

2ND INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER
SCHOOL IN HUMANITIES

SEXUAL DESIRE UNBOUND

LITERATURE, LANDSCAPES, AND
DIGITAL DIALOGUES

LJUBLJANA, NOVA GORICA,
27. 8. 2024 - 2. 9. 2024

CREATING A TRADITION

Following the success of our first summer school, *Intimacy in Women's Writing and Reading*, held two years ago, we are excited to announce the second installment: *Sexual Desire Unbound: Literature, Landscapes, and Digital Dialogues*. This international and interdisciplinary Summer School is organized by the CEEPUS Women Writers in History Network, DARIAH Working Group Women Writers in History, and the Women Writers Route Association. It is conducted within the framework of the Women Writers in World Literature (MA) and Gender and Literature (PhD) courses at the School of Humanities and Graduate School at the University of Nova Gorica, as well as within the research projects Transformations of Intimacy in the Literary Discourse of Slovene "Moderna" (J6-3134) and Sexual Desire in Slovenian Women's Writing (1890-1940) in Transnational Perspective (N6-0322), funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.



The International School will offer a series of intensive lectures, workshops, and thematic excursions, with mandatory participation in all activities. We are honored to have invited distinguished researchers and lecturers from universities within the CEEPUS network, and beyond, who will lead sessions on sexuality studies, literature, digital humanities, and literary tourism.

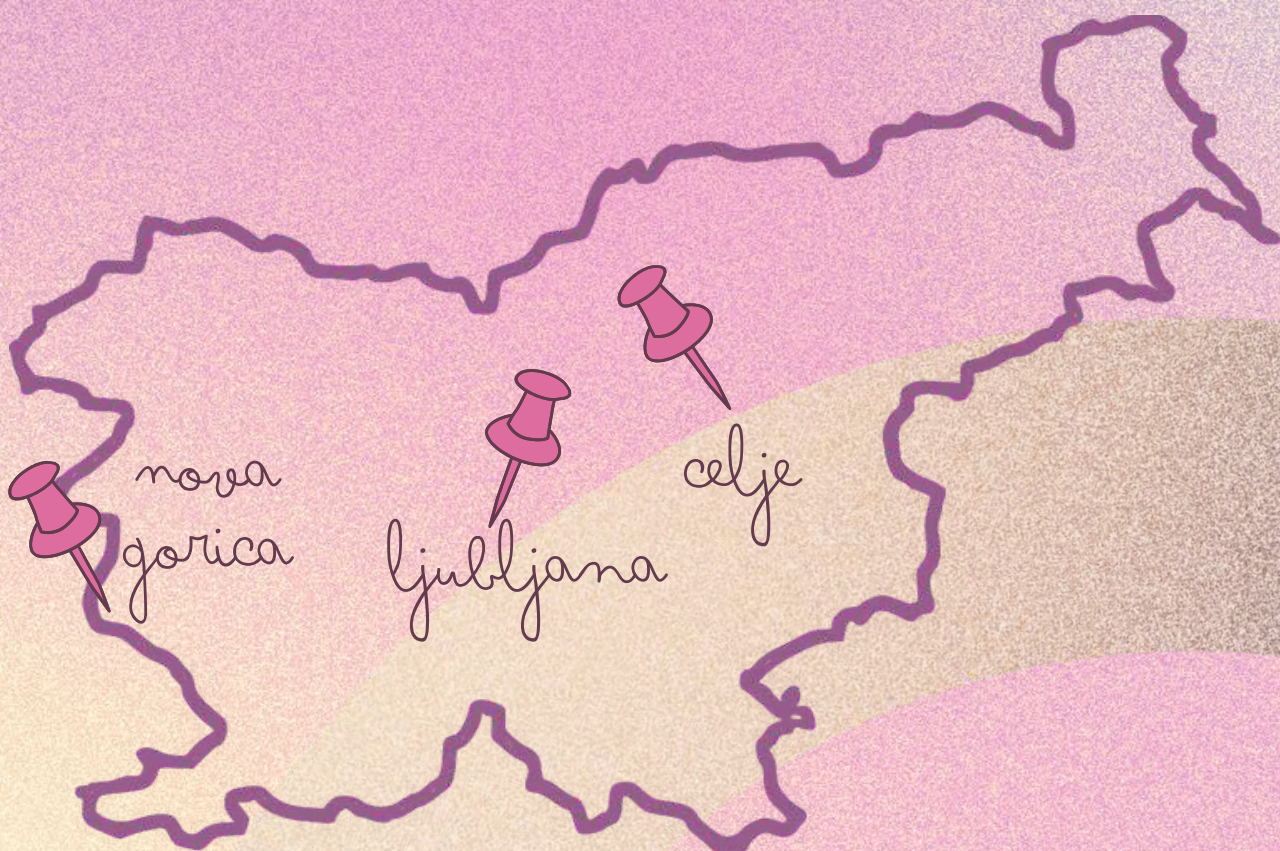
Participants will have the unique opportunity to:

