

Department of English and American Studies, Constantine the Philosopher University, Slovakia  
and its partners:

Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria

Saurashtra University, Rajkot, India

The American College, Madurai, India

University of Mosul, Iraq

University of Yaounde, Cameroon

Department of Anglophone Studies, University of Antananarivo, Madagascar

invite you to attend the final conference of the project *KEGA009UKF-4/2022 Poetry as lingua franca – effective approaches to teaching poetry as a vehicle for personal growth within the context of international cross-cultural communication.*



which takes place on **3-4 October 2024** as a hybrid event.

Physically, it takes place at Department of English and American Studies

Štefánikova 67, 94901 Nitra, room 128

International presenters and attendees can join the event via Zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83798736090?pwd=qs7ImfxNv4lgdtcbqJd5iV79K5CZCa.1>

Meeting ID: 837 9873 6090

Passcode: 295465

Most sessions will be recorded and published afterwards on the department's YouTube channel

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiQ0cksAZYFWfLXH-tUcl\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiQ0cksAZYFWfLXH-tUcl_g)

Presenters who wish to have their papers considered for publication, can submit them to the department's literary journal Ars Aeterna at: <https://arsaeterna.ukf.sk/index.php/arsaeterna>

**ALL TIMES IN THE PROGRAM ARE GIVEN IN  
CENTRAL EUROPEAN TIME ZONE,**

**SO CHECK YOUR TIME ZONE CAREFULLY IN ORDER NOT TO MISS THE SESSIONS.**

Check your time here: <https://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/meeting.html>

### **ABOUT THE CONFERENCE:**

The Platonic term **ποίησις**, “**poiēsis**”, is a hard to translate concept often glossed as “poetry”. However, poiesis is much more than that; it refers to the knowledge made manifest in producing something that has its end beyond itself, such as making a vessel in order to transport people across an ocean. Poetry, and literature in general, is the vessel that transports people across the vast ocean of human knowledge, emotion, and experience, helping them better understand themselves as well as the world around them.

This idea is also reflected in the goal of our project, Poetry as Lingua Franca, which was to develop and explore effective approaches to teaching poetry as a vehicle for personal growth within the context of international cross-cultural communication, and its results will be presented at the conference.

The conference will span over two days and work with the more general translation of **ποίησις** as “**poesis**”, a term covering not only poetry but also any form of writing with a poetic value to it.

# PROGRAM

**Thursday 3 October**

**7:45 – 9:00**

## **From the Platonic Poiesis to Knowledge**

*Salih Albadrani, professor*

Department of English Language, University of Mosul, Iraq

This paper explores the intricate transition from the concept of poiesis in Platonic philosophy to contemporary understandings of knowledge. Poiesis, often associated with the act of creation or bringing something into being, serves not only as a foundational concept in Plato's works but also as a crucial link to the development of epistemology. By examining Plato's dialogues, particularly the "Timaeus" and "Republic," this study highlights the ontological and epistemological implications of poiesis, emphasizing its role in shaping knowledge as both a process and a product. The discussion further delves into how the Platonic idea of knowledge transcends mere information, advocating for a holistic understanding that integrates perception, truth, and the moral dimensions of knowing. Ultimately, this analysis reveals the enduring legacy of Platonic thought in modern philosophical discourse, inviting renewed consideration of how poiesis informs our conception of knowledge and its application within contemporary contexts.

## **Is there a danger in non-narrative writing? The impacts of poetry-writing on self-development in adolescents and young adults**

*Krištof Gregor*

Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia

Effects of expressive writing have first been researched in the late 1980s and since then hundreds of studies have examined the topic. This paper has three aims. First, it summarizes the findings of the "writing cure" research that overwhelmingly agrees on the positive effects expressive writing has on the physical and mental health of diverse subjects - specifically those studies that employ non-narrative writing. Second, it reflects on the papers that relate high rates of mental illness and suicides in poets compared to both the population-wide averages as well as other vocations that consist of writing. Third, it offers an overview of the research done on the usage of non-narrative writing within educational institutions. Finally, review of these materials allows for a comprehensive overview of the effects poetry-writing has on specific age-groups and an attempt to formulate an answer to the hypothesised question: 'Might adolescents and young adults bring to themselves a risk of inviting the 'Sylvia Plath effect' upon choosing poetry as a mode of self-expression?'

