THE SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL TARTU CONFERENCE 
ON CANADIAN STUDIES 
“TRANSNATIONALISM, TRANSCULTURATION, 
TRANSMEDIATION, TRANSLATION: 
CANADIAN AND COMPARATIVE CONTEXTS”

November 9, 2013 
University of Tartu, Estonia

9:00-10:00  Registration 
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, 3rd Floor Foyer

10:00-10:15  Opening of the Conference 
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor

Bruno Mölder, Vice-Dean for Research, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tartu, Estonia 
Eva Rein, Canadian Studies Coordinator, Centre for Canadian Studies, University of Tartu, Estonia

10:15-12:15  Session I: Spaces, Environments and Transformations 
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor

Milda Danytė 
Department of English Philology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania 
Spaces within Spaces in a Contemporary Version of Toronto in Dionne Brand’s What We All Long For

Kristina Aurylaitė 
Department of English Philology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania 
Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen, Norway 
Spatial Politics and a Native American Reservation: Red Power: A Graphic Novel by Brian Wright-McLeod and Scalped by Jason Aaron and R.M Guéra

Ene-Reet Soovik 
Department of English, University of Tartu, Estonia 
The Transforming Environments in Alice Munro’s Friend of My Youth

Edgars Ošiņš 
Department of Languages, Sociālo Tehnoloģiju augstskola, Latvia 
Transition and Transformation as the Constant of Canadian Fiction

12:15-13:30  Break
13:30-15:30  Session II: Transnationalism, Representations and Policies
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor

Paula Dobžanska and Elvis Skrastiņš
Faculty of Humanities, University of Latvia, Latvia
Hockey as a Transnational Game

Maksims Ivanovs
Faculty of Humanities, University of Latvia, Latvia
Identity of Tertiary Education in Canada: Analysis of Self-Projected Images of Top 10 Canadian Universities

Margarita Spirida
Department of English Studies, and Centre for Applied Linguistics, University of Latvia, Latvia
Representation of Latvia in Canadian Media

Kristina V. Minkova
School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, Russia
Canada’s National Policy: Past and Present

15:30-16:00  Break

16:00-18:00  Session III: Identities, Border-Crossings and Translations
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor

Dace Strelēvica-Ošiņa
Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia, Latvia
Victims of Snow and Self-Consciousness: Margaret Atwood’s Survival and Its Parallels in Latvian Culture

Astra Skrābane
L’Ecole Supérieure de Ventspils, Lettonie
Dominique Zalitis ou voir les racines invisibles

Eva Rein
Department of English, University of Tartu, Estonia
Imagined in Translation: Roy Kiyooka’s Mothertalk: Life Stories of Mary Kiyoshi Kiyooka

18:00-18:10  Closing of the Conference

18:10-18:45  Meeting of Baltic Canadianists
Humanities Building, 3 Lossi Street, Room 306, 3rd Floor
Kristina Aurylaitė
Department of English Philology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania
Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen, Norway

**Spatial Politics and a Native American Reservation: Red Power: A Graphic Novel by Brian Wright-McLeod and Scalped by Jason Aaron and R.M. Guéra**

Critics have acknowledged the potential of comics, through its interplay between visual and linguistic modes to address serious and uneasy issues and challenge the ways we view the world. Still, politically-charged and subversive representations of and, more importantly, by Native people in the comics format are not as numerous, even though they remain one of the most stereotyped ethnic groups both in the USA and Canada, whose images are also appropriated in various contexts forms, of which the genre of the Western in comics would be but one example. This paper discusses Dakota-Anishinabe Brian Wright-McLeod’s graphic novel *Red Power* (2011), which tells a story of land conflict surrounding a Native American reservation and of a group on Native activists involved in it. Based on an interview with Wright-McLeod and with several references to American Jason Aaron and R.M. Guéra’s reservation-based graphic novel *Scalped* (2007-2012), it focuses on the politics of space and the identities articulated through them. Drawing on propositions from cultural geography about the interdependency of social and spatial structures and their “mutual constitutivity,” the paper analyzes how *Red Power*, making use of the visual aspect of the graphic novel, exposes the mechanisms through which power structures continue to restrict, disrupt, and exploit indigenous spaces by rearticulating the colonizer-colonized dichotomy of identity politics. The paper then proceeds to examine how the novel seeks out possibilities of unsettling the racializing spatial regime imposed upon indigenous people; this is done focusing on resistance organized by Native activists as well as by suggesting ways of experiencing and being in space that escape both colonial ways of knowing and conceiving it and, more importantly, colonial control over it.

