

Dragi bralci, drage bralke!

»Končno«, bi nekateri upravičeno rekli: v rokah/na zaslonih imate dvojno aprilsko & septembrsko številko letošnje prve izdaje revije DR/SSF. Obsežen zvezek, v katerem tokrat izrazito prevladujejo prispevki v angleškem jeziku, vključuje osem izvirnih znanstvenih člankov, ki so nastali kot delo enajstih avtoric in avtorjev z različnih strokovnih področij, različnih afiliacij tako znotraj kot tudi zunaj Univerze v Ljubljani. Gre torej za mednarodno paleto sodelujočih, ki so uspešno prestali vse uredniške postopke. Veseli smo, da so postali del naše skupne revijalne zgodbe.

Dvojno številko odpirata samostojna znanstvena članka dveh domačih avtoric – Hajdeje Iglič in Teje Kosi –, oba v angleškem jeziku. Prvi se vsebinsko sprašuje o (ne)moči populizmov v sodobnih političnih arenah, ki jih zaznamuje interval levo–desno–sredina, drugi pa se vprašanja (ne)moči loteva skozi specifično zaznavo (ženske) bolečine. Številko kot običajno zatvarja seznam recenzij knjig, za katere mojstrsko skrbi Rok Smrdelj.

Večina tokratnih prispevkov sodi v posebno tematsko številko z naslovom »Spominske študije za ljudi: Marksizem in popularna kultura v sodobnih pristopih k študijem spomina«, ki sta jo souredila gostujoči urednik Gal Kirn ter glavna sourednica in sourednica številke Natalija Majsova, za kar se jima v imenu celotne uredniške ekipe toplo zahvaljujemo. Vsebinsko raznolik, a z izbranim fokusom poenoten nabor prispevkov, ki so podrobneje opisani v posebnem uvodniku k tematski številki, prinaša svež, aktualen in za mnoge tudi precej specifičen pogled na vprašanja (kolektivnega) spomina, njegove morebitne aktualizacije ter potencialne teoretske in konceptualne moči. Šest člankov omenjenega sklopa namreč tematizira vrsto zanimivih dilem – od vloge sodobne popkulture in digitalnih platform pa vse do (ne)mogočih srečanj marksističnih teorij s študijami spomina.

Preden vas prepustimo branju posameznih prispevkov, naj na kratko orišemo nekaj razlik med običajno, »navadno« številko revije DR/SSF, in »tematsko« številko, in sicer predvsem z vidika morebitnih prednosti, slabosti in neljubih pasti. Pri slednjih ne gre toliko za osebne uredniške izkušnje, ampak nanje opozarjajo nekateri strokovni viri, ki na izjemen porast in popularizacijo tematskih števil v mednarodnih revijah gledajo vse bolj kritično. Če za običajno številko po navadi velja, da je rezultat načela »kar pride in gre skozi, se objavi«, so tematske številke vnaprej skrbno pripravljene in kurirane zbirke dogovorjenih člankov: okvirno temo, prispevke, izvlečke in cilje tematskega sklopa sicer predhodno odobri celoten uredniški odbor revije; in šele ko imajo gostujoči uredniki »zeleno luč od

zgoraj«, lahko nadaljujejo z zasnovanim delom. V tem trenutku se denimo na ta način vzporedno z zaključevanjem sedanje pripravlja še ena, zadnja tematska številka tega letnika, ki bo objavljena predvidoma decembra.

Sodelovanje gostujočih urednikov se zdi predvsem razbremenitev uredništva, saj sami poskrbijo za rekrutacijo avtorjev in urejajo roke za oddajo prispevkov, čeprav pri reviji DR/SSF vztrajamo pri varovalni praksi, da je recenzentki postopek vedno trdno v rokah uredništva. Ena od ključnih prednosti posebnih tematskih števil naj bi bila njihova večja branost in posledično citiranost. Če so dobro zastavljene, ponujajo tudi priložnost za pridobivanje vrhunskih avtorjev, povečajo geografsko raznolikost in posledično izboljšajo profil same revije. Pa vendar, kot opozarjajo nekateri, prinašajo posebne izdaje tudi svojevrstna tveganja – nosijo določeno etično ranljivost, sprožajo dvome o predhodnih postopkih in kakovosti izdaj, zaradi morebitnih zamud pa se kakovost lahko tu in tam ukloni priročnosti, sploh če ta postane pomembnejša od nadzora.

