

Katherina Boicheva Kokinova, PhD

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WEB OF SCIENCE RESEARCHER ID B-6183-2019

EDUCATION

- Feb 2012 – Feb 2016 **Ph.D. in Slavic Literatures**, Sofia U, Bulgaria
Dissertation: *The Self-reflection in W. Gombrowicz's and V. Nabokov's Oeuvre*
Committee reviewers: Prof. Reneta Bozhankova (chair), Prof. Margreta Grigorova
Committee members: Prof. Panayot Karagyozov (supervisor), Prof. Yani Milchakov, Assoc. Prof. Miriana Yanakieva
- Aug – Dec 2014 **Fulbright visiting scholar** (supervisor Prof. Eric Naiman)
Dept. of Slavic Languages and Literatures, *UC Berkeley*, USA
- Jan – April 2014 **Erasmus visiting researcher** (supervisor Dr. Katarzyna Zechenter)
SSEES, *University College London*, UK
- April 2013 **Queen Jadwiga scholarship** (supervisor Prof. Jerzy Jarzębski)
Dept. of Polish Philology, *Jagiellonian U*, Poland
- 2004 – 2009 **MA in Slavic Studies** (Polish and Bulgarian philology)
Sofia U, Bulgaria
- Feb – June 2008 **Specialization in Polish Studies**
Dept. of Polish Studies, *University of Warsaw*, Poland
- July – August 2006 **Summer School in Polish Language and Culture**
University of Śląsk, Poland

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative Literature; XX c. transnational and Slavic metafiction; cognitive reception theory; reception theories, theories of the novel.

Authorial instructions, the role of the reader in instructive metafiction. Nabokov, Gombrowicz, Kundera, Różewicz, Bulgakov.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Transnational literature, XX c. metafiction, XX c. Slavic literatures, Polish and Russian Modernisms, reception theories, Nabokov, Gombrowicz.

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

- June 21, 2021- Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Institute for Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- Sept. 2018-2021 Research Assistant, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Institute for Literature, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
- April-July 2019 Postdoctoral fellow, Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University
- March-July 2018 Advanced Academia Fellow, Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

Chapter 6 “(Un)Reading & the “Gappiness” of Context: Towards a New Cognitive Reception Theory”. *Russian Literature and Cognitive Science*, ed. by Tom Dolack, Series: Crosscurrents, Lexington Books, 2025, 115-130. ISBN: 978-1-66694-169-2

Articles in peer-reviewed journals

[Instructing the Reader of Metafiction: Nabokov & Gombrowicz](#). *Narrative*, 31, 2, Ohio State University Press, 2023: 117-137, ISSN:1063-3685. SJR (Scopus):0.31

[Gombrowicz and the Reality of Metafiction](#). *Philological Forum*, 2019, Special issue Witold Gombrowicz, *ex post*: 230-243.

[Lolita Reading Lolita: the Rhetoric of Reader Participation](#). *Nabokov Studies*, 2016, vol. 14: 59-77.

[What Is the Role of Parentheses in Gombrowicz's and Nabokov's Works?](#) *Linguistic World*, 2013, vol. 11, book 1: 85-88.

[in Bulgarian]

Reading "at the Doorstep of Dreaming" in Vladimir Poleganov. *Literaturna misal*, 2022, vol. 65, #1, pp. 80-89. Print ISSN: 0324-0495, Online-ISSN: 1314-9237.

[Gombrowicz's Chance-Pot, Swelled beyond Endurance](#). *Piron*, 2018, vol. 16: *The Excessive* [open access e-journal].

[Is there a Reader in this Text? The Good, the Patron and the Dear. \(A Brief Hitchhiker's Guide to the Reader's Galaxy\)](#). *Littera et Lingua*, 2016, vol. 13, book 1: Special issue on reception theories [open access e-journal].

Self-reflection by Means of Auto-polemics. *The Literature*, issue 12/2012: 126-134.

The Unbearable Lightness of Immortality. *Linguistic World*, 2010, vol. 8, book 2: 220-223.

Articles in edited volumes and proceedings

In-between Speaking and Questioning Instructions. – In: *Gombrowicz na językach. Lekcje tłumaczy*, red. Anna Spólna, Wydawnictwo Pasaże, Kraków, 2022, s. 233–241.

Immortality Engraved (Kundera, Gombrowicz, and Nabokov). – In: *Event and Immortality in Languages, Literatures and Philosophy*, Sofia, 2013: 564-567.