- Engage intensively with an international team of experts in sexuality studies, literature, digital humanities, and literary tourism.
- Participate in hands-on workshops designed to explore cutting-edge methodologies in digital humanities and literary tourism.
- Present and discuss their own study and research interests in a supportive, scholarly environment.

The central theme of this Summer School is the exploration of sexual desire in literature and its broader cultural implications. What distinguishes this program is its innovative approach, combining the perspectives of digital humanities and literary tourism. By moving beyond traditional academic frameworks, we aim to introduce new methods for researching, conceptualizing, promoting, and envisioning literature, thereby broadening its reach and impact.

The majority of the summer school program will take place in the vibrant city of Ljubljana, primarily within the Faculty of Arts building. In addition to the intensive sessions held there, participants will embark on two enriching field trips, designed to immerse you in the literary themes discussed during the program. A full-day visit to Nova Gorica and an afternoon excursion to Celje will offer participants a unique opportunity to connect these literary themes with real-world settings, deepening their understanding of the cultural and historical contexts that shape the literature of the region.

The central theme of the summer school, *Sexual Desire Unbound*, revolves around a nuanced exploration of sexual desire in literature, examining its influence on broader cultural and social contexts.



Programme

Tuesday, 27. 8. 2024

Faculty of Arts and Vila Zlatica

10:00 – 10:30	Formal address by the coordinators
10:30 – 12:00	Introductory Session: Summer School on Sexual Desire? Darko Ilin
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 14:30	Locating and Digitally Archiving Desire: Insights and Research Reflections Katja Mihurko
14:30 – 15:30	Digital Humanities Innovations for the History of Women's Writing Marie-Louise Coolahan
15:30 – 16:30	Introduction to Literary Tourism Jasna Potočnik Topler
16:30 – 17:30	Discussion Session
19:00 – 20:00	Match My Epistolary Freak: Sexual Desire in the Electronic Collection <i>PISMA/LETTERS</i>* Darko Ilin

*The event will take place in the Vila Zlatica

Wednesday, 28. 8. 2024

Vipava, Nova Gorica, Gorizia

We are gathering in front of the Hotel Union at 8:30 and in front of the Ljubljana Zoo at 8:40

11:30 – 12:30	The PBL Method and Educational Technologies in Humanities. A Graduate Research Practical Guide Carmen Beatrice Duțu, Roxana Patraș
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:00	Politics of Sexuality in Slovenian Crime Fiction from »moderna« and Ljuba Prenner to the 21st Century Primož Mlačnik
15:00 – 18:00	Tactics: Your DH is Not My DH Roxana Patraș
15:00 – 18:00	Women's Writing, Digital Humanities and Literary Tourism Biljana Dojčinović
18:00 – 20:00	Literary Women of Gorizia

Thursday, 29. 8. 2024

Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

10:00 – 13:00

Database Design Workshop

Mihael Ojsteršek

10:00 – 13:00

Dialogue Between the Writer and the City

Alenka Jensterle Doležal

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 17:30

**Turning Words into Numbers: Quantitative Semantic Analysis
with Natural Language Processing**

Lucija Mandić

14:30 – 17:30

Sexual Desire, Political Power

Maša Grdešić

18:00 – 19:00

**Performance and Sexuality: A Conversation with Tjaša
Črnigoj**

Friday, 30. 8. 2024

Faculty of Arts, Club Tiffany, Ljubljana

13:00 – 14:00

Power Dynamics, Orientalism and Projections of Sexual Desire

Nadezhda Alexandrova

14:30 – 16:30

Parallel Mentoring Sessions

Nadezhda Aleksandrova, Carmen Beatrice Duțu

17:00 – 18:30

Work on Projects

20:00 – 21:00

Queer Sexuality in Contemporary Slovenian Literature: A Literary Evening with Suzana Tratnik and Pino Pograjc*

***The event will take place in the club Tiffany**

Saturday, 31. 8. 2024

Celje

We will be traveling to Celje by train from Ljubljana Main Train Station. You can choose between the 12:33 or 12:50 train. Once in Celje, we will gather at the Celje Regional Museum between 14:00 and 15:00 for a guided tour of the Alma Karlin exhibition. After the tour, you'll have free time to decide when to head back to Ljubljana. For the adventurous among you, there's an option to go on a short one-hour hike to the house of Alma Karlin.



