

# ***Project Report***

*October 2011 – November 2014*

**Project Title:** Violence Narrative and Myth in Joyce and Yeats: Subjective Identity and Anarcho-Syndicalist Traditions

**Research Grant:** PN-II-ID-PCE-2011-3-0106

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### **1. Context and description of completed and on-going research activities**

The Exploratory Research Project aims to contribute to the investigation of the ways in which aesthetic experience in its many forms engenders the identities of social actors and influences their actions in the material world. Social actors define themselves through aesthetic experience and test derived scenarios of social action in the material world. Hence, the various forms of art in any textual presentation (literary text, visual text, and so forth) do not merely invite contemplation and reflection, but play an active role in the material production of the social world in its diverse modes of manifestation (institutions, social collectives, transformative social action, and so on). Therefore, art contributes to the material production of society, and is not simply a means of reflecting the material world fictionally.

The proposed research is disseminated through articles in academic journals, including those listed in the ISI (Web of Knowledge) database, and through a monograph published by Palgrave Macmillan. I aim to also publish a short monograph through the Palgrave Pivot programme. Dissemination activities included conference presentations and invited presentations, with future presentations currently planned. In addition, I have been organising a series of Public Seminars at University of Suceava, held by myself and young researchers, but also by scholars from the USA and Belgium, aiming to engage the general non-specialist public in exploring the issues raised by the project, while also offering an outlet for young researchers to present individual research that is resonant with the Exploratory Research Project.

The first stage of the project (October-December 2011) was dedicated to preliminary monograph research. The monograph manuscript was completed in the second stage (January – December 2012). This work was aided by a number of research stages at Catholic University of Leuven, University of Sorbonne Nouvelle/ Bibliothèque du CEDIAS-Musée social, L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, University of Illinois at Chicago, DePaul University, British Library at

Boston Spa, and Villanova University. The research has led to new theoretical perspectives on aesthetic experience as form of material production in which the means of production include literary text and the end product is the identity of social actors (the readers) and their socially transformative agency. These perspectives emerged from the study of W. B. Yeats's and James Joyce's literary production in a methodological framework derived from the social and political philosophy of Georges Sorel in context of modernist art, philosophies, and radical politics. These perspectives are outlined in my monograph, *Violence, Narrative and Myth in Joyce and Yeats: Subjective Identity and Anarcho-Syndicalist Traditions*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2013. A synopsis is offered at 2.2 below.

The research which for various reasons could not be included in the monograph will be used to write a short monograph to be submitted to Palgrave through their Pivot programme, or will be published in article form, aiming for publication in ISI journals. This research along with research undertaken in future stages of the project will serve to test the theories developed in the monograph in contexts beyond those of Joyce's and Yeats's writing in order to assess those theories' wider and more general applicability. This effort has begun with the publication of an academic article in the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, of a subsequent article in *Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory*, six international conference presentations so far, and two invited presentations, one at University of Lancaster (Department of English and Creative Writing Research Seminars programme) and one at the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia, as Distinguished Lecturer (<http://willson.uga.edu/programs/public-programs/distinguished-lecturers/>). At present I have completed two of three planned chapters of the Palgrave Pivot monograph focusing on William Wordsworth and Joseph Conrad (*Heart of Darkness*), as well as on the social philosophy of the Australian socialist William Lane as expressed in his novel, *The Workingman's Paradise* and in his activism (the New Australia colony in Paraguay).

Two journal articles have been submitted for review to recognised journals in the field: "The Dracula Figure in the Writing of Bram Stoker and Liz Lochhead: A Comparative Analysis in Relation to Romanian Folklore" and "The Performativity of Text and Context in Le Fanu's Short Stories" (submitted to *Essays in Criticism* - Manuscript ID: ESCRIT-2013-046). Another article, entitled "Stalking the Undead. Myths of Femininity in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*", is currently in progress. A critical review of *Coleridge and Kantian Ideas in England, 1796-1817: Coleridge's Responses to German Philosophy* by Monika Class is forthcoming in *Comparative Literature Studies*.

Thus, the research developed so far has led to envisioning new venues of investigation. To exploit this potential, I organised a research group including young researchers from University of Suceava (3 students and a junior lecturer). The group is entitled Modernist Literature and Economic Theory. The team also includes, as international consultants, established scholars in the field: Prof. Nicholas Allen and Prof Jed Rasula (University of Georgia, USA), Prof Robert Hampson (Royal Holloway College, University of London), and Prof William Hughes (Bath Spa University, UK). The current stages of the project can be viewed at <http://mlet.usv.ro/>.

The research group is active since December 2012 and its work will continue until the end of the current grant, after which dedicated funding will be sought, for instance through applying for a Young Researchers Teams grant. Among others, the activities of the research group included the organisation of a series of public seminars open to students, academic staff, and the general public with the aim of increasing the

impact of humanities research in society. The first Public Seminar, entitled “Art as a Form of Religious Experience: is the artist a priest of the imagination?”, was held on 6 December 2012 at University of Suceava, with the most recent taking place on 28 November 2014. One of the seminars was led by Prof Nicholas Allen, Director of the Willson Center and Franklin Professor of English, University of Georgia (28 May 2013, followed up with an invited lecture which I gave at University of Georgia on 15 November 2013). An international conference is planned for June 2015. The student members of the group won prizes at the 2013 National Student Conference CONSENSUS (2<sup>nd</sup> place and special mention). The organisation of the research group was not listed as an aim of the Exploratory Research Project in the funding proposal, and therefore it is not funded through the project. Thus, although the creation of the research group is a result of activities developed within the project, the achievements of its members (excluding those of the Project Director) cannot be reported as having been funded through the project.

One other result of the expertise gained through the activities outlined above is my inclusion as international jury member for the *Yeats Reborn: the EFACIS Yeats Anniversary Project*, organised by the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies ([http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class\\_id=34](http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class_id=34)).

## **2. Quantifiable results of research activities, of actions involving young researchers in research derived from the project, of international collaborations and conference presentations**

### **2.1 List of quantifiable results**

- Monograph: Tudor Balinisteanu, *Violence, Narrative and Myth in Joyce and Yeats: Subjective Identity and Anarcho-Syndicalist Traditions* (Houndmills: Palgrave, 2013)  
ISBN 978-0-230-29095-2 ; 978-1-137-29158-5 Web of Knowledge (ISI) IDS number: BEO10
- Journal article: Tudor Balinisteanu, “Goddess Cults in Techno-Worlds: Tank Girl and the Borg Queen”, *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 28:1 (2012), pp. 5-24;
- Journal article: Tudor Balinisteanu, “Spellbinding Stories: Gender Theory and Georges Sorel’s Concept of Social Myth”, *Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory*, 42:1, pp. 107-126;
- Accepted for publication: Review of *Coleridge and Kantian Ideas in England, 1796-1817: Coleridge’s Responses to German Philosophy*. By Monika Class. London: Bloomsbury, 2012. xiv + 245pp. \$120.00, *Comparative Literature Studies*;
- Two of three chapters completed for the Palgrave Pivot monograph, two journal articles completed (one submitted), and a journal article in progress (see page 2 above);
- Two invited presentations:

**Willson Center for Humanities and Arts, University of Georgia**, as Distinguished Lecturer: 15 November 2013: “The Dracula Figure in the Writing of Bram Stoker and Liz Lochhead: A Comparative Analysis in Relation to Romanian Folklore” (<http://willson.uga.edu/programs/public-programs/distinguished-lecturers/>)

**Department of English and Creative Writing, University of Lancaster**, within the Research Seminars programme: 15 October 2014: “Aesthetic Experience As Form of Religious Experience in Joyce & Yeats”

- Presentations at six international conferences:

15-20 June 2014: *XXIV International James Joyce Symposium: a long the krommerun* (Utrecht University): “Conviction and Aesthetico-Religious Experience in Joyce’s Poetics”

