

Call for Contributions

World Literature Studies 2/2024

INTERDISCURSIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN LITERATURE AND BIOETHICS

Editors:

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On the background of the concept of interdiscursive relations (Maingueneau, 2004)¹ and the concept of narrative bioethics (Dubiel, 2011)², we are currently witnessing a gradual dissolution and opening of the boundaries between different scientific and artistic discourses. The topic of this monothematic issue is to explore these shifts through the example of interdisciplinary communication between literature and bioethics. The relationship between literature and bioethics has largely been reflected from the point of the traditional biomedical relationship between doctor and patient. In the present day, however, bioethics is an interdisciplinary field that actively engages with the studies of culture, art, and the humanities, but also with the natural sciences and biomedicine. In contrast to the common ethical issues in medicine, modern biomedical technologies reveal entirely new topics to literature, such as preimplantation genetic diagnostics, regenerative medicine, gene editing, or human enhancement, which are becoming increasingly recurring motifs in contemporary literature, film, and visual arts. They are also examples of the mutual opening of discourses and the emergence of a new interdisciplinary area, which includes narrative bioethics. The moral dilemmas emerging in the context of accelerated technological development affect not only the individual but also the society. These dilemmas need to be captured in their complexity, and that is why the approach of extending purely rational ethical discourse and logical argumentation to include humanistic perspectives and narrative aspects is proving to be particularly fruitful.

Contributions to the thematic issue will explore the intersection of literature and bioethics on two levels: First, it will delve into the ways in which literature reflects bioethical dilemmas and thus simultaneously shapes, cultivates, and deepens bioethical discourse. Subsequently, it will analyze the themes and motifs that bioethics introduces to contemporary literature and art. In the forthcoming issue, we welcome interdisciplinary contributions that will also develop these contexts:

- The contribution of literature in mapping ethical problems and dilemmas through moral imagination, empathy, and moral progress concepts.
- The representation of the discourse of literature (literary motifs, literary categories, literary communication) in bioethical discourse.
- Analysis of textual and extra-textual representations of bioethical discourse in selected literary, cinematic, or popular science works.
- Ethical issues related to the concepts of transhumanism and posthumanism that arise in the context of the applications of state-of-the-art technologies in biomedicine.

- The humanization of bioethics systematically aims to deepen the concern for the mental, empathic, and emotional side of the person in the context of the various biomedical situations in which humans find themselves.

Language of contributions: **English**

Please email your abstracts (maximum 3,600 characters) to the volume editors at bsuwara@gmail.com, jana.tomasovicova@ucm.sk and a copy to usvlwlit@savba.sk by **8 October 2023**. Authors will be notified about further cooperation by 17 October 2023. The deadline for submissions (maximum 36,000 characters with spaces) is 31 January 2024.

¹ MAINGUENEAU, D., 2004. *Le Discours littéraire. Paratopie et scène d'énonciation*. Paris: Armand Colin.

² DUBIEL, H., 2011. What is "Narrative Bioethics". *Frontiers in Integrative Neuroscience* 5/10. DOI: 10.3389/fnint.2011.00010.