



University of Cyprus
Department of English Studies

As part of our Departmental Forum for the academic year 2023-2024,
we are delighted to invite you to our

2nd Graduate Research Seminar

The seminar, that includes the presentation of doctoral research
undertaken in our Department, will be held on:

Wednesday, 13 December 2023
@12:30pm

Venue:

Department of English Studies Conference Room
9 Klimentos Street (2nd floor, Eliades Building), 1061 Nicosia

The seminar will be open to the public.
For further information, please contact 22892102.

PROGRAMME

12:30 - 13.10

Presenter: Vasiliki Erotokritou – PhD Candidate in Linguistics

Title of talk: “Mapping Meaning and Sound: The Prosody of Information Structure in Cypriot Greek and Standard Modern Greek”

Short description:

My thesis aims to describe the prosodic realization of the mental representation of utterances, utilizing spontaneous speech data from Cypriot Greek and Standard Modern Greek. The main goal is to propose a theory that aligns Prosody with Meaning. During the presentation, it will be claimed that utterances constitute bipartite structures, consisting of a connecting point (or more than one connecting points) and the information. The concept of the bipartite structure of utterances traces back to Aristotelian Predicate Logic, wherein all statements exhibit ‘predication.’ ‘Predication’ refers to the cognitive operation of assigning a property (expressed by the predicate) to an entity (expressed by the subject). The classic Aristotelian approach will be revisited and broadened to encompass a wider range of elements fitting into the predication scheme. Specifically, it will be argued that a property can be assigned not only to a grammatical subject, but also to a grammatical object, a place, or a time. Furthermore, it will be argued that while most utterances involve predication, it is not the only cognitive function that a language conveys. Languages can also express identification, proportion, or equation. It is proposed that these four mental mechanisms (predication, identification, proportion, and equation) are in complementary distribution. Finally, it will be suggested that these meanings can be applied not only on statements but also on other grammatical structures, such as questions and imperatives. The phonological cues marking the bipartite structures include lexical prominence mechanisms (such as the fluctuation of the fundamental frequency and the amplitude, as well as syllable lengthening) and phrasing mechanisms (such as optional pauses and lengthening at the beginning of the utterance and before the boundaries of intermediate phrases and intonational phrases).

13.10 – 13:30

Break – Light lunch

13.30 – 14:10

Presenter: Eleni Gelasi – PhD Candidate in English Literature and Comparative Cultural Studies

**Title of talk: “The crisis in care in contemporary short fiction by women writers:
The pursuit of work-family balance and the crisis of social reproduction in short
fiction by Helen Simpson and Tessa Hadley”**

Short description:

In this forum I will present the chapter I am currently writing with the working title 'The pursuit of work-family balance and the crisis in social reproduction in the short fiction by Helen Simpson and Tessa Hadley'. I will embark on a feminist reading of short fiction by Simpson and Hadley on the topic of work-life balance in the first two decades of the 21st century. I will show how their writing sketches the reality of the crisis of social reproduction, as defined by Nancy Fraser, and the ways 21st century women deal with the pressure to alleviate this crisis while combining work and family. Hadley and Simpson illustrate how the postfeminist narrative of choice as well as the subsequent ideal of the balanced woman were instrumentalised in order to silence women's reaction against the crisis in care/social reproduction. This paper will aspire to trace how women writers portray the ways that the state repudiates carework by emphasizing personal responsibility and allying with a conservative feminism agenda. My analysis of contemporary short fiction by women writers will be informed by writing on neoliberal feminism and the work of thinkers such as Catherine Rottenberg and Angela McRobbie.

14:10 – 14:50

Presenter: Lina Protopapa – PhD Student in English Literature and Comparative Cultural Studies

Title of talk: "Artistic Recalibrations and Post-Identitarian Narratives in the Neoliberal Era: Toni Morrison's *Song of Solomon, Jazz, and Paradise*"

Short description:

This paper looks at Toni Morrison's exploration of black subjectivity in the neoliberal era by focusing specifically on three of her novels: *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Jazz* (1992), and *Paradise* (1997). Various threads pass through these works, but this paper deals specifically with three distinct yet closely related themes: first, the engagement with the past — with history, personal and collective; second, the potential and limits of identity as a motor for social transformation; and third, the arts as a domain in which history, identity, and the social and political contentions that call them forth can be effectively played out. The three thematic threads converge, I want to argue, on an impasse brought on by the struggle to overcome capitalist, racial, and gender oppression and to achieve social justice against the backdrop of neoliberalism.