Monday, 2. 9. 2024
Faculty of Arts, Ljubljana

9:00 – 13:00

Presentations of the final projects

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch break

14:00 – 15:00

Evaluation of the summer school

Locating and Digitally Archiving Desire: Insights and Research Reflections

Prof. Dr Katja Mihurko

Research Centre for Humanities
University of Nova Gorica, Nova Gorica

In this lecture, I will explore the critical importance of examining female sexual desire as portrayed by fin de siècle and early 20th-century women writers. I will begin by briefly outlining the social and cultural background of this era, focusing on the roots of the period's fascination with sexuality, particularly within the context of Viennese Modernism—a key driver of Central European modernist movements. I will delve into the concepts that (re)emerged during this time, such as free love and the New Woman, highlighting their significance in shaping modern thought on sexuality.

The lecture will also introduce methodological approaches for studying sexual desire, with a particular emphasis on how desire is manifested and located in both the body and the literary space. In the second part of the lecture, I will apply different approaches to literary works and ego documents, presenting a case study on Zofka Kveder (1878-1926), a pioneering female and multicultural modernist author. Through this case study, I will demonstrate how digital archiving and analysis can offer fresh insights into the exploration of female desire in early 20th-century literature.

Digital Humanities Innovations for the History of Women's Writing

Prof. Dr Marie-Louise Coolahan
National University of Ireland, Galway

This talk offers a history and analysis of digital humanities projects that have focused on recovering and understanding the history of women's writing. Its anchor-project is 'RECIRC: The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern Women's Writing, 1550-1700', funded by the European Research Council from 2014 to 2020, of which I was/am principal investigator. I will outline the genesis of this project, as well as some of the research visualisations that have been enabled by digitalisation. The talk will also cover earlier innovative projects in this field, such as Perdita, the Women Writers Project, and the NEWW/SHEWROTE project - all landmarks in feminist digital studies. The survey will investigate how the concept of sexual desire manifests (or not) in such historicist projects. It will conclude by looking to some current projects, in order to consider how they may open up new possibilities.

Introduction to Literary Tourism

Assoc. Prof. Dr Jasna Potočnik Topler

University of Maribor, Faculty of Tourism, Maribor

Introduction to Literary Tourism will be an engaging lecture, exploring the intersection between literature and tourism and focusing on how literary works and their settings can inspire travel experiences. The goal is to provide an overview of the key concepts, including the role of literary places in cultural tourism, the impact of famous authors and their works on tourist destinations, and the ways in which narratives shape our understanding of place. Through case studies and examples from around the world, students will gain insights into the significance of literary tourism in both historical and contemporary contexts, and how it contributes to the preservation of cultural heritage and the promotion of local economies.

Match My Epistolary Freak: Sexual Desire in the Electronic Collection

PISMA/LETTERS *

Darko Ilin

Research Centre for Humanities
University of Nova Gorica, Nova Gorica

The lecture will focus on the exploration of sexuality as reflected in the letters of Slovene women writers at the turn of the century. This event will delve into the rich correspondences found in the PISMA/LETTERS electronic collection, a project that has brought to light the intimate and personal writings of these authors. The lecture will begin with an introduction to the project, providing an overview of the electronic collection's origins and the subsequent publication that emerged from it. We will then explore the unique characteristics of the letter as a medium, discussing its materiality and drawing parallels with contemporary modes of communication. The central focus of the lecture will be an in-depth analysis of the erotic elements within these letters. By examining how sexual desire is narrated across different contexts, we will uncover the subtle ways in which these women expressed their desires and navigated the societal constraints of their time. This exploration promises to offer a fascinating glimpse into the personal lives and inner worlds of Slovene women writers, revealing the complexity and richness of their experiences.

