

## **Progress in Colour Studies, Tallinn 2022**

DANUTA STANULEWICZ  
ADAM PAWŁOWSKI

*Received 25.11.2022,  
accepted 29.11.2022.*

### **1. Introduction**

The first Progress in Colour Studies (PICS) conference, organized by Dr Carole Biggam and Prof. Christian Kay, was held at the University of Glasgow in 2004. The conference was so successful that the organizers decided to hold further conferences concentrating on colour. Two of them – in 2008<sup>1</sup> and 2012<sup>2</sup> – were also hosted by the University of Glasgow. The 2016 PICS conference took place at University College London<sup>3</sup> and in 2022 researchers interested in colour met at Tallinn University.

Bearing in mind that colour is a phenomenon examined by researchers representing physics, psychology, biology, medicine, linguistics, art history, literary studies, philosophy and many other disciplines, the organizers of the PICS conferences aim at providing them with “a multidisciplinary forum for discussion of recent and ongoing research, presented so as to be accessible to scholars in other disciplines” (<https://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/STELLA/PICS08/Index.htm>, accessed 20.11.2022).

---

<sup>1</sup> See the report by Stanulewicz and Pawłowski (2011).

<sup>2</sup> See the reports by Komorowska and Stanulewicz (2013a, 2013b).

<sup>3</sup> See the report by Stanulewicz, Komorowska and Pawłowski (2018).

In 2022, the multidisciplinary approach – as could be expected – was strongly advocated by the conference Organizers as well:

The aim of the PICS 2022 is to provide a forum for discussion of recent and ongoing research and bring scholars from different disciplines together. Authors are encouraged to consider their own specialist colour expertise in the broader context of colour at the intersection of many disciplines.

(<https://www.tlu.ee/en/welcome>, accessed 20.11.2022)

The papers presented at the PICS conferences were published in the following volumes:

- *Progress in Colour Studies I: Language and Culture*, edited by Carole P. Biggam and Christian J. Kay (2006);
- *Progress in Colour Studies II: Psychological Aspects*, edited by Nicola J. Pitchford and Carole P. Biggam (2006);
- *New Directions in Colour Studies*, edited by Carole P. Biggam, Carole Hough, Christian J. Kay and David R. Simmons (2011);
- *Colour Studies: A Broad Spectrum*, edited by Wendy Anderson, Carole P. Biggam, Carole Hough and Christian Kay (2014);
- *Progress in Colour Studies: Cognition, Language and Beyond*, edited by Lindsay W. MacDonald, Carole P. Biggam and Galina V. Paramei (2018).

## **2. Venue, organizers, topics, and participants**

The fifth PICS conference was scheduled for 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had to be postponed. It was finally held at Tallinn University, Estonia, from 7 to 10 September 2022.

The Organizing Committee included the following scholars, three of whom are affiliated with Tallinn University:

- Mari Uusküla (Tallinn University), co-chair of the Organizing Committee;
- Domicelé Jonauskaitė (University of Vienna), co-chair of the Organizing Committee;
- Sirli Peda, Head of Tallinn University Conference Centre;
- Merle Oğuz (Tallinn University);
- Kaidi Rätsep (independent researcher).

In the Call for Papers, the Conference Organizers proposed the following topics:

- linguistics, psycholinguistics, and colour in languages;
  - colour in literature and poetry;
  - translation of colour;
  - vision, perception, cognition, memory;
  - design, fashion;
  - architecture, art, history, heritage, culture;
  - imaging, computation, analysis, modelling;
  - illumination, optics, photography, technology;
  - conservation, chemistry, materials, surfaces.
- (<https://www.tlu.ee/en/welcome>, accessed 20.11.2022)

The scholars who responded to the Call of Papers represented academic centres located in Austria, Brazil, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the USA.

### **3. Keynote lectures**

The participants had an opportunity to listen to the following keynote lectures:<sup>4</sup>

- (1) “The mental representation of colour in English, Somali, and other world language” by Delwin T. Lindsey and Angela M. Brown (Ohio State University, USA);

---

<sup>4</sup> The conference programme and book of abstracts are available at <https://www.tlu.ee/en/pics2022/programme>, accessed 20.11.2022.

- (2) “Basic Kala terms and the end of history: An invitation to visual semantics” by Carsten Levisen (Roskilde University, Denmark);
- (3) “Communicative need drives colour language refinement: The riches of “Italian blues”” by Galina V. Paramei (Liverpool Hope University, UK).

#### 4. Papers

The participants presented over 20 papers which dealt with a number of colour-related topics. The dominant topics included the following ones:

- colour lexicons of various languages;
- colour idioms of various languages;
- associations with colours, including associations of colours and emotions;
- colour in literature and culture.

The participants concentrated on numerous languages, including, *inter alia*, Chinese, English, Estonian, Finnish, Galician, Japanese, Polish, Swedish and Turkish.

Below we present the list of the titles of the papers – with their authors – presented at the PICS 2022 Conference.<sup>5</sup>

#### 8 September

- (1) Carole Biggam: “The colour semantic potential for the relative dating of early texts”;
- (2) Victoria Bogushevskaya: “Cultural memory of Chinese colour tropes”;
- (3) Thekla Wiebusch: “Representation of colours in the Chinese writing system”;
- (4) Michal Schwarz: “Functions of colours in the evolution of Inner Asian societies”;

---

<sup>5</sup> The list is based on the conference programme, available at <https://www.tlu.ee/en/pics2022/programme>, accessed 20.11.2022.

