

The Faculty of “Artes Liberales” and Faculty of Polish Studies at the University of Warsaw  
in collaboration with the  
Polish Society for the Study of European Romanticism

are pleased to announce an international conference

**Romanticism: A Point of Contention, Past and Present**

(Warsaw, 10-11 October 2017)

The conference theme “Romanticism: A Point of Contention, Past and Present” encourages us to adopt a broad perspective on polemics within Romanticism and surrounding it. We hope to deal with the dynamic of disputation from both a historical and theoretical angle, examining how it informs and motivates Romantic strategies of engaging in polemics and how it shapes the inner development of Romanticism and its reception. The conference organizers aim at a comparative juxtaposition of different perspectives on Romanticism. This will enable us to see globally the specificities of Romanticism in different nations (“the multitude of Romanticisms”) as well as to construct models which present common tendencies (“the unity of Romanticism”).

The category of polemic or dispute will not be limited only to literature. A juxtaposition of disparate points of view on a number of aspects, not only literary or aesthetic, but also political, historical, social, economic, cultural, scientific and philosophical, as well as gender-related, will result in a new and inspiring outlook on the Romantic period on both interdisciplinary and international levels.

The above-mentioned unity of the anatomy of Romantic contention is connected with the logic of modernity (following the quarrel of the Ancients and the Moderns), which on a large scale introduced the category of generational conflict to historical process, problematizing the issue of tradition. Romantic disputes might also be associated with the experience of the disintegration of a common world of culture which is discernible in Romanticism. We propose also to give consideration to the category of difference and to processes of modernization observable on political, social, economic and civilization-related levels. For the multitude of Romanticisms was generated both by modern processes of cultural diversification and by local contexts connected with particular national cultures. Raising the issue of Romantic disputes, we would also like to consider the fact that the 19<sup>th</sup>

century, including its first half, was a time in which modern national traditions were formed, a time of quarrels concerning them and a time of negotiating different models of disputation.

The second part of the conference theme and its range of issues is linked with contentions and disputes conducted after Romanticism which are still very much alive. We are interested both in the almost 200-year-long history of these disputes and especially in our present situation, where returns to Romanticism are most often treated as an alternative to modernity or a model of “the other modernity”. A comparative perspective on these contentions and disputes might bring us closer to the phenomenon of the enduring presence of Romanticism in culture and might tell us something about the times that we live in today.

We propose discussion on the following issues:

1. Anatomy of Romantic disputes and anatomy of disputes about Romanticism (theoretical models),
2. Dynamics of Romantic disputes,
3. Romantic disputes and disputes about Romanticism from a comparative perspective,
4. Romantic disputes and disputes about Romanticism vs. modernity, its logic and processes,
5. Romanticism and counterculture (countercultures),
6. Romantic disputes and disputes about Romanticism in relation to national tradition (national traditions),
7. Romantic disputes and disputes about Romanticism in relation to the rivalry of ideas and generations,
8. Pivots of Romantic disputes (artistic and ideological),
9. Disputes about Romanticism in literature, other forms of art and journalism,
10. Stage and film adaptations as a testimony to quarrels about Romanticism and the enduring presence of Romanticism,
11. Private correspondence, journals and memoirs as documenting Romantic disputes.

The language of the conference is **English**. However, we will also welcome papers in **Polish** – in such cases we request that you send a detailed abstract in English (750-1000 words) before the end of September. This will be made available to all the participants.

The conference will be held from Tuesday 10 October until Wednesday 11 October 2017 in Warsaw. Proposals of 20-minute papers should be sent to [romantic.contentions@gmail.com](mailto:romantic.contentions@gmail.com) by **30 June 2017**. Please include a paper title and abstract (250 words) as well as your name, academic title and affiliation.

Detailed information concerning the conference fee and accommodation (a list of recommended hotels) will be made available soon.

Conference organizers:

Michał Kuziak, Prof. (Chairman of the Conference Committee)

Maria Kalinowska, Prof.

Marcin Leszczyński, Ph.D