Milda Danytė
Department of English Philology, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

**Spaces within Spaces in a Contemporary Version of Toronto in Dionne Brand’s What We All Long For**

Dionne Brand’s third novel *What We All Long For* (2005) was received with enthusiasm by many Canadian critics as a celebration of Toronto as a multifaceted city exploding with energy. This is true to some extent, especially since Brand’s four protagonists are all young people of Asian or Black origin with projects and dreams who find spaces within a white-dominated city to express themselves. At the same time, the spaces occupied by their parents, first-generation immigrants, are not happy ones. Brand is best known as a fine poet and writer of essays; her novels, like these works, all have a strong political agenda, with very subtle
analyses of the facts and consequences of the racism which still continues in the city to which she came as a teenager from Trinidad and Tobago in the early 1970s.

Paula Dobžanska and Elvis Skrastiņš
Faculty of Humanities, University of Latvia

Hockey as a Transnational Game

The present research focuses on transnational qualities of hockey as from the perspectives of Canada and Latvia and as such intends to show that despite the cultural differences and distance between two countries hockey brings both nations together. Hockey is one of the oldest winter sports in Canada. Modern ice hockey is believed to have evolved from outdoor stick-and-ball games adapted to the icy conditions of Canada during the 19th century. The games of British soldiers and immigrants to Canada (influenced by First Nations stick-and-ball games) may have influenced the game played on ice skates (often with a puck) with sticks made by the Mi’kmaq people of Nova Scotia. Another assumption is that the game was introduced by Icelandic immigrants adapting the game of knattleikr. These immigrants moved to Canada and the U.S. after the eruption of a volcano in Iceland in 1875. Immigrants from Iceland played for Canada, winning the first Olympic medal in hockey.

The National Hockey League (NHL), and specifically the Stanley Cup trophy, is the oldest still operating international competition, featuring clubs from the United States and Canada.

First hockey game in Latvia was played on February 15th, 1909. However, hockey was not very popular till Soviet times when Dinamo Riga joined the Soviet league and won silver medals. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Latvia founded its own national team. Since 1996 Latvia’s men hockey team plays in elite division in IIHF world championships. In 2008 Dinamo Riga entered the Continental Hockey League which is the successor to the Russian Super League and the Soviet League.

Latvian and Canadian players have competed many times. Unfortunately for Latvia, Canada has always been more successful than Latvia’s men national team, moreover the biggest loss Latvia’s national team has ever experienced was against Canada in 1935. Several Canadian players have played and are playing now in Dinamo Riga. Similarly, numerous Latvian players have been and are playing for Canadian teams mostly in NHL.

Maksims Ivanovs
Faculty of Humanities, University of Latvia

Identity of Tertiary Education in Canada: Analysis of Self-Projected Images of Top 10 Canadian Universities

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the identity of university-level education in Canada. In order to discover the said identity and identify its characteristic features the self-images of top 10 Canadian universities (as ranked by the Maclean’s Comprehensive University Ranking 2013) were studied. These self-images were studied on the basis of two sources which are most obviously meant to represent the higher educational establishments to the public: first, the most recent welcome speeches of the presidents of these universities; second, the sections “About us” on the websites of these universities. The main method of study of this information was content analysis. It was discovered in the course of study that the self-images of the universities involved in research have certain common features. Namely, it is typical of them to stress their links with the wider (non-academic) community and with the provinces of the Canada they are situated in as well as to emphasize the practical value of the education they offer and the quality of the students’ facilities. Identification of these common features
makes it possible to understand some core values of tertiary education in Canada.

