclusions regarding the etymology of selected lexemes from the pastoral terminology of the Carpathian-Balkan area.

The *Varia* section features another sequel in the series of texts *Life Stories of Slovenian Women* by Helena Rill, who uses oral interviews to explore the migrations of Slovenian women from Slovenia to Serbia. In this issue of *Slovenika*, she presents the life story of the Slovenian woman Irena Herak, currently living in Belgrade, who says that all one needs is a little courage, as we have only one life to live. Teodora Trajković presents the legacy of the famous Belgrade-based Slovenian conductor and composer Zlatan Vauda, one-time active member of the Sava Association of Slovenians in Belgrade. The material is held by the Archives of the SASA Institute of Musicology and is a valuable source for further research. Aleksandar Kodela also deals with music: he presents the performances of Slovenian artists at the famous Belgrade music festival BEMUS since 1991 until today. Finally, Dr. Goran Anđelković unveils the contribution of the Slovenian architect Leonid Leon Lenarčič to the development of Belgrade's post-war architecture and leads us through Belgrade's streets, boulevards and neighbourhoods.

In the *Chronicles* section, the head of the Sava Association describes how the Sava Association of Slovenians in Belgrade celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence during the pandemic. In the *Reviews* section, the historian Aleksandar Dinčić presents the latest publication by Ivana Gruden Milentijević, the historian and an active member of the France Prešern Slovenian Cultural Association from Niš, *Slovenians in Serbia under German Occupation, 1941–1944*. Dr. Tanja Tomazin and Nejc Robida, lecturers at the University of Belgrade, write about the latest manual by Rada Lečič, MA, *Slovenian Prepositions and Phrasemes*, published to the great delight of students and teachers of Slovenian as a foreign/second language. Maja Kovač and Sašo Puljarević present the series of conversations *South Slavic Evening*, designed and led by themselves, which served as the source for the publication bearing the same title. The *Reviews* section closes with the presentation of the international project Erasmus +, KA2, UPSKILLS – UPgrading the SKILLS of Linguistics and Language Students, where the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade is one of the partners. The aim of the project is to devise study components for the development of empirical, research,

technical, organizational and other skills of linguistics students necessary for being employable in the research and business sectors.

In this issue, we commemorate the death of our dear colleague, member of *Slovenika's* Editorial Board, Prof. Dr. Cvetka Hedžet Tóth, who has left us prematurely. We keep the memory of her with the deepest respect and sincere sentiment.

The life cycle continues and we are looking forward to the new achievements of our young scholars in Slovenian studies, who are mostly scattered all over the world, but nevertheless firmly interconnected, in space and time. Connecting different topics, people and events, they are stepping through the second century of Slovenian studies at the University of Belgrade. We wish them all the best of luck!