[in Polish] Zmierzch jako „substancja, która zjada kształt“ w *Pornografii* Witolda Gombrowicza [Twilight as “the substance that consumes form” in Gombrowicz's *Pornografia*]. – In: *Zmierzch w literaturze i kulturze*, international conference proceedings, Tomalak B., A. Matuszek, E. Gajewska, eds. Bielsko-Biała 2014: 196-199.

[in Spanish] Pensar en la imagen: Gombrowicz y Nabokov [To Think of the Image: Gombrowicz and Nabokov]. Transl. Lucía Vittelleschi. – In: *El fantasma de Gombrowicz recorre la Argentina*. Compilado por Nicolás Hochman. Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires: Heterónimos 2016: 239-247.

[in Bulgarian, published in Poland] The Thoughtful Time [A close reading of Elin Pelin's *Andreshko*]. – In: "Pętla czasu. Język i kultura", Wydawnictwo Akademii Techniczno-Humanistycznej w Bielsku-Białej, Bielsko-Biała 2014: 96-100.

[in Bulgarian]

Directed Memory [Comparative study of Nabokov's *Speak, Memory* and Gombrowicz's *Diary*]. – In: *Languages Spoken by Memory in the Literary Text*, proceedings of the eponymous international conference, Sofia 2014: 329-334.

Is Self-reflexive Discourse a Mission (Im)possible? – In: *Is Discourse a Mission (Im)possible?* Plovdiv, 2013: 244-250.

Mystifications of the Instructing Voice. – In: *Truth, Mystifications, Lie in Slavic Literatures, Languages and Cultures. Proceedings of the 10th International Slavic Conference*, Sofia, 2011: 527-532.

Preface Self-Readings or How W. Gombrowicz and V. Nabokov Read Their Texts in the Prefaces to *Ferdydurke* and *Lolita*. – In: *The First National Conference for Students in Slavic Studies Proceedings*, Sofia, 2009: 41-44.

Book Reviews

Scholarly

The Tree of Polish Literature Drawn by Kalina Bahneva [A Review of Bahneva, Kalina. *Hellas and Rome in Polish Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries (Selected Aspects)*. Sofia: Paradigma, 2019, 1040 pp. ISBN: 9789543263813.] – *Zeszyty Cyrylo-Methodiańskie*, 2021, № 10, c. 214 – 217. e-ISSN 2449-8297. <http://dx.doi.org/10.17951/zcm.2021.10.214-217> (ERIH PLUS)

On Polish studies in Bulgaria: yesterday, today and tomorrow. [A review of: *Postscriptum polonistyczne. Polonistyka w Bułgarii – wczoraj i dziś*, red. M. Grigorowa, J. Tambor, K. Bahneva, G. Symeonowa-Konach, Uniwersytet Śląski w Katowicach, Szkoła języka i kultury polskiej, nr 2 (12) / 2013, 354 str.] – *Literary Newspaper*, issue 26/ 2014: 3.

Fiction

Mashenka and the Cornflower [A Review of the Bulgarian edition of Nabokov's *Mary*]. – *Literary Newspaper*, issue 22/2018: 5.

Beyond Time [A review of W. Gombrowicz's *Kronos*]. – *Literary Newspaper*, issue 30-31/ 2013: 5.

The (Non)Transparent Nabokov [A Review of the Bulgarian edition of Nabokov's *Transparent Things*]. – *Literary Newspaper*, issue 11/ 2013: 7. http://www.bsph.org/members/files/pub_pdf_1325.pdf

TRANSLATIONS

Scholarly | Laurel, Brenda. *Dramatic Foundations: Part II: Orchestrating Action* [from English into Bulgarian]. – *Piron*, 23/2023.

Spólna, Anna. Mickiewicz jako argument. Wykorzystywanie figury wieszczka w Dzienniku, Wspomnieniach polskich i Testamencie. Rozmowach z Dominikiem de Roux Witolda Gombrowicza [from Polish into Bulgarian]. – *Literary newspaper*, issue 41/2022: 14-15.

Tihanov, Galin. A response in “The Book as Event” rubric of NLO journal [„Новое литературное обозрение“] [from English into Bulgarian]. – *Literary newspaper*, 14/2021: 10-12.

Millati, Piotr. *Gombrowicz wobec sztuki: No credo en la pintura!* [from Polish into Bulgarian]. – *Witold Gombrowicz, ex post: Philological Forum* special issue/2019: 98-110.

Bielecki, Marian. *Why Was Herling Grudziński Afraid to Meet Gombrowicz?* [from Polish into Bulgarian, w. Margreta Grigorova]. – *Literary newspaper*, issue 19/2019: 34-35.