Kristina V. Minkova  
School of International Relations, St. Petersburg State University, Russia  
Canada’s National Policy: Past and Present  

Does Canada still have a national policy? Or, in other words, do today Canadians have a shared, if unarticulated, sense of what they wish to do together that shapes their understanding of the goals and tools of governance? This presentation starts with thorough analysis of Canada’s two historic National Policies (1860s – 1980s) and passes on to Canada’s contemporary National Policy. It also discusses how a modern Canadian, his aspirations and way of life influence the country’s national policy.

Edgars Ošinš  
Department of Languages, Sociālo Tehnoloģiju augstskola, Latvia  
Transition and Transformation as the Constant of Canadian Fiction  

Canadian literature from its very beginnings (F. Brooke’s The History of Emily Montague (1769), J. Richardson’s Wacousta; or, The Prophecy. A Tale of the Canadas (1832) etc.) presents an impressive gallery of characters who can be best defined as transient sojourners – uprooted transient figures of no permanent residential or communal attachment, in their wanderings also becoming subject to identity alterations. Frequent crossing of spatial, physical as well as cultural, symbolic boundaries between wilderness and civilization imposes constant reconstruction and reinvention of the self.

Tales of domestic, continental and overseas travel and personal transformations abound in Canadian fiction throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, culminating to a new intensity and achieving universal, global significance at the threshold of the new millennium. Pilgrims and wanderers, travellers in space and time, negotiators of cultural and geographical borders and heterotopic urban spaces, questioning any and all established narratives, the literary characters of T. Findley, D. Brand, J. Kulyk-Keefer, T. Highway and many other modern-day Canadian writers strive to obtain a new, transcultural perspective, transcending ethnic, racial, gender as well as most other boundaries.

Eva Rein  
Department of English, University of Tartu, Estonia  
Imagined in Translation: Roy Kiyooka’s Mothertalk: Life Stories of Mary Kiyoshi Kiyooka  

Roy Kiyooka’s Mothertalk: Life Stories of Mary Kiyoshi Kiyooka is at the same time an autobiography of Kiyooka’s mother and Kiyooka’s biography of his mother. The process of the book’s coming into being is quite extraordinary. As Kiyooka’s mother never really learned English, the only way for her to give an account of her life was in Japanese. Kiyooka himself, feeling that his Japanese was not good enough to record her mother’s life-story, asked the translator Matsuki Masutani to interview her mother in Japanese and then both transcribe and translate the interviews in English. What followed is of particular significance. By using the translated interviews, Kiyooka rendered the interviews by rewriting them in a manner that the narrative voice would capture the cadences of her mother’s Tosa dialect of Kochi City in Japan. The paper analyses Kiyooka’s invention of an English version of the Japanese dialect that he learned from his mother and the ways in which he negotiates a cultural gap between his mother and himself.
Dominique Zalitis est auteure québécoise qui, étant d’origine lettone du côté paternel, renoue les relations avec le pays de ses ancêtres par la poésie. Il paraît qu’écrire est pour elle l’unique moyen d’exprimer l’appartenance à une altérité qui s’entend dans la langue de ses grands-parents (jusqu’au point de soupçonner qu’ils avaient inventé une langue spéciale qui n’était compréhensible que pour eux) et dans l’histoire de la famille (histoire de nombreux Lettons ayant préféré l’exil aux horreurs du régime soviétique).

Le voyage en Lettonie de son père lui donne enfin « de la matière » et l’impulsion pour le recueil de poésie « Entre les murs de la Baltique » sortie en 2007. Les poésies sont ponctuées par des rélias (« piragi », « melnais balzams »), des toponymes (Riga, Liepaja, Ventspils), des images de la nature (forêts de bouleaux, les courants de la Baltique) le tout formant une image ambigüe de présence et d’absence. La poésie de Dominique Zalitis puise son dynamisme dans le désir d’aller au fond des temps et des territoires pour se « ... retrouver là / où tout a commencé / entre les murs de la Baltique ».

Sa poésie devient réalité et l’auteure visite pour la Lettonie en 2008 pour voir que sa sensibilité poétique n’a pas été fausse, l’image rêvée correspond à la réalité. Les voyages en Lettonie deviendront réguliers et son recueil est traduit en letton.

