



**CAPONEU**

The Cartography of the  
Political Novel in Europe

2026

CAPONEU CONSORTIUM

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

in Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

# Political Novel in Europe Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

22 - 24 April 2026

## Conference Programme

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**All conference presentations are in:**

Collegium Maius,  
(street) Fredry 10,  
room: Adam Mickiewicz Salon (4th floor)

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Co-funded by  
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UK Research  
and Innovation

## 22 April • Day 1

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10:00

### Opening of the conference

RECTOR PROF. BOGUMIŁA KANIEWSKA, ADAM MICKIEWICZ UNIVERSITY  
DEAN PROF. KRZYSZTOF SKIBSKI, AMU FACULTY OF POLISH AND CLASSICAL PHILOLOGY  
PROF. ZRINKA BOŽIĆ, CAPONEU COORDINATOR

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10:30

#### KEY-NOTE SPEAKER:

BOGUMIŁA KANIEWSKA  
Can a Children's Novel Be Political?

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11:45

### Political Novel in Europe 1

CHAIR:  
MAGDA POTOK

ZRINKA BOŽIĆ  
The Political Novel between Dictatorship and Democracy:  
Narrating After and Reading from Afar

ROSSIE ARTEMIS  
Authoritarian Logic, Moral Absurdity, and Complex Equality  
in Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*

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13:00

Lunch

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14:30

### Political Novel in Europe 2

CHAIR:  
SARAH COLVIN

MARK DEVENNEY  
Overdetermination and Pluralisation:  
Thinking the complex politics of the novel with  
Jenny Erpenbeck

HANNAH VÖGELE  
Minor Detail(s)?  
Political Affects and Fictions of the Novel in Germany

NENAD IVIĆ  
Paper tigers of 68.  
Authority, micro-authoritarianism, revolution and literature

AURORE PEYROLES  
The System and the Fragment:  
Memory, Power and Authoritarianism in Perec's  
*W or the Memory of Childhood*.

## 23 April • Day 2

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10:00

### Policy Makers Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

CHAIR:  
TOMASZ MIZERKIEWICZ

#### KEY-NOTE SPEAKERS:

PAULINA STOCHNIAŁEK  
Between Centrally Controlled Power and Democracy  
– Activities of Local Government

ANNA HRYNIEWIECKA  
Practicing Democracy in the Public Cultural Institution

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11:15

PANEL:  
**Cosmopolitanism and Empowerment: The Political Novel in Action**

CHAIR:  
ZRINKA BOŽIĆ

KARIN DOOLAN, INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH IN ZAGREB, CROATIA  
DANIELA DORA, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, UK  
ANDREAS LIPOWSKY, MAX WEBER FORUM FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES, NEW-DELHI, INDIA  
LIAM MULLALLY, THE AUTONOMY INSTITUTE, LONDON, UK  
LANA PUKANIĆ, INSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL ECOLOGY, ZAGREB, CROATIA  
TOMASZ UMERLE, POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, POZNAŃ, POLAND

#### PAPER 1:

The Political Novel in School Curricula:  
A Critical Analysis of Literary Selection  
Across Four European Countries

#### PAPER 2:

The Political Novel in the Classroom:  
The Educator's Perspective

#### INTERACTIVE SESSION 3:

Translating Research Insights into Educational Policies

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13:30

Lunch

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15:00

### Defining the Genre Again – Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

CHAIR:  
AURORE PEYROLES

MIRELA DAKIĆ KUČEKOVIĆ  
*The Impure Matter of the Novel:*  
On a Sociological Understanding of the Literary Text

FILIP KUČEKOVIĆ  
Political Novel as Democratisation of the Genre

MIRIAM SCHWARZ  
Failed Narrative Resurrection in Adania Shibli's *Minor Detail*.  
A Reconsideration of Free Indirect Discourse in Light of  
Epistemic Injustice.

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18:00

### Book presentation

CHAIR:  
TOMASZ MIZERKIEWICZ

SARAH COLVIN  
*Literature and Epistemic Injustice. Power and Resistance in the Contemporary Novel* (Routledge 2026)

## 24 April • Day 3

10:00

KEY-NOTE SPEAKER:

EWA DOMAŃSKA

Necromorphs: Exhumation and the Political Imagination of the Dead

11:15

### History and Political Novel Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

CHAIR:

MARK DEVENNEY

ANTE ANTABAK

Where Political Readings Go Astray: The Case of (Josef) K.

ANNA GAWARECKA

Old and New Totalitarianisms in Czech Postmodern Fiction

ALFONS GREGORI

Politics, Legend, and Strangeness: the Use of Narrative Modes in Mònica Batet's novel *A Story Is a Stone Thrown Into the River*

13:30

Lunch

15:00

### Political Novel in Europe Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

CHAIR:

BŁAŻEJ WARKOCKI

PIOTR ŚLIWIŃSKI

Poetics. Politics. Performance. About Manifestations and Demonstrations

KARLO DRŽAIĆ

Reading Socialism: The Novel and Political Practice among Croatian Socialists at the End of the Long Nineteenth Century

TOMASZ MIZERKIEWICZ

Clarifying, Choosing, Responding. Political Novel's Processing the Tension Between Democracy and Authoritarianism

Concluding remarks

## ACCOMPANYING EVENTS • writer's meetings

21 April  
(in Łazęga Poznańska,  
str. Święty Marcin 75)

18:00

CHAIR:

TOMASZ MIZERKIEWICZ

HUBERT KLIMKO-DOBRZANIECKI

The Novel in Poland and Europe

22 April  
(in Centrum Kultury  
Zamek, str. Święty  
Marcin 80/82)

18:30

CHAIR:

DAWID BORUCKI

JULIA FIEDORCZUK

The Crisis of Democracy in the Contemporary Novel

24 April  
(in Dom Książki,  
str. Gwarna 13a)

18:00

CHAIR:

GERARD RONGE

IGNACY KARPOWICZ

Can a Novel Pass Judgment?