Baran, Bohdan. *Ferdy Durkee* [from Polish into Bulgarian]. – *Literary newspaper*, issue 34/2018: 33.

Fothergill, Anthony. *Reading Conrad: Melancholy in the Shadow of the Swastika* [from English into Bulgarian]. – *Literary Newspaper*, issue 18/2017: 17.

Fiction | Gombrowicz, W. *Cosmos*. [from Polish into Bulgarian] Panorama Publishers, Sofia, 2018.

Poetry | Pasewicz, E. [Four poems from Polish into Bulgarian]. – In: *Love Is not the Word: Anthology of Polish Poetry after 1989*. Zhanet 45, Plovdiv, 2014: 212-225.

EDITING

Scholarly editing & compilation

[*Witold Gombrowicz, ex post*](#), a special issue of the peer-reviewed open access academic e-journal *Philological Forum* (2019) on the 50th anniversary of Gombrowicz's death.

Reception Theories, a special issue of the academic e-journal *Littera et Lingua* (#1/2016; co-editor with Bogdana Paskaleva).

The NABOKOVian, a special issue of *Literary newspaper* on Vladimir Nabokov, #23/2013 (co-editor with Kamelia Spassova and Maria Kalinova).

Scholarly editing

Gombrowicz, Witold. *A Guide to Philosophy in Six Hours and Fifteen Minutes* (w. foreword by M. Cataluccio). SONM, 2020.

Fiction editing | Nabokov, Vladimir. *Beauty and Other Stories* (vol. 2). Colibri, 2021. (editing and compilation)

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Sounds and Other Stories* (vol. 1). Colibri, Sofia, 2020. (editing and compilation)

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Laughter in the Dark*. Colibri, Sofia, 2013.

Other / Wajda, Andrzej. *Kino i reszta świata. Podwójne spojrzenie*. Colibri, Sofia, 2010.

TEACHING

- Part-time lecturer, a course on 20th c. *Polish literature* (lectures for fourth-year students): Nov. 2021 – Jan. 2022, Sofia U, Bulgaria
- Part-time lecturer, two courses on *Polish literature* 15th-17th, 20th c. (lectures for third- and fourth-year students): Oct. 2018 – Jan. 2019, Sofia U, Bulgaria
- Part-time teaching assistant, four courses on *Polish literature* 15th-21st c. (seminar classes for third- and fourth-year students): Feb. 2017-June 2018; Feb. 2019-June 2020, Sofia U, Bulgaria.
- Guest Instructor for a class on Nabokov's short story *The Vane Sisters* from the Reading and Composition course *Reading Revisited: How literature teaches us to read* (Nov. 3rd, 2014), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of California – Berkeley, instructor Irina Kogel.
- Qualification for a secondary-education teacher of *Bulgarian literature and language* (45 classes given in the 7th grade and 75 classes in the 9th grade). In the Bulgarian secondary education system, the classes on Bulgarian literature and language also include Russian, Western-European and other world literature.
- Language instruction: English (2008-2010; 2016-2017) and sporadically, Polish as L2

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS

Scholarly

Postdoctoral scholarship (April – July 2019) Ministry of Education and Science program for Young and Postdoctoral Scholars, at the Faculty of Slavic Studies, Sofia University. Research Project *Towards a Theory of Metafiction*

Advanced Academia Fellowship (March – July 2018) Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia. Research Project *Politics of (Un)Reading: Nabokov (& Blanchot)*

Fulbright scholarship (2014/2015): double placement at University of California, Berkeley and the New York Public Library (Berg Collection, Vladimir Nabokov Archive).

Queen Jadwiga's Fund scholarship (2012/2013) at the Jagiellonian University

Recipient of Travel Grants for Nabokov conferences from the International Vladimir Nabokov Society, the French Nabokov society (2022, 2023, 2024); for MLA 2024 Convention; for ASEEEES (2015, 2016, 2019).

Laureate of the National Olympiad in Bulgarian Literature and holder of National Honor's Diploma (2004)

Translation awards

Recipient of the *Young Translator's Award "Elena Muteva"* of the Bulgarian Translators' Union for the translation of Gombrowicz's *Cosmos* (2019).

Second Place in a contest for translating from Polish to Bulgarian the *Mr. Charles* short-story by Bruno Schulz (2012).