- (5) Domicelė Jonauskaitė: “Colours and emotions: What have we learned so far and what’s next?”;
- (6) Giulia Spagnulo, Déborah Epicoco, Domicelė Jonauskaitė and Christine Mohr: “Colour-emotion associations are unrelated to current mood”;
- (7) Déborah Epicoco, Domicelė Jonauskaitė, Mari Uusküla and Christine Mohr: “What do we think about colours? Coding free associations with colour terms”;
- (8) Carlo Martins Gaddi and Marcelo Fernandes da Costa: “Comparing colour concept with emotion colour preference using psychophysical interval scale and ranking order procedure”;
- (9) Ene Vainik: “Free associations of colour words in Estonian”;
- (10) Merle Oğuz and Mari Uusküla: “A comparative analysis of Estonian, Swedish and Turkish colour idioms”;
- (11) Veera Hatakka: “Finnish words *tumma* ‘dark’ and *vaalea* ‘light’ as colour names”;
- (12) Mari Uusküla: “Translation of colour language: Old and new perspectives”.

## 9 September

- (13) Kaidi Rätsep: “Listing, sorting and naming ‘blue’”;
- (14) David H. Peterzell, Anke Marit Albers and Sean Isamu Johnson: “Are light and dark blue used as separate basic colour categories in English? A corpus linguistics approach to studying visual perception”;
- (15) Danuta Stanulewicz and Adam Pawłowski: “From vegetation to politics: The word for GREEN in the Polish press, 1945–1956”;
- (16) Adam Pawłowski: “ChronoPress webservice and other CLARIN-PL text-mining tools for SSH community”;
- (17) Urmas Sutrop: “Colours in the Grimm and non-Grimm Snow White fairy tales (ATU 709)”;
- (18) Isabel Espinosa Zaragoza: “Obscure lipstick colour names: Ambiguity as an attention-grabbing technique”;
- (19) Grażyna Wąsowicz: “The impact of colours on the effectiveness of persuasive messages designed to promote behaviour change toward sustainable consumption”.

## 10 September

- (20) Paula Teixeira Moláns: “The categorisation of orange in Galician: Generational contrasts in a diglossic community”;
- (21) Hiromasa Mita: “Linguistic palette: How can colours be deep, dark, and dull?”;
- (22) Yurie Okami: “Colour idioms and direct modification in Japanese”.

## 5. Meetings with editors

The Conference Organizers also arranged meetings with editors of scholarly journals and collections of papers to which scholars may submit their texts on colour:

- (1) Galina Paramei, representing the journal *Color Research & Application*;
- (2) Carole Biggam, representing the publishing houses: Rodopi, John Benjamins, the University of Leeds, the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and Bloomsbury Press;
- (3) Urmas Sutrop, representing the journal *Trames*.

## 6. A final word

The conference provided the delegates with an excellent opportunity to present the results of their research – conducted from different perspectives – as well as to broaden their horizons. The PICS 2022 conference – as the previous PICS conferences – provided solid evidence for the need for investigating the phenomenon of colour from various points of view, including linguistic, cultural and psychological. The participants enjoyed the lively discussions of the different aspects of this phenomenon.

Summing up, the fifth Progress in Colour Studies conference, held at Tallinn University, was a tremendously inspiring, successful and splendidly organized scholarly event.

Finally, we would like to pass on the information about the sixth PICS conference. It will be held at the University of Wrocław and the Academy of Fine Arts in Wrocław, Poland, in 2025.

## References

- Anderson, Wendy, Carole P. Biggam, Carole Hough, Christian Kay (eds.) (2014). *Colour Studies: A Broad Spectrum*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Biggam, Carole P., Carole Hough, Christian J. Kay, David R. Simmons (eds.) (2011). *New Directions in Colour Studies*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Biggam, Carole P., Christian J. Kay (eds.) (2006). *Progress in Colour Studies I: Language and Culture*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Komorowska, Ewa, Danuta Stanulewicz (2013a). “Konferencja “Progress in Colour Studies”, Glasgow 2012 – sprawozdanie”. In: Ewa Komorowska, Danuta Stanulewicz (eds.). *Barwa w języku, literaturze i kulturze IV*. Szczecin: Volumina.pl Daniel Krzanowski, 229–240.
- Komorowska, Ewa, Danuta Stanulewicz (2013b). “Progress in Colour Studies, Glasgow 2012”. *Beyond Philology* 10: 259–270.
- MacDonald, Lindsay W., Carole P. Biggam, Galina V. Paramei (eds.) (2018). *Progress in Colour Studies: Cognition, Language and Beyond*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Pitchford, Nicola J., Carole P. Biggam (eds.) (2006). *Progress in Colour Studies II: Psychological Aspects*. Amsterdam – Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Stanulewicz, Danuta, Ewa Komorowska, Adam Pawłowski (2018). “Konferencja “Progress in Colour Studies”, Londyn 2016 – sprawozdanie”. In: Ewa Komorowska, Danuta Stanulewicz (eds.). *Barwa w języku, literaturze i kulturze IX*. Szczecin: Volumina.pl Daniel Krzanowski, s. 283–293.
- Stanulewicz, Danuta, Adam Pawłowski (2011). “Konferencja “Progress in Colour Studies”, Glasgow 2008 – sprawozdanie”. In: Ewa Komorowska, Danuta Stanulewicz (eds.). *Barwa w języku, literaturze i kulturze II*. Szczecin: ZAPOL, 191–200.

Danuta Stanulewicz  
ORCID iD: 0000-0003-1792-3883  
Uniwersytet Gdański  
Instytut Anglistyki i Amerykanistyki  
Wita Stwosza 51  
80-308 Gdańsk  
Poland  
danuta.stanulewicz@ug.edu.pl

Adam Pawłowski  
ORCID iD: 0000-0002-0804-5698  
Uniwersytet Wrocławski  
Instytut Nauk o Informacji i Mediach  
Pl. Uniwersytecki 9/13  
50-137 Wrocław  
Poland  
adam.pawlowski@uwr.edu.pl