The PBL Method and Educational Technologies in Humanities. A Graduate Research Practical Guide

Assoc. Prof. Dr Carmen Beatrice Duțu
Dimitrie Cantemir Christian University, Bucharest

Assoc. Prof. Dr Roxana Patraș
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iași.

The second edition of the Summer School in Ljubljana, 2024 is aiming to move from theory to practice. This class is based on exploring Project-based Learning (PBL) as an initiative to improve learning effectiveness, by involving students from different countries in a simultaneous process of learning, developing content and building practical research skills, especially in relation with open data. In this class, students will be able to:

A) be informed on what the PBL model is and how to use it in the Summer School by

a) receiving an overall project topic; b) participating in a stimulating environment to assemble transcultural teams, c) choosing and clarifying the goal of the project, d) self-assessing the learning requirements, e) performing the critical bibliography search and the self-study, f) working together to find various solutions and to choose the optimal one, g) implementing that solution and h) presenting the final results and reflecting on learning.

B) incorporate the PBL method and digital tools into Open Data research effectively.

C) assess their own technical skills as well as the soft skills acquired, both as a team and as individuals.

The second part will be devoted to making a broader women writers route using the online digital material (which students should locate before the workshop).

Politics of Sexuality in Slovenian Crime Fiction From »Moderna« and Ljuba Prenner to the 21st Century

Asst. Prof. Dr Primož Mlačnik
Research Centre for Humanities
University of Nova Gorica, Nova Gorica

The first part of the lecture will weave together two short theoretical introductions regarding the relationship between sexuality and crime fiction, focusing on the poetics of the genre(s) and, second, the Western politics of sexuality. In the second part, the lecture will present the historically contextualised subject of sexuality or rather intimacy in Slovenian literature in the period of »moderna« and two short analyses of one of the first Slovenian crime stories, *Požigalec* (1910; *The Arsonist*) and the first Slovenian crime novel *Neznani storilec: malomeščanska kríminalna povest* (1939; *Unknown Perpetrator: a provincial crime tale*). In the context of politics of sexuality, the lecture will lay bare a few distinctive socio-historical representational patterns – ideological themes found in stories of (women) writers from »moderna« and contemporary Slovenian crime fiction – that persist well into the 21st Century.

Tactics: Your DH is Not My DH

Assoc. Prof. Dr Roxana Patraş
Alexandru Ioan Cuza University, Iaşi

Inspired by recent contributions to the state of the field (Rieder and Röhle 2012, Malazita 2021), I use Michel de Certeau's term in order to enhance the challenging situation that researchers of "disruptive" topics and less(er)-resourced languages (see Kim & Stommel 2018) tend to be placed in, chiefly when their contributions are weighed up against the "big-tent" metaphor that has been the most impactful of all DH brands (Terras 2011, Svensson 2016). According to de Certeau, tactics is defined as a cluster of everyday practices devised by people or, if extrapolation is accepted, by any realia endowed with the ability to mobilize small-scale resources to move and evolve in a vast territory. Tactical navigation would thus refer not only to geographic workarounds—the shortcuts that walkers take in order to adapt to large urban environments—but also to a special navigation through the knowledge landscape in general. In a context marked by head-whirling concepts such as turbo-capitalism, datafication, infoxication, algorithmic civilization, virtual reality, big data, digital turn, technocratic culture, instrumentalist episteme, anglobalism, and so forth, it is crucial and paramount to raise awareness on the tactics that "the DH neighbouring tribes" (Bode and Longley Arthur 2014) apply to enhance all kinds of particularities (language, locus, gender, identity, etc.). Indeed, despite universalist claims, a global perspective on DH should be regarded with cautiousness because its localized versions develop according to a different logic, involving various rhythms of theoretical exposure, methodological acclimatization, and individual appropriation. After sketching a brief history of the field and discussing a few key issues such as democratization of research, experimentalism, productive theory, computability, digitality, etc., I evaluate what are the effects of novelty and the elements of familiarity that are mostly foregrounded in the process of localization, chiefly in the case of emergent DH academic communities.

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Women's Writing, Digital Humanities and Literary Tourism

Prof. Dr Biljana Dojčinović

Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology, Belgrade

The first part of the workshop will be a talk about the usage of digital humanities in research of women's writing, on the example of the data base and journal *Knjiženstvo*, and the walks through center of Belgrade based on the project's results. *Knjiženstvo, theory and history of women's writing in Serbian until 1915* (www.knjizenstvo.rs), a research project, began as a national project financed by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development in 2011 -2019. The database includes 176 women authors who wrote in Serbian language, from Middle Ages all the way to the second half of the 20th century, along with a number of periodicals. It was the basis for the *Knjiženstveni Beograd* (GynoCentric Walks).