TEAM RESEARCH PROJECT PARTICIPATION

Reading Practices in Bulgaria, interdisciplinary research project headed by Alexander Kiossev, National Science Fund (ФНИ, МОИ), 2018-2022

National scholarly programme for the development and establishing of Bulgarian studies abroad, research project headed by Elka Dimitrova, Ministry of Education and Science, 2023-2025

The Scholarly Inheritance of Boris Yotsov, research project headed by Rumyana Damyanova, National Science Fund (ФНИ, МОИ), external expert, 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (highlights)

"Nabokov & Gombrowicz: Instruction without Borders", International Conference *Vladimir Nabokov, or Education without Borders*, Cornell University, Oct. 31 – Nov. 2, 2024.

"*Pale Fire's* Instructions: The Wood Duck and the Swan", Virtual Symposium "Nabokov from Novel Perspectives", UC Santa Barbara, March 1, 2024.

"Reading Instructions Closely", International Vladimir Nabokov Society panel "Nabokov against the Grain: Reading against the Author's Instructions", *MLA*, Philadelphia, January 4th-7th, 2024. (NCF *Mobility and Development* grant)

"When a Robin Is (not) a Robin? Nabokov, Ornithology, Dictionaries, and Translation", *Nabokov and Nature* conference, Lausanne, June 27th-30th, 2023.

"The Hidden (In)justice in "Pale Fire" for Its Reader/Translator", *Hidden Nabokov* conference, Wellesley, June 15th-19th, 2022.

"Translator, Trader; Critic, Citic", translation series panels, *ASEEEES Convention* (virtual), Dec. 2, 2021.

"The Doors In-between: Revolving, Open, and Closed", panel *Anxiety of In-betweenness*, 52nd *ASEEEES Convention* (virtual), Nov. 5th-8th, 14th-15th 2020.

"*Cosmos: The Excess of Reality*," panel *Gombrowicz and Reality*, 51st *ASEEEES Convention*, San Francisco, Nov. 23rd – 26th 2019.

- “Między wypowiedzeniem i zgłębieniem instrukcji Gombrowicza [In-between Speaking and Questioning Instructions],” *Gombrowicz na językach. First Translators’ Congress on W. Gombrowicz*, (Warsaw, Radom, Wsola) Poland, (Vence) France, October 10th – 17th 2019.
- “Metaświatowość *Kosmosu*,” Polish National conference *Gombrowicz – świat i okolice*, Wrocław, June 13th – 14th 2019.
- “Reading the Unnarrated, Narrating the reread,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Georgetown University, March 7th – 10th 2019.
- “A Utopia Well-read, a Utopia Un-read,” 8th interdisciplinary conference *New Utopias*, Sofia-Apriltsi, Dec. 6th – 9th 2018.
- Round-table participant in “Cognitive approaches to Russian literature II: Reading, Memory, and Transformation,” 49th ASEEES Convention, Chicago, Nov. 9th–12th 2017.
- “Minding the Reader and the Role of ‘Gappiness’ in (Reading) *The Vane Sisters*,” panel *Gaps and Lapses in Nabokov*, 49th ASEEES Convention, Chicago, Nov. 9th–12th 2017.
- Round-table participant in “The Other of Art, Philosophy? Three Perspectives,” *Philosophy and Its Other*, Sofia, 19th-20th Sept. 2017.
- “The Reader: in-between the Gap and the Context”, 6th interdisciplinary conference *Context*, Sofia-Apriltsi, Dec. 6th-10th 2016.
- “Pnin: Reading Instructions Badly,” panel *Nabokov’s Pnin*, 48th ASEEES Convention, Washington DC, Nov. 17th–20th 2016.
- Round-table participant in “Gombrowicz and Alteration,” 48th ASEEES Convention, Washington DC, Nov. 17th–20th 2016.
- “Memory (Re)imagined: Nabokov & Gombrowicz,” *Vladimir Nabokov and the Fictions of Memory*, Warsaw, Sept. 22nd-23rd, 2016.
- “The In(ter)human Art of Witold Gombrowicz”, *The Inhuman. Fifth International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Cultural History of Modernity*, Sofia-Apriltsi, Dec. 6th-9th, 2015.
- “Writing the Reader, or How to Read Instructions?”, panel *Authorial Instructions in XX c. Slavic Metafiction*, 47th ASEEES Convention, Philadelphia, Nov. 19th-22nd 2015.
- “To Think of the Image: Gombrowicz & Nabokov”, *First Gombrowicz Congress*, Buenos Aires, Aug. 7th-10th, 2014.
- “Training the Reader by Means of Self-reflection”, MISHA (Strasbourg University), *CHERCHEURS EN CHANTIER: Doctoral Day on Vladimir Nabokov*, May 2nd, 2014.
- “Vladimir Nabokov and the Art of Giving Instructions”, Cambridge University, UK, *BASEES 2014 Annual Conference*, April 5-7, 2014.
- “Witold Gombrowicz and the Art of Giving Instructions”, *National conference in Polish Studies*, Sofia, June 5th, 2014.
- “Immortality Engraved”, international conference *Event and Immortality in Language, Literature and Philosophy*, Sofia, May 13th-14th 2011.
- “I Write, therefore I Exist”, national conference *The Territories of Comparative Literary Studies*, Sofia, November 26th-27th 2009.