**9:15 – 10:45**

## **The Poiesis of Cinema in Aletheia of Global Power Dynamics**

*Jemmima Rajam, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

Fiction is not obligated to mirror reality, yet it inevitably attempts to do so from its very inception. The notion of inevitability brings to mind a troubling question: "Is the government created for its citizens, or are some citizens created to rule and control?" The belief that government is both necessary and inevitable for humanity has spawned a complex array of seemingly infallible propositions. It is a sobering thought to consider a power in this world capable of predicting

life on earth and conveying these forecasts through cinema. This evokes a profound dilemma: should we question the power making these predictions, asking whether such events are truly destined to unfold, or should we instead prepare ourselves for what the future may hold? Predictions are typically logical deductions based on scientific theories, while prophecies might be illogical predictions, stemming from beliefs outside of empirical reasoning. Regardless of whether these predictions or prophecies are communicated through cinema as logical or illogical, they often expose underlying political maneuvers—maneuvers that are validated when these predictions manifest in reality. It is a fallacy to gauge that cinema is a mere entertainment, when it intelligibly explores the trajectories of our world and the possible consequences of our current actions. And the art of cinema is meticulously dealt in uncovering the truths that humanity legitimately deserves to be exposed to the fact that a paradigm shift in human life on earth is most likely to befall in due course of time. From the environmental collapse, corporate control to technology as a tool, we as citizens of the world have every right to be exposed to global truths of the power dynamics and poesis is quite seemingly the plausible hope that we are bestowed with. This paper attempts to delineate how the art of cinema unravels the global truths of power.

### **DABDA psychoanalysis model (Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, Acceptance) in the context of mastectomy poems by Alicia Ostriker**

*Galina Elsieta Davis, professor*

Department and Research Centre of English, Lady Doak College, Madurai, India

This paper explores the manifestation of the DABDA psychoanalytic model—Denial, Anger, Bargaining, Depression, and Acceptance—in the mastectomy poems of renowned feminist poet Alicia Ostriker. Through a close textual analysis, the study examines how Ostriker articulates the complex emotional journey of women undergoing mastectomy, capturing the multifaceted experiences associated with breast cancer and its aftermath. The analysis reveals that Ostriker's poetry intricately weaves each stage of grief, employing vivid imagery, profound metaphors, and a nuanced narrative voice to convey the physical and psychological impacts of mastectomy. Additionally, the paper delves into Ostriker's poems from the collection in *The Crack in Everything*, highlighting its thematic resonance with concepts of imperfection, vulnerability, and resilience, further enriching the understanding of acceptance and healing in the context of bodily loss and transformation. The study underscores Ostriker's contribution to feminist literature by providing a powerful, empathetic exploration of women's experiences with illness, body image, and identity, offering insights into the healing process and the reclamation of self, amidst profound adversity.

### **The City of Memory: A Phenomenological reading of Arundhathi Subramanian's "Madras"**

*Nivetha Jeyakumar, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

This paper offers a phenomenological exploration of the poem "Madras", focusing on how the text embodies the lived experience. To go back to the place where people were brought up in their childhood is a recurring ideology that is predominantly present in the works of various artists. The texts in turn act as gateways through which readers take their imaginary journeys and can be included under memory studies. Arundhathi Subramanian's writings in certain ways, focus on the interplay between place, memory and identity. The readers are infiltrated with a sense of belonging through the vivid imagery of the poem. The osmotic memories of the speaker serve as an illustration in understanding how a location can be more than just a physical space. The space transforms into a living, breathing entity that shapes and is shaped by personal histories. The approach presented in the paper invites readers to contemplate their own affiliations to Madras and the way in which these affiliations are validated and interwoven with their identities.

## **Expostulating Against Inequities Through the Poetry of Protest: A Special Reference to Maya**

### **Angelou's Poem *Caged Bird***

*Amara Imène, doctoral student*

Faculty of Letters & Languages; Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria

The present paper delves into the poetry of protest through the close reading of Maya Angelou's poem "Caged Bird". Its primary aim is to shed light on poetry as a distinctive literary form that entails the use of creative tools and techniques in writing in order to unearth the intricate, repulsive human conditions and, thus, thread the path to expostulate against inequalities and call for justice. The paper also stresses the main aspects and concerns of protest poetry that make it substantial for articulating miscellaneous human plights and defying the status quo. Furthermore, Maya Angelou's "Caged Bird" is critically examined as a seminal poem of protest that embodies the harsh experiences of being black in White America. An outstanding voice of protest within the overall body of Afro-American literature and postcolonial literature in general, Angelou skilfully reveals her discontent with all types of oppression and inequalities against blacks, black women and all marginalized people. Through a set of poetic tools, including metaphors, symbolism and imagery, Angelou's purpose is to evoke her audience's feelings of scorn and disdain in order to induce reaction against unacceptable living conditions. By contrasting the caged bird's captivity with the free bird's freedom in "Caged Bird", the poet gives voice to her protest against the unjust treatment of citizens of African descent in America. The trapped bird represents Angelou herself as well as African Americans, and all blacks and marginalized people by extension, who still endure cruel racism and unfairness as though they are leashed in a cage. Its singing is metaphorically employed as their voice of protest, which grants the poem a hopeful vision to attain freedom notwithstanding the deep-seated agonizing conditions. Hence, the paper seeks to elucidate the way this extended metaphor can be read as a call for equality and withstanding all forms of oppression. The other different techniques that Angelou employs to genuinely epitomize blacks' dissent and resilience against multiple oppressions throughout history are evenly discussed in the paper.

## **Poery as Resistance- A Study of Jean Arasanayagam's Select Poems**

*Anita Caroline, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

Poetry stands out for its aesthetic beauty, measured meter, careful choice of diction and so forth, but what goes less noticed is its intensity in conveying pain and agony. Hence the genre can also effectively function as resistance narrative, in this article I wish to establish select poems of Jean Arasanayagam, a renowned Sri Lankan poet as a form of resistance against war and warring agencies. The following poems are taken up for study: "Journey South", "Our Journeys", "Journey of the Exiled" and "To my friend Humayun in America" and they address the pains, problems, hopes and disappointments of refugees.

## **Familial Connections in Avni Doshi's Novel *Burnt Sugar***

*Paul Jayakar, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

This paper explores the intricate nature of family dynamics in *Burnt Sugar* (2020), a novel by Avni Doshi that has received praise from critics in the field of Indian Writing in English. The intricate relationships between the main character, Antara, and her mother, Tara, are examined in this research to emphasize the themes of trauma, memory, and the recurrent nature of family ties. The story's examination of a tense mother-daughter bond offers a thought-provoking reflection on the consequences of past deeds and the prospects for reconciliation.

12:45 – 14:45

## **Through poetry, the path to enlightenment unfolds**

*Samy Hani, student*

Chadli Bendjedid University, El-Tarf, Algeria

Poetry is an encyclopedia of values that generate and develop all aspects of our personality at every stage of life. Let us mention the poems of the eminent Antara Ibn Shaddad, Al Mutanabbi, and Rabindranath Tagore, which instill in us the qualities of self-esteem, resilience, mental and physical strength, as well as self-confidence—values that are particularly delicate and important during adolescence. We can also mention ambition and perseverance, as well as the benefits of stepping out of one’s comfort zone, cultivated by the poetry of Jalal al-Din al-Rumi and Gibran Khalil Gibran. Emily Dickinson punctuates our learning of self-commitment and inner development. The Irish poet Seamus Heaney, in turn, shapes the formation of our identity with his poetic wisdom. The Persian poet Hafiz, the healer of poetry, heals our wounds with his joyful and positive verses. Furthermore, life lessons are readily available thanks to the poetry of Robert Frost. German poetry is also celebrated through Rainer Maria Rilke, who strengthens our inner resilience to endure life’s storms and protect ourselves from destruction. Tolerance and empathy are also life lessons imparted by the poetry of al-Rumi. Finally, the Mexican poet Octavio Paz orchestrates our lives with his poetry, which is open to the world and the different cultures that enrich each other. Ultimately, our presentation will illustrate, through poetic excerpts from all these authors, the invaluable power of poetry in the formation and inner development of the individual as an invaluable human resource.

## **The Poesis of Dreams: Exploring the Role of Dreaming in Creative Making**

*Febin Fenn, student*

The American College, Madurai, India

The title of this paper is “The Poesis of Dreams: Exploring the Role of Dreaming in Creative Making”, and it examines how dreams intersect with the creative process from a perspective of Platonic understanding of ποίησις (poiēsis). In this article, poesis is given a broader meaning than just poetry to explain how dreaming may be considered as a catalyst for creative making that serves as a knowledgebase, inspires and innovates. Dreams are often viewed as reflections that emerge subconsciously but they have tremendous potential in creative writing. This research therefore explores how narratives and symbols within dreams can help foster creativity and contribute to the creation processes. Therefore, through theoretical analysis together with case studies, the paper shows how dreams can generate innovative ideas, solve complicated issues or improve artistic thoughts. This study also looks into ways in which dreams affect creativity by creating new associations and breaking traditional thought patterns. It points out how dreams are able to reshape perceptions and expand horizons when it comes to creative making. Additionally, the research provides useful tips on how individuals can use dream poesis to improve their own arts.