Ene-Reet Soovik
Department of English, University of Tartu, Estonia
The Transforming Environments in Alice Munro’s Friend of My Youth

The new Nobel laureate Alice Munro’s short story collection Friend of My Youth features a wide array of settings; according to the publisher’s blurb of the 1991 edition, “These short stories bring to life characters in a remarkable variety of times and places from the 19th century Western poetess in “Meneseteung” to the Canadian widow visiting her husband’s war-time mistress in “Hold me Fast, Don’t Let Me Pass”. “While the movement from one setting to another creates a multi-faceted chronotopical dimension of the collection as a whole, the individual environments depicted in the stories do not emerge so much as fixed backdrops, but rather give evidence of the author’s superb observation skills as regards transformations of the spaces and places evoked. The presentation attempts to discuss the intersection of the characters’ sensory perceptions of the environments and of the influence of social factors (underscored by scholars such as Lawrence Buell) on their subjective spatial experiences of the changing spaces, while also observing the occasional appearances of mythological place mapping.

Margarita Spirida
Department of English Studies, and Centre for Applied Linguistics, University of Latvia
Representation of Latvia in Canadian Media

The knowledge of Latvia among foreigners would be much determined by the scope of their interest; Latvia might be known for its sportsmen, musicians, political and economic activities. The national representation of the country in international media very often has regional differences and might change over time. Undeniably, internal and external perception of Latvia may differ.
The research, at empirical level, aims at revealing the patterns of national representation in an out-group corpus (the CBC, The Globe and Mail and The Toronto Star) by analysing the national representation in newspaper headlines and, as such, focuses on such linguistic features as designation, appraisal and presupposition. Headlines are being examined separately from the body texts because they are particularly revealing of the social, cultural and therefore national representation at a particular time. The prominence given to the study of headlines is supported by the consideration that the target group of headline readers is much more represented than that of article readers. Besides, the linguistic features exploited in headlines make them particularly memorable and effective, viz. the use of puns, alliteration and other rhetorical devices. As Claude Abastado argues (1980: 149) “headlines encapsulate not only the content but the orientation, the perspective that the readers should bring to their understanding of the article”.

Dace Strelēvica-Ošiņa
Latvian Language Institute, University of Latvia
Victims of Snow and Self-Consciousness: Margaret Atwood’s Survival and Its Parallels in Latvian Culture

The unconventional literary history Survival: a Thematic Guide to Canadian Literature was first published in 1972, but still has not lost its importance and effect to this day, although, as M. Atwood notes in her preface to the 2012 edition, many things have changed since – e.g., “Mordechai Richler’s well-known jest ‘world-famous in Canada’ has ceased to be such a laugh”.

For Latvian authors, world fame is not yet so obvious as it is now for several Canadian writers. However, there are many similar features in Canadian literature as theorized by M. Atwood (and also other authors), and Latvian literature, as seen both by contemporary readers and also some scholars. The victim mentality; the protagonists likely to lose their cause, or to die by freezing, drowning or other similar way; the “writers /…/ being morbid and neurotic” (Atwood 1972: 111) – all these features have been noted by the audiences of Latvian fiction, too (both classic and modern fiction), and sometimes brought forth as accusations. “The tradition of sadness in Latvian literature is almost as old as this literature itself”, claims historian K. Kļaviņš (2013; translation mine). In internet discussions, the disillusionment with Latvian literature and its plots, protagonists and authors, is often expressed in a much more acerbic and emotional way.

G. Berelis, a writer himself, has written a non-academic Latvian literary history (1999), in a way similar to M. Atwood’s Survival, though focusing on the traditionally chronological, rather than thematic overview, and somewhat lacking M. Atwood’s warm-hearted humour. The endings of both books are surprisingly similar. "Have we survived? If so, what happens after survival?" asks M. Atwood (1972: 246). And, "Is anything happening at all?" If the answer is yes, it means that [Latvian] literature has survived and is not even thinking about its funeral. And this is a pleasantly optimistic note to finish this book on” (G. Berelis, 1999: 323; translation mine).