

Beyond Philology No. 15/2, 2018
ISSN 1732-1220, eISSN 2451-1498

**26th Annual Conference of the Polish
Association for the Study of English
“Epistemological Canons in Language,
Literature and Cultural Studies”,
Gdańsk, 22-24 June 2017¹**

DANUTA GABRYŚ-BARKER

*Received 20.02.2018,
accepted 28.02.2018.*

In 2017, the most significant of the activities pursued by the Polish Association for the Study of English was the annual conference. This time it was the Institute of English and American Studies of the University of Gdańsk, The Polish Association for the Study of English and the Polish Society for the Study of European Romanticism, who were the organisers of the 26th Annual Conference of the Polish Association for the Study of English. It took place at the University of Gdańsk on the 22–24 June. The leading theme of the conference was “Epistemological Canons in Language, Literature and Cultural Studies”. The conference was stimulated and inspired by the theme of cognition in language studies, literature, translation and culture studies. As proposed by the organisers and expressed by the academic presentations delivered, the confer-

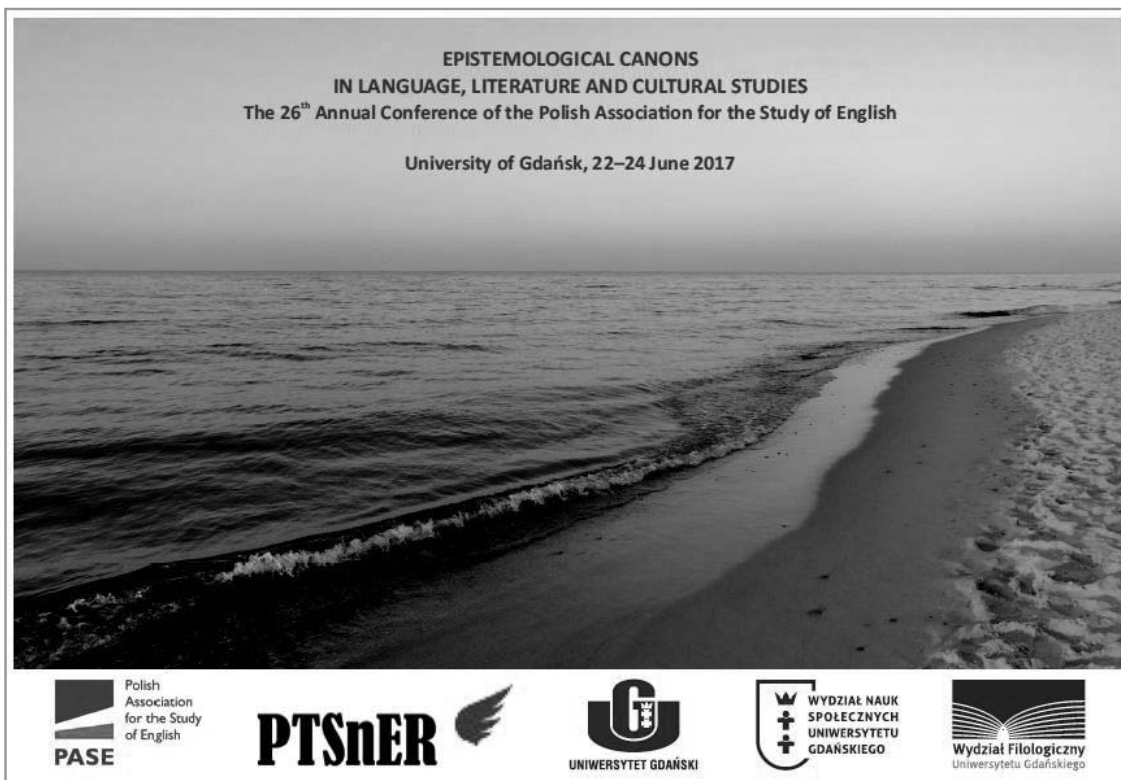
¹ An earlier version of this report appeared in the 2017 Newsletter of the Polish Association for the Study of English.

