

## **DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, 2017-2020**

### **Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures**

**doc. Ondřej Pilný, PhD**

The Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures is going to maintain the current balance between research and teaching while developing new research areas and being involved in international study programmes. Research will continue to be conducted predominantly in a wide international framework but will also involve significant participation in the activities of the recently established interdisciplinary centres at the Faculty of Arts. The two-year MA and the PhD programmes will represent the primary focal point of teaching, with these programmes being grounded in the solid basis provided by the BA programme in English and American Studies (administered together with the Department of English Language and ELT Methodology).

#### **Department Structure**

The existing department structure will be maintained; this consists of five basic research units that are mutually interconnected by staff participation, and have its own director. Their activities are subject to the approval and supervision of the Department Head. The research units are as follows:

- English Literature Section (Seminář anglické literatury), director Prof. Martin Procházka
- American Literature and Studies Section (Seminář americké literatury a amerických studií), director Dr Erik Roraback
- Centre for British and Commonwealth Studies (Kabinet britských studií a studií o zemích Britského společenství), director Dr Soňa Nováková
- Centre for Irish Studies (Kabinet irských studií), director Doc. Ondřej Pilný
- Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory (Centrum kritické a kulturní teorie), director Dr Louis Armand

#### **Research**

The principal areas of research will be determined, on the one hand, by the existing expertise within individual units of the department and their recent achievements, and by the current or potential availability of grant funding on the other. The basic research framework will be given by the participation of department staff in large grant projects, such as the Progres Q12 “Literature and Performativity” and the Faculty of Arts OPVVV project (should the latter be funded). Participation in the Faculty of Arts Humanities Research Centre “Creative Lab” will concern not only individual researchers but also the newly founded research team “International Arts Centre Prague”, which integrates Czech, British and Slovenian researchers and students and which has been granted institutional support by the Faculty of Arts.

The above research will be complemented by further grant projects funded by national and international agencies, such as GAČR, GAUK, the European Commission, the Irish Government, and others. Establishment of other research teams, following the example of the International Arts Centre Prague, will be positively encouraged.

Significant international conferences will be organised; these will include conferences on Irish and European modernism (2017), Samuel Beckett and Technology (2018), and biannual graduate students’ conferences in Irish Studies (2017, 2019). Large-scale conferences under consideration

include the World Congress of Scottish Literatures in 2020, and the 2021 conference of the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies.

The projected extensive international cooperation will require enhanced participation of the department staff in international conferences and executive meetings of international academic associations. Regular participation of international scholars in the activities of the department will be facilitated primarily in the form of guest lectures, consultations to graduate students and examination of PhD theses by reviewers from international universities.

In-house publication and editorial activities will feature, in particular, the publication of the refereed journal *Litteraria Pragensia* (listed in the ERIH database and currently applying to be listed in the Scopus database), and the *Litteraria Pragensia* Books series affiliated with the International Arts Centre Prague. Both of these projects have become established as outlets of high-quality international research (for instance, the forthcoming issue of the journal is being prepared in cooperation with scholars from Queen Mary University of London, École Normale Supérieure and other leading universities).

The department management will provide the greatest possible support for its members' effort to enhance their academic qualification. All staff will in turn be expected to consistently engage in research, publish on a regular and relevant basis, and promote their work to a wider audience by way of public lectures and events and presentations in the media.

### **Teaching**

The department will continue to administer study programmes on BA, MA and PhD levels.

Within the BA programme in English and American Studies (administered together with the Department of English Language and ELT Methodology), the teaching of courses covering the entire histories of the literatures and cultures of the British Isles and North America will be maintained, together with the basics of academic writing, research methodology, and literary theory.

The MA programme in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures will maintain its current structure in which the students select one of five principal MA tracks, and choose to attend courses within this track and outside it based on the requirements of their thesis project. Proposed initiatives include a new course focused on editorial work, which is to be tied in with the existing courses in literary translation, and the eventual establishment of a Scottish Studies MA track (to be administered by a Centre for Scottish Studies). Increased attention will be paid to the promotion of the MA programme, since the number of applicants and their level of knowledge on entry has not been satisfactory in the past few years.