Invited lectures and other presentations

- “Nabokov and His Politics of (Un)reading”, CAS, Sofia, April 24th, 2019.
- “Instructions in the Dark”, University of Cologne, Cologne, May 23rd, 2017.
- “Fulbright Metafiction”, *First Fulbright open lectures*, Sofia, Oct. 30th, 2015.
- “Mythology of Reading: between Chaos and Instructions”, Humanities Seminar, Sofia, April 6th, 2015.

Poster presentations

- Thinking in/about Images (Nabokov & Gombrowicz)*, first poster presented in literary studies, Graduate School competition, University College London, spring 2014.
Rethink, Revise, Rewrite, Cambridge University, UK, *BASEES 2014 Annual Conference*, April 5th - 7th 2014.

CHAIRING, DISCUSSION, ORGANIZATION

Organizer & co-organizer

- > *120th anniversary of Witold Gombrowicz* (guest lecturer Prof. Włodzimierz Bolecki), Polish Institute in Sofia, October 16th 2024 (w. the Polish Institute in Sofia, NIKE publishers);
- > *Gombrowicz and Reality* panel, *51st ASEEES Convention*, San Francisco, Nov. 23rd – 26th 2019;
- > *Nabokov's Pnin* panel, *48th ASEEES Convention*, Washington DC, Nov. 17th–20th 2016;
- > “Gombrowicz and Alteration” Roundtable, *48th ASEEES Convention*, Washington DC, Nov. 17th–20th 2016;
- > *Authorial Instructions in XX c. Slavic Metafiction* panel, *47th ASEEES Convention*, 2015;
- > *Gaps and Lapses in Nabokov* panel, *49th ASEEES Convention*, Chicago, Nov. 9th–12th 2017 (w. Nora Scholz);
- > *Cognitive Approaches to Russian Literature I & II* roundtables, *49th ASEEES Convention*, Chicago, Nov. 12th, 2017 (w. Polina Dimova);
- > With the Humanities seminar (2014-): *Knowledge by the Diagonal (Transformations)* round-table series, summer 2015-2016; *Repetition and Models* discussion series, fall 2015-2016; *Repetition and Mythologies* lecture series, summer 2014-2015; Weekly seminar meetings.

Discussant

- > Schulte, Jörg. *Vladimir Nabokov and the Calendrical Code in Russian Literature*, Invited lecture for the Humanities seminar, Sofia, Feb. 15th, 2016.
- > *Authorial Instructions in Contemporary Russian Metafiction* panel, *47th ASEEES Convention*, Philadelphia, Nov. 19th-22nd 2015.
- > Series of lectures and seminars for the *Humanities seminar*.

Chair

- > *Repetition and the Lyric Model* panel of lectures and workshop, *Repetition and Models: Transformations* discussion series, Humanities Seminar, Sofia, Jan. 16th, 2016;
- > Series of invited lectures for the Humanities seminar.

Co-chair (with Bogdana Paskaleva)

- > *Reception Theories in Bulgaria* roundtable, Humanities Seminar, Sofia, April 10th, 2017.
- > *Humanities by the Diagonal* roundtable, *Knowledge by the Diagonal* round-table series, Humanities Seminar, Sofia, April 11th 2016.

AFFILIATIONS

MLA, 2023-

International Comparative Literature Association, 2015-
The American Comparative Literature Association, 2019
The Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, 2015-
The International Vladimir Nabokov Society, 2014-
The Enchanted Researchers: French Vladimir Nabokov Society, 2014-
The Bulgarian Academic Circle of Comparative Literature, 2015-
Humanities Seminar, Bulgaria (initiator and co-founder), 2014-2019

LANGUAGES

English (advanced)
Polish (advanced)
Russian (pre-intermediate)
Spanish (pre-intermediate)
Bulgarian (native)