ence centred around the issues of cognition and understanding in the theories of literary and cultural studies, in language theories and studies, defining/re-defining/extending literary canons, cognition and the language of drama, changing methodologies and canons in translation, issues of psychological, sociological and cultural aspects of bi-/multilingualism as well as foreign language teaching/learning and cognition in these processes among many others. Dr hab. Mirosława Modrzewska (Director of the Institute of English and American Studies), responsible for the conference together with the Organising Committee (Dr hab. Tomasz Wiśniewski, Dr Maria Fengler, Dr Magdalena Wawrzyniak-Śliwska, Dr Magdalena Bielenia-Grąjewska, Dr Karolina Janczukowicz, Dr Małgorzata Smentek, Dr Agnieszka Wawrzyniak, Dr Grzegorz Welizarowicz, Tadeusz Wolański, MA), offered us an unforgettable time both in academic terms of the standards and quality of discussion and as social entertainment. The conference was honoured by the presence of Prof. Jerzy Limon, Director of the Gdańsk Shakespeare Theatre and the University of Gdańsk officials.

The plenary talks at the conference were given by the following scholars:

- Prof. Christoph Bode (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, München) on “Wordsworth and epistemology: Why changes of perspective matter and why reading cannot do without”;
- Prof. Marek Wilczyński (Gdańsk University) on “The eye looks back: Seeing and being seen from Bartram to Lovecraft”;
- Prof. Christina Schäffner (Aston University, Birmingham) on “Translation Studies and its object(s) of research”;
- Prof. Małgorzata Grzegorzewska (Warsaw University) on “The givenness of being and language”.

The excellent choice of the plenary speakers, the topics of their talks and their interdisciplinary character, engaged not only those of us working in a given field of research but also crossed various domain boundaries resulting in interesting and lively discussions and polemics.



Conference poster

Photo: Danuta Stanulewicz

We believe that the 26th Annual PASE Conference demonstrated high academic standards in, first of all, the exciting plenary lectures presented but also in the individual papers delivered during the thematically organized sessions, which were chaired by senior colleagues. Traditionally, the parallel sessions were organized into literature, linguistics, applied linguistics and film and translation studies presentations. There were eighty-nine individual presentations given in four parallel sessions:

- literature, culture, theatre and film (50 presentations);
- linguistics, applied linguistics and translation (39 presentations).²

² The Conference Programme is available at <<http://www.ptsner.ug.edu.pl/pase-2017/programme>> and the Book of Abstracts at <<http://www.ptsner.ug.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/PASE-2017-Book-of-abstracts.pdf>>. Accessed 20.02.2018.

Apart from the academic enjoyment of the conference participation, we had a chance to listen to a lively jazz performance of two renowned musicians, Cezary Paciorek and Piotr Lemań-czyk, on the first evening of the conference. Many thanks to the organisers for making it possible for us to enjoy this musical experience!

The fact that everything went smoothly and that the participants enjoyed the academic presentations, the subsequent discussions and the opportunities for socialising with colleagues from other universities was, most of all, due to the intensive preparation before the conference. We therefore take this opportunity to thank the members of the Organising Committee of PASE 2017. We would also like to show our appreciation to others involved in, among other things, conference materials preparation and organisation of the musical entertainment.

This year's conference marks a change of the time for the event, moving it from April to June, which seems to be more convenient for the universities due to the room availability. It seems that the following PASE conferences will also take place in June every year. The venues for the 27nd and 28th PASE Conferences will be the University of Łódź and Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, respectively.

Danuta Gabryś-Barker
ORCID iD: 0000-0003-0626-0703
Instytut Języka Angielskiego
Uniwersytet Śląski
Gen. Stefana Grota-Roweckiego 5
41-205 Sosnowiec
Poland
danuta.gabrys@gmail.com