The second part will be devoted to making a broader women writers route using the online digital material (which students should locate before the workshop).

Database Design Workshop

Mihael Ojsteršek

Institute of Contemporary History, Ljubljana

The aim of the workshop is to provide participants with basic information and guidance on how to plan their database. The workshop will start with a demonstration of the tools needed to get started. This will include OxyGen xml editor and a Optical Character Recognition tool. We will then proceed to the topic of how to collect, edit, analyse and encode the given data in XML format and according to the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) guidelines. XML (eXtensible Markup Language) is an extensible markup language that we will use to encode the metadata of the resources, while the TEI guidelines are the standard for representing textual material in digital form. We will show how to tag metadata in `teiHeader`, how to tag different types of material - from letters to poetry, how to tag named entities, and how to tag historical resources. Using examples from other scholarly literature, we will show how to convert the final XML product into a functional static web environment for data retrieval.

Dialogue Between the Writer and the City

Assoc. prof. dr. Alenka Jensterle Doležal

Institute of Ethnology and Central European and Balkan Studies
Charles University, Faculty of Arts, Prague

The lecture and seminar will center on the Slovenian women's writer Zofka Kveder (1878–1926) and her representation of the Czech city of Prague in her 1906 reportage, *Golden Prague*. In the early 20th century, Kveder depicted a literary walk through Prague as a symbol of the new modern era. We will analyze this travel writing by an emigrant, budding woman writer at the beginning of her career. Written in Slovene (with English translation) and intended for a Slovenian audience, the text offers a unique perspective on Prague. We have selected two fragments that focus on two key stops in her literary walk: Hradčany and Višehrad, both of which remain significant historical sites in Prague today. Kveder's literary writing about the city during the early 20th century exhibits the hallmarks of literary tourism. Her narrative explores the city's geography, its symbolic signs, significant codes, and notable places, while reflecting a subjective, emotional "literalization" of these spaces. In examining her reportage, we will attempt to reconstruct Kveder's writerly, gender, social, and historical identity as it is encoded within the text. As a contrasting study, students may also read the poems of Ljudmila Poljanec (1874–1948), particularly *Ob Adriji* (*Next to Adria*), which captures the encounters of another woman writer from the same period with the city of Opatija. Notably, Poljanec's work embeds themes of sexual desire, offering a complementary perspective on the era's literary depiction of urban spaces by women writers.

Turning Words into Numbers: Quantitative Semantic Analysis with Natural Language Processing

Lucija Mandić

Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies, Research
Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts

The widespread availability of digital corpora and powerful computational tools has driven significant advancements in the employment of natural language processing (NLP) methods in humanities. For example, the word embedding technique maps words into multidimensional vectors. Semantically related words have similar vectors, which enables quantitative semantic analyses of texts. The workshop will provide a theoretical insight into NLP methods, a hands-on part in which we will test the use of word embeddings in the Python programming language and an overview of the application possibilities that this method offers in the humanities, especially literary studies.

Sexual Desire, Political Power

Asst. Prof. Dr Maša Grdešić

Section for Literary and Cultural Theory

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb

The workshop will begin with the consideration of sexual desire in Marija Jurić Zagorka novels. Zagorka's popular romances, which she wrote in the first half of the 20th century, are still very relevant today primarily because of her heroines, both positive ones who must discipline their partners in order to achieve an equal relationship with them, and negative ones whose transgressions are regularly portrayed as misdirected resistance to patriarchy. However, both cases could be interpreted not only as the heroines' sexual desire for male characters, but also as their desire for the political power that the male characters possess.

Zagorka's heroines are outspoken about the limitations placed on their right to move and act freely in public spaces, and they share this complaint with many contemporary heroines. Starting with Zagorka but continuing with some more recent examples such as Chris Kraus's *I Love Dick*, Elena Ferrante's *The Lying Life of Adults*, and *Dogs* by Dora Šustić we will therefore try to interpret heterosexual desire as the heroines' desire for symbolic political power that would grant them freedom of movement as well as political and artistic activity in public space. In this sense, we will comment on existing tours (or walks) dedicated to Zagorka in Zagreb and Ferrante in Naples as well as create our own tours dedicated to these and other authors while focusing on public spaces, political, cultural, and academic institutions that were to a greater or lesser degree unavailable to them.

