

TAKING LITERATURE ONLINE IN TIMES OF CRISIS - ONLINE SYMPOSIUM

Friday, October 23rd 2020

14:00 – 17:00 CET

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“This is a time when we need art more than ever. We need art to remind us why life is worth living. We need art to reawaken our sense of the wonder of being, to remind us of our freedom and to highlight the things in our cultures that enable us to withstand the dreaded visage of death.”

Ben Okri, Financial Times, 21.3.2020.

This statement, made by the novelist Ben Okri just before lockdown in the UK began, has been echoed in the past few months over and over again by writers, musicians, theatre directors and artists in all media. Where literature is concerned, the role of literary creations in human life was demonstrated over and over again as theatres turned to streaming plays online, Zoom plays were written and performed by actors in remote locations, online book clubs were set up, the phenomenon of the lockdown film led to a lockdown film festival and literary adaptations for the screen became huge broadcasting phenomena.

For us as teachers, scholars and researchers many questions arise. Is the literary canon changing? Will we see different genres emerging from the pandemic? How do we teach literature online? How do learners react to being taught literature online? Our first online symposium will celebrate the vitality of literary response to the pandemic and serve as a platform for researching the phenomena we have witnessed.

We are inviting proposals that will address issues in teaching and researching literature in language learning and teaching in the new environment. Each presentation (either an asynchronous screencast video or a synchronous input talk) will last 10 minutes, followed by 15 minutes of discussion and questions.

Abstracts of 200-250 words should be submitted by email to lillt@ku.de by Monday, 10.09.2020

Timeline:

Presenters notified: 14.9.2020

Presenter registration/confirmation: 1.10.2020

Participant registration by: 20.10.2020

Symposium: 23.10.2020

Convenors:

Prof. Petra Kirchhoff, University of Erfurt

Prof. Amos Paran, UCL Institute of Education

Dr. Sandra Stadler-Heer, Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt