

## HUMAN SPACE AND IDEOLOGY. INTRODUCTION

This issue of “Philological Studies. Literary Research” investigates the various presentations of space and its entanglement with ideology. Although every spatial form is ideological as its cultural representation always is a form of ideologization, we are interested in spaces defined by geographic and historical identity. We discuss the directions of changes and the character of processes that mostly occur in Central, Eastern, and South-Eastern Europe in the twentieth and twenty-first century. We focus on the cultural representations of space, how they influence social emotions, and how they create and affect social imaginaria and national identifications. Our areas of interest include the spatial cases, which provoke controversies and disputes as even their interpretation undergo ideologization. Due to the multicultural past of Central Eastern Europe, its spaces show multiple identities that neither are petrified in a stable form nor described once for all; they change in time while politics and history influence their reinterpretations. The awareness that the spaces do not have a single identity is an important interpretative factor. Hence, the spaces are often subject to disagreement between different groups within one nation, divided by different worldviews, or they become an object of rivalry between two different nations. Different forms of space analysis along with various interpretations of the significance of space in social and political life appeared in numerous anthropological, sociological, and philosophical works; suffice to mention Marc Augé, Gilles Deleuze, Michel Foucault, Timothy Ingold, Bruno Latour, Doreen Massey, Peter Sloterdijk, and Bernhard Waldenfels. All those points of view are for us an important context for analyzing the human space subject: they sketch our “outside perspective.” However, the authors who presented their texts in this issue, could choose freely what methodology they used. Most of them focused on the interdisciplinary approach, which enables them to discuss ideological narratives present in literary, cultural, and historical discourses.

The authors of the articles in this issue address symbolic disputes over space or antagonized forms of space representation associated with old and new national conflicts. They examine relationships between space representation and historical, memory, and education policies. They consider the ways of construction of spatial representations desired by a national community and,

on the other hand, the spatial representations eliminated from the dominant discourse for ideological reasons. The authors also follow traces of a complex multinational history of spaces, preserved or erased in the result of the twentieth- and twenty-first-century border shifts, not to mention touristified after political, social, and economic transformations.

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