<http://jjs2014.wp.hum.uu.nl/files/2014/06/Programme-13-June-2014.pdf>

29 August-1 September 2013: *Modernist Studies Association (MSA 15) Conference: Everydayness and the Event* (University of Sussex and Queen Mary, University of London): “The Aesthetico-Religious Value of Social Myth in Joyce and Yeats”

<http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa15/files/MSAprogrammeFinal.pdf>

11-15 June 2013: *XXIII North American James Joyce Conference: Joyce in Charleston* (The College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina): “The Political Aesthetics of Myth in Joyce’s *Ulysses* in Sorelian Perspective”

<http://blogs.cofc.edu/jamesjoyce/program-tentative/>

18-21 October 2012: *Modernist Studies Association (MSA14) Conference: Modernism & Spectacle* (University of Nevada, Las Vegas): “The Bergsonian Ethos of Joyce’s and Yeats’s Writing: A Sorelian Perspective”

[http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa14/files/FINAL\\_PROGRAM\\_SCHEDULE.pdf](http://msa.press.jhu.edu/conferences/msa14/files/FINAL_PROGRAM_SCHEDULE.pdf)

10-16 June 2012: *XXIII International James Joyce Symposium: Joyce, Dublin, and Environs* (Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin): “Social Myth and James Joyce’s Political Aesthetic”

22-24 May 2012: *Cycles, Recueils, Macrotxts: Theorizing the Short Stories Collection* (Catholic University of Leuven): “Women’s Identities and the Masculine Folktale Tradition in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne’s *The Inland Ice*”

<http://mdrn.be/sites/mdrn.be/files/PROGRAMMA.pdf>

- Six international research stages at: L’École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris, including attendance at Prof Éric Michaud’s seminar, “L’Art, une technique d’adaptation?”, March-April 2013; Catholic University of Leuven, March-May 2012; University of Sorbonne Nouvelle, October-November 2012; University of Illinois at Chicago and DePaul University, 1-18 November 2013; Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, 7-25 August 2014; British Library at Boston Spa, UK, and Villanova University, USA, 15 September – 28 October 2014;
- Membership of four international scientific societies:

(1) Affiliated Researcher, Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (member page:

<https://ghum.kuleuven.be/lcis/members/Balinisteanu.html>).

(2) Member of the Modernist Studies Association.

- (3) Member of the International James Joyce Foundation.
- (4) Member of La Société d'études soréliennes (The Society for Sorelian Studies).
- Involvement of young researchers from University of Suceava (3 students and a junior lecturer) in research activities along the lines developed from the Exploratory Research Project, through the constituted research group Modernist Literature and Economic Theory (<http://mlet.usv.ro/>) which also includes as international consultants Prof. Nicholas Allen and Prof Jed Rasula (University of Georgia, USA), Prof Robert Hampson (Royal Holloway College, University of London), and Prof William Hughes (Bath Spa University, UK), leading to the organisation of seven public seminars at University of Suceava:
    - Public Seminar 1: "Art as a Form of Religious Experience: is the artist a priest of the imagination?", 6 December 2012, 6-8pm;
    - Public Seminar 2: "Art and Economic Materialism: can art help us to overcome the economic crisis?", 7 March 2013, 2-4pm;
    - Public Seminar 3: "Modernism, Empire and Archipelago", 28 May 2013, 4-5pm, held by Prof Nicholas Allen, Director of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and Franklin Professor of English, University of Georgia;
    - Public Seminar 4: "What Is Art Good For?", 16 January 2014, 2pm; Topics: "Art and Social Change: is the activist an artist?"; "Art and Violence: does art play a role in terrorism or war?"; "'Words never ground a grain of corn': is art useful for material production?"; moderated by Ana Craciunescu, MA student, the British Culture and Civilisation MA Programme, Gabriela Vacariu, 3rd year student, French-English Programme, Iuliana Ilasca, 3rd year student, French-English Programme, and Dr Tudor Balinisteanu;
    - Public Seminar 5: "In the Midst of Things: Material Culture, Materiality, and Self-Definition", 5 March 2014, 2.30pm, held by Diana Socoliuc, MA Social and Cultural Anthropology, Catholic University of Leuven;
    - Public Seminar 6: "Neurohumanities: can aesthetic experience be quantified in material terms?", 30 October 2014, 4pm;
    - Public Seminar 7: "*Mythos over Logos or Logos over Mythos: Modernist Perspectives on the Social Value of Art*", 28 November 2014, 6pm.
  - Member of the international jury for *Yeats Reborn: the EFACIS Yeats Anniversary Project*, organised by the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies ([http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class\\_id=34](http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class_id=34));