The PhD programme in Anglophone Literatures and Cultures (in its Czech and English mutation) will prioritize the acceptance of a plausible number of high-quality applicants, who will be encouraged to participate in the research projects conducted from the department.

A new BA and MA study programme focused on the teaching of English at secondary schools is currently being prepared in conjunction with the Department of English Language and ELT Methodology. The intention is to pilot the BA programme from 2019 with a group of ca. 15 students, and open the MA programme once the first group of students is about to graduate from the BA programme.

As regards international cooperation in teaching, the department has submitted an application for an H-2020 Marie Curie-Sklodowska Action – International Training Networks European Joint Doctorate (EJD) “Migration and Modernity” (MOVES), together with the universities of Porto, Montpellier, Kent and Freie Universität Berlin. The proposal was successful but did not attract the EU funding; it will be resubmitted in January 2018. The EJD is to follow up on the successfully completed joint doctoral programme “Text and Event in Early Modern Europe” (TEEME). The department will continue to participate in the Erasmus Strategic Partnership Network “New Faces. Facing Europe in Crisis: Shakespeare’s World and Present Challenges” (together with the universities of Montpellier, Utrecht, Porto, Ferrara, Murcia, Szeged, Krakow and Freie Universität Berlin), in the international network of PhD programmes Hermes (with University College London and the universities of Aarhus, Amsterdam, Giessen, Helsinki, Leuven, Lisbon, Montpellier, Santiago de Compostella and Wisconsin/Madison), and in the series of advanced post-graduate lectures on European Romanticism “London-Paris Seminar”, organized by Queen Mary University of London and École Normale Supérieure. Participation in further international teaching programmes will be encouraged.

Erasmus+ student and staff exchanges will be maintained with a plausible number of institutions on the British Isles and in Continental Europe. The department will continue to welcome visiting students in its courses, and will be ready to accommodate students coming in on Erasmus contracts with other departments of the Faculty of Arts or other Charles University faculties wherever this may be feasible. However, it will expect appropriate remuneration for the additional work that this entails for its staff.

If the current study programmes are to be successfully maintained and the programmes intended for future secondary school teachers are to be opened, however, the department will need appropriate teaching space. At the moment, the situation is critical, and the fulfilment of teaching obligations under the current accreditation is seriously threatened. The department will consequently request the assignment of at least one additional classroom for 25 students from the academic year 2018-19, and the assignment of teaching time in at least one additional classroom for 100 students in the BA programme from the academic year 2019-20 when the teachers’ BA is to commence.

### **Staffing**

Hiring new researchers and teachers will be a top priority. Due to an ongoing lack of funding, only 3.0 contracts have been granted to new staff over the last 15 years, regardless of the increased number of students, research projects and administrative duties. As a result, the average age of the department staff is well over 40 years at the moment. In order to facilitate continuity and successful development of the discipline, funding will be requested for a minimum of 2.5 contracts by 2020 to be allocated to young researchers and teachers.

A related issue to be addressed is the critical lack of office space. The current situation in which the 20 staff members, a secretary and the student assistants are confined to four diminutive offices, and the current 20+ PhD students have no work space whatsoever, is no longer tenable. The projected target therefore is to be allocated two more offices by 2021.

### **Administration**

It has become increasingly clear that with the growing amount of administrative tasks pertaining to grant projects and student agenda in particular, the established practice of all administration being handled by the Department Head, the Academic Assistant (tajemník) and a part-time secretary is no longer feasible. Administration duties will therefore be redistributed in order to be shared with other department members and the student assistants. This will entail, for instance,

the processing of student petitions and accreditation agenda by the Deputy Head, who will receive appropriate remuneration for this work; students will be notified on the department website as regards the procedure pertaining to their requests.

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