Performance and Sexuality: A Conversation with Tjaša Črnigoj

Tjaša Črnigoj mainly works as a theatre director, but also has a background in philosophy, comparative literature, and is currently completing her education for psychodrama psychotherapist. As an artist and director, she is focusing on devised and documentary theatre, artistic research, and feminist strategies. Her most recent project, *Sex Education II*, coproduced by Maska Institute, Mladinsko Theatre, and City of Women, explores sexuality as a fundamental human right through a series of lecture-performances and is amongst the most notable theatre projects in Slovenia in the last years. They received award for the best theatre production from The Association of Theatre Critics and Researchers of Slovenia, two awards on The 54th Week of Slovenian Drama, awards at 59th Maribor Theatre Festival, and Črnigoj received Women on Women Award from The City of Women and Župančičeva award.

In our upcoming conversation, we will delve into the themes of sexuality as a human right and the importance of bringing it into the field of performing arts. Tjaša will share some of the insights from her experiences working on Sexual Education II and discuss the use of feminist strategies in creative collaboration.

The talk will be facilitated by Tery Žeželj, a research assistant at the University of Nova Gorica

Power Dynamics, Orientalism and Projections of Sexual Desire

Assoc. Prof. Dr Nadezhda Alexandrova

Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia

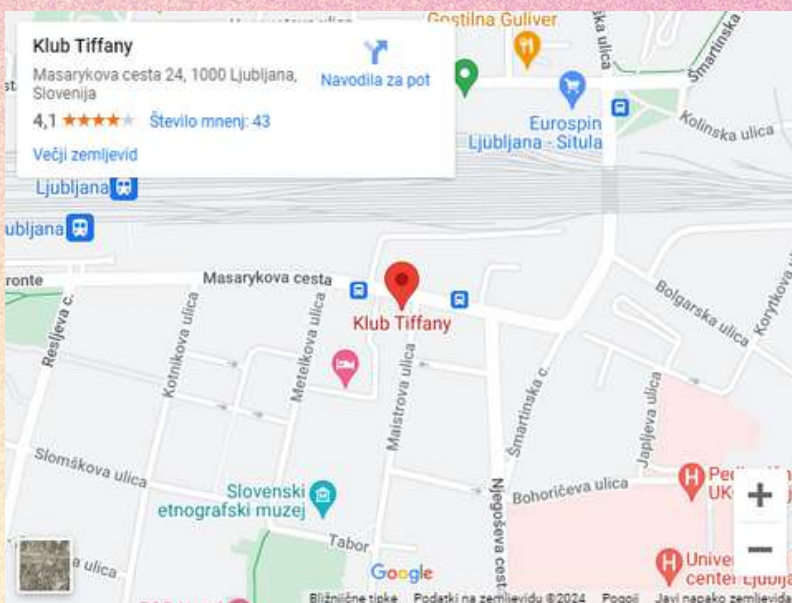
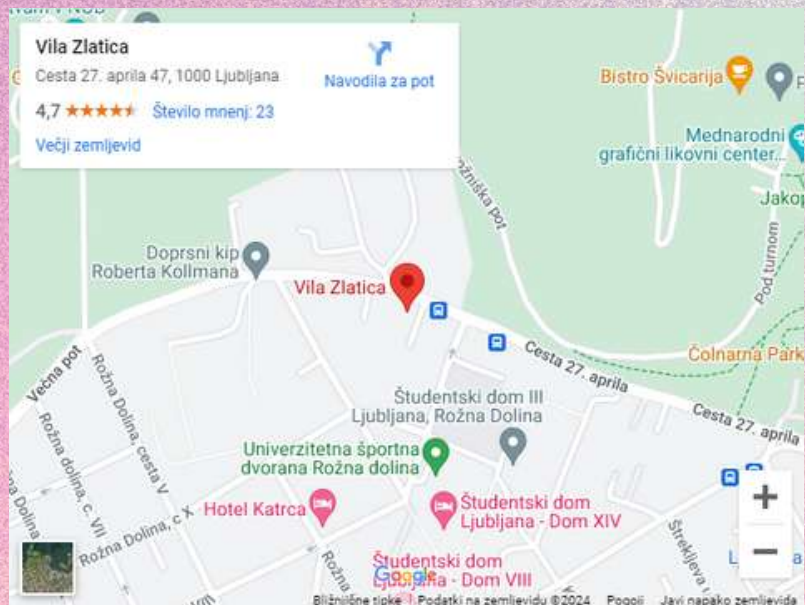
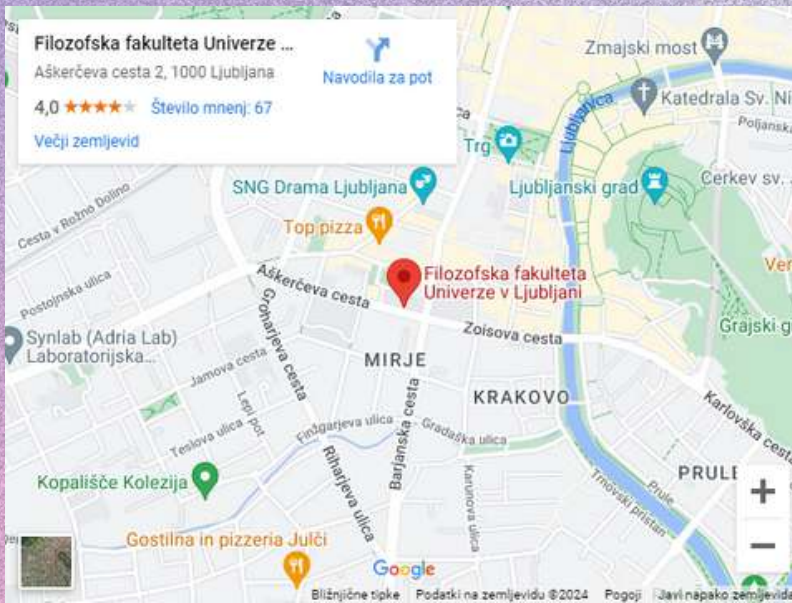
My presentation will discuss the descriptions of unbound sexual desire in polemical texts against Muslim religion because it was regarded as a key signal of impropriety, immorality and lack of reason. In the history of such polemic works from Medieval times to the Enlightenment the polygamy, homosexuality and sexual subordination in the harems were attributed both to the prophet Muhammad, and to the followers of his teachings. The orientalist vision of sexual excess pertains to the narrative even when the authors of the works have been witnesses to the rites and practices of the Muslims. I will present a case study based on Dimitrie Cantemir's treatise "System or Structure of the Muhammadan Religion" (1722) and its Bulgarian translation by Sofroniy Vrachanski from 1805. Both authors are Ottoman subjects, yet when they describe the scenes of unbound sexual desire they often appropriate and internalize legends and narrative topoi from earlier writings in the Byzantine and Latin tradition.