## 2.2 Narrative description of published monograph research

The research has led to the publication of a monograph entitled *Violence, Narrative and Myth in Joyce and Yeats: Subjective Identity and Anarcho-Syndicalist Traditions* (Palgrave 2013). In this monograph I explore Yeats's and Joyce's writing and philosophies using the concept of social myth developed by the French thinker Georges Sorel. The discussion of politics and myth is situated in the broad sweep of constitutional change that Ireland underwent at the turn of the century. This includes, for instance, a focus on the politics

of Charles Stewart Parnell, one of Joyce's role-models, which led to the introduction of Home Rule bills after 1885, and on the further development of Irish nationalism into Gaelic Revivalism through tapping into national mythology, with Yeats a representative figure of the Revival. Taking into account colonial contexts, I develop links with sites of discussion about social organisation in the British dominions (primarily Australia). Yeats's and Joyce's texts are analysed in relation to transnational anarchist and syndicalist ideas and in the context of works by George Russell, Wyndham Lewis, Ezra Pound, Dora Marsden, Edward Carpenter, Prince Kropotkin, H. D. Thoreau, Mikhail Bakunin, and Benjamin Tucker, among others. Based on these analyses complemented by examinations of conflicting developments at local level (illuminated, for instance, by the Dowden controversy between Yeats and the Trinity College Shakespeare scholar Edward Dowden), I develop a theory of the dynamic relations between narrative and social change, exploring the ways in which literary narrative shapes the subject of action and participates in forms of violence.

The theory developed in the monograph research constitutes a blueprint for further studies focused on other periods than that encompassing Irish culture at the turn of the nineteenth century. In the future phases of the projects I envision the testing of its wider applicability through developing and publishing new research articles as well as a Palgrave Pivot monograph.

### 3. Calendar of activities

Publishable research has been developed throughout the stages of the project. The following dates represent milestones of a kind or another.

- 10 March-28 May 2012: Research Stage at Catholic University of Leuven;
- April 2012: member of the Leuven Centre for Irish Studies (member page: <https://ghum.kuleuven.be/lcis/members/Balinisteanu.html>);
- 22-24 May 2012: conference presentation: *Cycles, Recueils, Macrotxts: Theorizing the Short Stories Collection* (Catholic University of Leuven): "Women's Identities and the Masculine Folktale Tradition in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne's *The Inland Ice*";
- May 2012: Journal article (ISI listed): Tudor Balinisteanu, "Goddess Cults in Techno-Worlds: Tank Girl and the Borg Queen", *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*, 28:1, pp. 5-24;
- 10-16 June 2012: conference presentation: *XXIII International James Joyce Symposium: Joyce, Dublin, and Environs* (Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin): "Social Myth and James Joyce's Political Aesthetic";
- July 2012: member of the James Joyce Foundation;
- August 2012: finalised webpage of the Modernist Literature and Economic Theory (MLET) research team: <http://mlet.usv.ro/>.
- September-November 2012: recruitment of young researchers as members of MLET and gaining support of international consultants from major US and UK Universities;
- 15 October-26 November: Research Stage at University of Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris 3);

