

4th Annual Lecture of the Faculty of Humanities

INVITATION

The Faculty of Humanities invites you to the 4th Annual Lecture
with guest speaker

Professor Galin Tihanov
Queen Mary University of London

Cosmopolitanism and the Mission of the Humanities

Thursday, 9th October 2025, 19:00 pm

Amphitheatre B108, Senate/Council Building "Anastasios
G. Leventis"

PROGRAMME

- Presentation of the speaker by Associate Professor Antonis Balasopoulos
- Lecture

Information

Faculty of Humanities
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Short Profile



Galin Tihanov is the George Steiner Professor of Comparative Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He is also the PI for the project STRASYN (*Theorizing (Sub)peripheries: Strategies of Synchronization in Southeast European Literary and Cultural Criticism*; <https://grants.ulbsibiu.ro/strasyn/>), hosted by Lucian Blaga University of Sibiu.

Tihanov has held visiting professorships at universities in Europe, North and South America, and Asia. He is the author of six books, including *The Birth and Death of Literary Theory: Regimes of Relevance in Russia and Beyond* (Stanford UP, 2019) which won the 2020 AATSEEL Book Prize for "best book in literary studies". *World Literature in the Soviet Union* (ASP, 2023), of which Tihanov is the lead editor, received the 2024 AATSEEL Book Prize for "best edited multi-author scholarly volume". Tihanov has been elected to the British Academy (2021) and to Academia Europaea (2012). He serves on the Executive Board of the Institute for World Literature at Harvard University and as Honorary Scientific Advisor to the Institute of Foreign Literatures, CASS, Beijing, as well as on the advisory boards of universities and foundations in the United States, China, Germany, and other countries. He is also Past President of the ICLA Committee on Literary Theory. His current work is on world literature, cosmopolitanism, and exile.

Short Summary

Cosmopolitanism and the Mission of the Humanities

In this lecture I aim to situate the current state of the humanities against the background of their evolution and the challenges they are facing. The lecture draws on developments in comparative literature and history, as well as on studies in world literature, cosmopolitanism, and exile. At the heart of my exposition are a number of questions: what recent trends have been informing the changing place of the humanities; what is their role at the university and beyond; is there something unique that the humanities can do, which other disciplines can't deliver; what future for the humanities, and in what shape? As I seek to provide answers to these questions, however tentative, I discuss the need for the humanities to forge collaborations within and outside the university, to engage with the arts, and to begin to define their position vis-à-vis non-expert knowledge and the rise of AI.