

Word and Text- A Journal of Literary Studies and Linguistics is a **bi-annual** peer-reviewed international journal in critical theory and linguistics. It publishes essays and reviews in English and French which explore general critical theory and its application to literature, as well as general and applied linguistics. For more details, please consult the webpage (<http://jls.l.upg-ploiesti.ro/contact.html>)

No. 2/ 2011 will focus on the theme

The Limits of Criticism / Criticism of the Limits

In Ancient Rome *līmes* designated a boundary line or frontier separating the imperial inside from the alien outside, the known and domestic from the unknown and foreign; it is to this political marker, with its ideological determinations, that we owe the term 'limit' which we wish to set up in a ("critical") dialogue with what criticism is and does. Whether in literature (in novel uses of language and form) or in other arts more generally, experimental, avant-garde creation always endeavours to push ever further the limits of expression, representation, and genericity, to name but these. Likewise, 'good' criticism (from Greek *krinein*: to decide) should always seek and decide to renegotiate the limits of interpretation(s), concepts, categories, (etc) and, ultimately, thought, to the point of undecidability. But how far can it go without overstepping its limits and remit, and crossing over into an alien, inhospitable territory or discipline that could be identified by a different name? Similarly, to extrapolate Ezra Pound's 'make it new' principle, according to which 'literature is news that stays news': is the experience - from *experīrī*: to try, put to the test; itself related to *peras*, the Greek antecedent of the Roman *līmes* - of a redefined threshold or horizon (from Greek *oros*: boundary, limit) always a guarantee of aesthetic quality (cf. John Barth, 'The Literature of Exhaustion')? But conversely and equally relevantly, is the recognition or even imposition of limits, boundaries, demarcation lines, horizons, and suchlike, necessary to ground a critical act of interpretation? *Word and Text* invites literary critics and linguists alike - among other hermeneuts of the real in its unlimitable representational forms - to address this double bind from a range of perspectives that include (but are not limited to):

- the relativity of disciplinary boundaries (for e.g. between formal linguistics and a linguistic analysis of a literary text);
- the relation and differences between criticism and critique;
- historically informed reflections on the shift from disciplines to inter-/trans-disciplinarity in academe;
- limits and liminality (from *līmen*: threshold, doorway): political and psychoanalytical functions of the interpretive act;
- the porous or plastic hermeneutical relation between decidability and undecidability (but also calculability, probability, etc. and their contraries);
- 'the law of genre' (Derrida): generic (but also genetic) boundaries between literary forms;
- deviations and deviancies in linguistic, literary usage;
- open and closed structures in literary criticism and linguistics;
- limits and excess: totalitarianism versus freedom or safeguard versus free-for-all?
- 'transgressive fiction' and other emerging literary trends;
- figure versus ground in language and thought: phenomenology, Gestalt psychology, metaphor studies, etc.
- the role of dialectic in interpretation today;
- 'meta-': can there be a metalanguage? is not all fiction somehow metafictional? etc;
- aporetics, ethics and aesthetics of (in)hospitality (representations of doors, thresholds, etc.).

We welcome interdisciplinary approaches, ranging across critical theory, literary studies, cultural studies, general and applied linguistics as well as other disciplines in the humanities.

Contributors are advised to follow the journal's submission guidelines and stylesheet.

The deadline for article submissions is 15 October 2011. The articles should be sent as attachments to: wordandtext2011@gmail.com

All submitted articles will be peer-reviewed.

Accepted articles will be returned for post-review revisions by 1 November and are expected back in their final version by 7 November.