- 18-21 October 2012: conference presentation: *Modernist Studies Association (MSA 14) Conference: Modernism & Spectacle* (University of Nevada, Las Vegas): "The Bergsonian Ethos of Joyce's and Yeats's Writing: A Sorelian Perspective";
- October 2012: member of the Modernist Studies Association;
- November 2012: member of La Société d'études soréliennes (The Society for Sorelian Studies);
- November 2012: Palgrave Macmillan monograph clearance review completed (minor revisions requested);
- 3 December 2012: first meeting of the Modernist Literature and Economic Theory (MLET) team;
- 6 December 2012: first MLET Public Seminar: "Art as a Form of Religious Experience: is the artist a priest of the imagination?";
- 2013: published monograph: Tudor Balinisteanu, *Violence, Narrative and Myth in Joyce and Yeats: Subjective Identity and Anarcho-Syndicalist Traditions* (Houndmills: Palgrave, 2013);
- 7 March 2013: Public Seminar 2: "Art and Economic Materialism: can art help us to overcome the economic crisis?" (Presentation by Ana Craciunescu, MA student, British Culture and Civilisation MA Programme, University of Suceava: "The Aesthetics of Social Domination: Knowledge vs. Money");
- 11 March-28 April 2013: Research Stage at L'École des hautes études en sciences sociales, Paris. Attended Prof Éric Michaud's seminar "L'Art, une technique d'adaptation?";
- 28 May 2013: Public Seminar 3: "Modernism, Empire and Archipelago" (lecture by Prof Nicholas Allen, Director of the Willson Center for Humanities and Arts and Franklin Professor of English, University of Georgia, USA);
- 11-15 June 2013: conference presentation: *XXIII North American James Joyce Conference: Joyce in Charleston* (The College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina): "The Political Aesthetics of Myth in Joyce's *Ulysses* in Sorelian Perspective";
- 29 August-1 September 2013: conference presentation: *Modernist Studies Association (MSA 15) Conference: Everydayness and the Event* (University of Sussex and Queen Mary, University of London): "The Aesthetico-Religious Value of Social Myth in Joyce and Yeats";
- 1-18 November 2013: Research Stage at University of Illinois at Chicago and DePaul University;
- 15 November 2013: invited lecture: "The Dracula Figure in the Writing of Bram Stoker and Liz Lochhead: A Comparative Analysis in Relation to Romanian Folklore", University of Georgia, USA (<http://willson.uga.edu/programs/public-programs/distinguished-lecturers/>);
- 16 January 2014: Public Seminar 4: "What Is Art Good For?" (moderators: Ana Craciunescu, MA student, British Culture and Civilisation MA Programme, Gabriela Vacariu, 3rd year student, French-English Programme, Iuliana Ilasca, 3rd year student, French-English Programme, and Dr Tudor Balinisteanu;
- 5 March 2014: Public Seminar 5: "In the Midst of Things: Material Culture, Materiality, and Self-Definition" (lecture by Diana Socoliuc, MA Social and Cultural Anthropology, Catholic University of Leuven);
- May 2014: Journal article: Tudor Balinisteanu, "Spellbinding Stories: Gender Theory and Georges Sorel's Concept of Social Myth", *Critique: Journal of Socialist Theory*, 42:1, pp. 107-126;

- 15-20 June 2014: conference presentation: *XXIV International James Joyce Symposium: a long the krommerun* (Utrecht University): "Conviction and Aesthetico-Religious Experience in Joyce's Poetics";
- 7-25 August 2014: Research Stage at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin;
- September 2014: Jury member for the *Yeats Reborn: the EFACIS Yeats Anniversary Project*, organised by European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies ([http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class\\_id=34](http://www.efacis.eu/site/news.php?class_id=34));
- 15 September-28 October 2014: Research Stage at the British Library at Boston Spa, UK and Villanova University, USA;
- 15 October 2014: invited lecture: "Aesthetic Experience As Form of Religious Experience in Joyce & Yeats", University of Lancaster;
- 28 October 2014: Review article accepted (ISI listed): Tudor Balinisteanu, "*Coleridge and Kantian Ideas in England, 1796-1817: Coleridge's Responses to German Philosophy*". By Monika Class. London: Bloomsbury, 2012. xiv + 245pp. \$120.00", *Comparative Literature Studies*;
- 30 October 2014: Public Seminar 6: "Neurohumanities: can aesthetic experience be quantified in material terms?";
- 28 November 2014: Public Seminar 7: "*Mythos over Logos or Logos over Mythos: Modernist Perspectives on the Social Value of Art*".

Project Director,

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