Queer Sexuality in Contemporary Slovenian Literature: A Literary Evening with Suzana Tratnik and Pino Pograjc

As part of Sexual Desire Unbound: Literature, Landscapes, and Digital Dialogues summer school organized by the University of Nova Gorica, Women Writers in History CEEPUS network, Cultural Tourist Association Women Writers Route and DARIAH working group Women Writers in History – a literary evening with the assistance of ŠKUC – Cultural Centre Q will take place on August 30th at 8 PM at the Tiffany Club in Metelkova with writer and activist Suzana Tratnik and poet Pino Pograjc. The event will be moderated by literary critic and editor Emilija Vučičević, a student at the University of Nova Gorica.

Along with the similarity in topics, sensitivity and activism, the literary works of Suzana Tratnik and Pino Pograjc have recently come into direct dialogue, as Tratnik's latest collection of short stories, *Škarje*, opens with Pograjc's verses from *Trgetanje*: there is always someone beside you/ so that loneliness/ tears you apart even more. This event will aim to transform said literary dialogue into an active and lively discussion: focusing on the writers' latest works, Suzana's *Škarje* and Pino's *Trepete*, we will reflect on the relationship between literature and activism, articulating identity and voicing the margin. Join us!

Important locations



This international and interdisciplinary Summer School is organized by the CEEPUS Women Writers in History Network, DARIAH Working Group Women Writers in History, and the Women Writers Route Association. It is conducted within the framework of the research projects Transformations of Intimacy in the Literary Discourse of Slovene "Moderna" (J6-3134) and Sexual Desire in Slovenian Women's Writing (1890–1940) in Transnational Perspective (N6-0322), funded by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency.



Women
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Route



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FACULTY OF ARTS
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OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE
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