V imenu uredniške ekipe lahko zagotovimo, da vsaj doslej s pripravami tematskih števil nismo imeli slabih izkušenj; prej bi rekli nasprotno. Kar pa zaznavamo kot novost, ki jo bomo naslovili še pred iztekom našega mandata, so delno konfuzna ali vsaj ne dovolj jasna navodila za pripravo prispevkov – takšne odzive dobivamo predvsem od avtorjev in avtoric, ki delujejo v tujini in se v naši kulturi akademskega pisanja očitno slabo znajdejo. Obljubljamo, da bomo skušali upoštevati njihove tegobe in predloge za izboljšave smelo predali naslednji ekipi revije DR/SSF.

Sicer pa nasvidenje spet decembra, do takrat pa vam želimo prijetno branje dvojne pomladno-jesenske številke!

Tanja Oblak Črnič in Natalija Majsova

Dear readers,

“Finally”, as some would be right in saying: in your hands/on your screens you now have the double April & September issue of this year’s first edition of the DR/SSF journal. This comprehensive volume, which mostly features English-language contributions, includes 8 original scientific articles written by 11 authors from various fields of expertise and affiliations both within and outside the University of Ljubljana. We are delighted that this international group of contributors has become part of the journal’s ongoing efforts to present high-level academic insights.

The double issue begins with two independent scientific articles (in English) by two Slovenian authors: Hajdeja Iglič and Teja Kosi. The first one examines the (un)power of populism in contemporary political arenas characterised by a left–right–centre divide, while the second approaches the question of (un)power via a specific perception of (female) pain. As usual, the issue concludes with a list of book reviews, masterfully curated by Rok Smrdelj.

Most contributions this time belong to a special thematic issue entitled »Memory studies for the people: Marxism, and popular culture in contemporary approaches to memory studies«, co-edited by guest editor Gal Kirn and chief editor and co-editor Natalija Majsova, whose efforts are greatly appreciated by the entire editorial team. The diverse, yet focused collection of articles, as described in greater detail in a separate editorial for the thematic issue, offers fresh, topical, and for many also quite specific insights into the questions of (collective) memory, the possibility of actualising it, and the potential theoretical and conceptual power it holds. The six articles in this section address several interesting dilemmas, ranging from the role of contemporary pop culture and digital platforms to the (im)possibility of Marxist theories accommodating memory studies.

Before we leave you to read the individual articles, let us briefly mention a few differences between a regular, ‘normal’ issue of the DR/SSF journal and a “thematic” issue in terms of possible advantages, disadvantages, and unpleasant pitfalls. The latter are based not so much on personal editorial experience, but have been described by professional sources that are increasingly critical of the remarkable growth and popularisation of theme-based issues in academic journals. What appears in a normal issue is typically a result of the “whatever comes in and goes through is published” principle while, in contrast, thematic issues are carefully prepared and compiled collections of articles agreed ahead of time: the general theme, contributions, abstracts and objectives of the theme-based

section are approved in advance by the journal's entire editorial board. Guest editors must receive the "green light from above" before they can continue with their planned work. For instance, right now, apart from completing this issue, another final theme-based journal is being prepared (expected to be published in December).

Even though the editorial staff are happy to be relieved of some of their journal-related tasks when guest editors are involved, given that the guests take care of recruiting authors and setting deadlines for the submission of contributions, at the DR/SSF journal a precautionary practice is in place that the review process always remains in the hands of the editorial staff. A key advantage of special thematic issues is that they appeal to larger numbers of readers and, in turn, higher rates of citation. When such issues are designed well, they also provide an opportunity to attract leading authors, expand geographical diversity, and thereby improve the prominence of the journal itself. However, as some have noted, special issues also bring particular risks – they are associated with a certain level of ethical vulnerability, raise doubts concerning previous procedures, and the overall quality of issues, whereas delays can sometimes cause quality to take a back seat to convenience, especially when it is time to go to print.

Nevertheless, the editorial team is happy to say that, at least so far, we have avoided any bad experiences while preparing the thematic issues; in fact, quite the contrary. One new aspect we have perceived, and will address before our term comes to an end, are the somewhat confusing or at least insufficiently clear author instructions for preparing contributions. We generally receive feedback along those lines from authors who work abroad and are obviously not familiar with our domestic culture of academic writing and wish to submit articles in different formats. We not only promise to take their concerns into account, but will also pass their suggestions for improvement on to the next team at the DR/SSF journal.

See you again in December. In the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading the double spring-autumn issue!

Tanja Oblak Črnič and Natalija Majsova