

# Katarzyna Kraczoń, Magdalena Górecka, Ewelina Stanios

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## From the Editorial Board

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Artykuł został opracowany do udostępnienia w internecie przez Muzeum Historii Polski w ramach prac podejmowanych na rzecz zapewnienia otwartego, powszechnego i trwałego dostępu do polskiego dorobku naukowego i kulturalnego. Artykuł jest umieszczony w kolekcji cyfrowej [bazhum.muzhp.pl](http://bazhum.muzhp.pl), gromadzącej zawartość polskich czasopism humanistycznych i społecznych.

Tekst jest udostępniony do wykorzystania w ramach dozwolonego użytku.

## From the Editorial Board

Proclamation of “the ends” of almost all branches of the humanities resulted in two approaches. On the one hand, some researchers began to look into the past and creatively explore the heritage of the past generations, claiming that talking about the world will solely be repeating and transforming the already existing categories. On the other hand, though, breaking the diktat of “exhaustion”, the humanities directed its vector of interest “towards the future”, searching for new means of expression and description of reality. The Editorial Board of “Acta Humana” decided to follow this track in the fourth issue, preparing a collection of texts which in various ways analyse the categories of “novelty” and “the future”.

A broad and polysemic formula of the central theme allowed to present the problem from many different perspectives. We were interested in research attitudes inclined towards the latest trends in methodology and constant changes of paradigms, those directed towards the original treatment of the known themes or attempting to deal with totally innovative subject matters. The volume includes interpretations of new cultural phenomena and analyses of novel aesthetics, as well as literary studies considerations focusing on diverse visions of the future.

Professor Ewa Domańska, whose introduction opens the volume, is both our first reader and an obliging reviewer of the new issue of “Acta Humana”.

The section *Articles* begins with Anna Ziębińska-Witek’s text, which characterizes a relatively new phenomenon called “death tourism”. The author discusses in detail a cultural and social aspect of travelling to the scenes of crimes and catastrophes emphasizing that it is a contemporary form of coming to terms with death. Simultaneously, Ziębińska-Witek’s article marks a future direction in the development of tourism and presents an evolution of the category of “travel”. Alternative lots of the January Uprising, portrayed in steampunk and cyberpunk conventions, became the object of Magdalena Górecka’s article. This text addresses broadly understood postmodern conceptualizations of history, stressing their relationship with pop-culture. The following four articles correspond, *par excellence*, with the central theme of the issue, discuss-

ing literary conceptualizations of the future. Zuzanna Gawrońska analyses a dystopian vision of the world in Philip K. Dick's novel. Barbara Minczewska, in turn, presents contemporary theatrical realizations of Lem and Dick's science fiction narratives as a possible, alternative form of expression of the latest political theatre. A vision of the future, or rather of a future religion, is of interest to Martyna Wielewska-Baka, who analyses this problem basing on Stanisław Lem's prose material. The aforementioned thematic set closes with Mariusz Polowy's text, presenting unfinished and indeterminate "fantasies of the future", looming into view in "Polish Poe", Stefan Grabiński's works. Anna Cieślak writes in her outline about the borderline between the human and non-human in the context of thriving trans-humanism. The author endeavours to present the specificity of this trend in post-humanities, confronting it with literary myths of rationality, equality and humanity. Olga Bartosiewicz, in turn, "shifts" the borders of Central-European literary traditions on the example of the biography and writings of an unfamiliar writer of Romanian origin, Beniamin Fundoianu.

Marcin Dziwisz's study contains a linguistic analysis of neologisms created by Andrzej Sapkowski. Małgorzata Kowalewska writes about a phenomenon of Facebook as a new form of communication in the virtual world. Problems of a yet another kind are raised by Kamila Węglarska, who elaborates on the relationships between marketing and cultural identity. The last article is a proposition of implementing a quite innovative, interdisciplinary research method on the example of the historic Jewish cemetery in Szczepieszynie (by Łukasz Babuła).

The reviews from this issue concern the achievements of the contemporary Byzantine studies (Ewelina Stanios), the problem of cultural heritage perception in postmodern times (Katarzyna Kraczoń), documenting lexical heritage (Ewa Bulisz) and a new look on the history of bolshevism (Filip Gończyński-Jussis).

The section *Academic and Cultural Events* contains information about a meeting with professor Ewa Domańska held at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University (Katarzyna Kraczoń), reports on another conference from the "*Common Ways*" series (Magdalena Górecka, Ewelina Stanios) and an interdisciplinary scientific session "Between Literature and Medicine" (Magdalena Niekra), and a written account from The Third Trans-disciplinary Summer School for PhD Students which took place in Baranów Sandomierski (Magdalena Górecka). The last report is a reflection on a debate dedicated to ethics in science (Jarosław Szlązak).

Paths of the future which the authors of the articles follow in the fourth volume of "Acta Humana" entail unrestrained thought, openness to new cognitive perspectives and a little bit of panache. We hope that the texts presented in the volume will fall on fertile ground and inspire the humanist society to look beyond the established horizons of scientific experiences.

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