

Call for papers

Authored Cultures / Authoring Cultures **Negotiating Control over Media Texts**

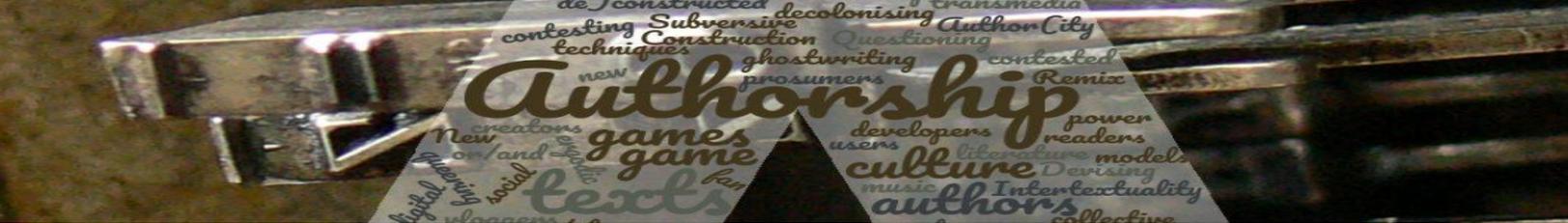
Toruń, 7-8 December 2018

Department of English, Nicolaus Copernicus University

The birth of the reader must be at the cost of the death of the Author.
(Roland Barthes, 1967)

Can the reader survive the death of the author?
(Cornel Sandvoss, 2007)

Half a century ago Roland Barthes proclaimed the death of the author and welcomed the birth of the reader. His influential essay was instrumental in redefining the place of the author and the reader in the process of interpretation and negotiation of meanings, questioning the traditional discourses of authorship and decentralizing authorial practices. For most critics, the “death” of the Author freed scholarship from the “tyranny” of biography, unity of meaning and authorial control, and prepared the ground for the emergence of alternative authors, decentred, multiple and marginalized, just as it created the space for the appearance of new kinds of active readers. For others, this “death” meant the denial of agency to groups that were only just beginning to have their claim to authorship recognized, uncannily silencing the subversive potential of non-hegemonic authors. More recently, the changes connected with the expansion of participatory cultures further redefined the status and role of authors and readers, upgrading the latter from the position of textual poachers (Michel de Certeau) to that of prosumers and content producers (Henry Jenkins). In the context of fandom, the relation between authority of the author and fans' activity is particularly problematic – as Cornel Sandvoss suggests, “the fate of the author and reader are rather more intertwined than Barthes suggests”, and the act of fans' reading is transformed into “audience activity.” Finally, the development of new media has significantly influenced the roles of readers and authors, as exemplified by Alan Kirby’s presentation of digimodernist authorship as multiple and hierarchical, one that could be described in terms of “layers of authorship”, both “ubiquitous” and “nowhere,” a site of “restless creativity and energy,” of appropriating and re-appropriating media texts.



Abstracts of 150-200 words, containing the title of the presentation and the author's name and affiliation, accompanied by a short biographical note, should be sent to the following address: authoredculturesconf@gmail.com.

For more information, see the conference website: <https://authoredcultures.wordpress.com/>.

Abstracts submission deadline: 15 July 2018

Notification of acceptance: 22 July 2018

Conference fee: 450 PLN (110 EUR)

Reduced fee (PhD students): 300 PLN (75 EUR)

The fee covers coffee breaks, conference dinner, conference materials and the cost of publication. It does not cover costs of travel or accommodation.

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Prof. Mia Consalvo, Concordia University, Montreal, Canada

Dr Anna Backman Rogers, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Organizing committee:

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