## **The Journey of Self-Healing through Instapoetry and the Example of Rupi Kaur’s, Najwa Zebian’s, and Alexandra Vasiliu’s Selected Poems**

*Soumaya Guebla, professor*

Faculty of Letters & Languages; Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria

The present study explores the importance of instapoetry in healing hurt and broken hearts. It offers a deep insight into the prominent role of instapoetry in accompanying not only the poets but also the readers throughout their curative journey of survival. This research takes as powerful examples the poems of Rupi Kaur *The Sun and her Flowers* (2017) and *Home Body* (2020), Najwa Zebian’s *Sparks of Phoenix* (2019), and Alexandra Vasiliu’s *Dare to Let Go* (2022). For

this purpose, it relies on the theory of Nicolas Mazza on poetry therapy, and more specifically his RES model. The major concern of this theory lies in the fact that it helps us discuss the therapeutic aspect of writing poetry, reading, and sharing it with a community of followers who develop a cathartic feeling that aids them to alleviate their painful and traumatic experiences, promote their self-awareness, and uphold their personal growth. This research contributes to the interdisciplinary discourse that intertwines psychotherapy and literature, and highlights how the easy access of digital poetry significantly assists in the transformative journey of mending the shattered and wounded selves. Instapoets work as ambassadors of hope whose comforting words greatly participate in relieving the distress and restoring the inner peace of the readers. Therefore, this research categorizes instapoets as life coaches who serve as sparkling stars, enlightening the readers' path in the midst of darkness.

## **Deconstructing the status quo in C.S.Lewis' The Chronicles of Narnia**

*Sharon Susannah, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

The Narnian series penned by C.S. Lewis is one of the most beloved works of children's literature. Though the narration of the series is in the form of prose Lewis has also infused poetic faculties that include rhythm, meter, rhyme and imagery. The series is known for its Biblical interpretations as it has incorporated the beliefs and principles of christianity. Lewis himself being a person of faith has made this series didactic in nature as the child readers will be imparted with the christian values. In addition to the biblical references, allegories and images, the author also has employed moral values and philosophies. This research article is a study on the incorporated ideologies and deconstructs those 'constructed' ideologies that are presumed to be innate and just thereby deconstructing the aforesaid.



# PROGRAM

**Friday 4 October**

**7:45 – 9:00**

## **Can Poetry be a Vessel for Physics?**

*Fella Benabed, professor*

Faculty of Letters & Languages; Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria

Science and poetry are often considered as diametrically opposed. While science is defined by its rigorous methods and empirical evidence, poetry is defined by its imaginative expression and emotional depth. Scientists question poetry's precision and poets question science's mechanistic perspective, constituting a stark oversimplification of their interaction. Today, there is a growing understanding that science and poetry can complement each other, translating scientific discoveries into various poetic forms. Sam Illingworth, a poet and geoscientist, argues that many fascinating scientific facts remain obscure because they are buried in the complex language of academic papers, and that poetry is an excellent vehicle to render them more understandable and relatable. To illustrate these arguments, this presentation will draw on poems by Richard Feynman, the Nobel Prize-winning physicist and poet, who challenges the idea that scientific exploration diminishes the poetic aspect of life. He believes that poetry, without the beauty and wonder of scientific insight, reflects a limited poetic imagination. Additionally, this paper will draw on poems by Amy Catanzano, a poet who introduced the concept of "Quantum Poetics." She asserts that both poetry and physics have the power to question conventional notions of time; for instance, while Einstein's theory of relativity has shown the subjective nature of time, poetry can also convey it through emotional impact. Catanzano's experimental poetry, such as her "World Lines," features intersecting lines of verse that allow readers to engage with the poem in both linear and non-linear ways, creating multiple interpretations and embodying a state of quantum superposition.

## **Luminous Pathways: The Intersection of Poetry and Media in Student Experience**

*Selma Mokrani*

Faculty of Letters & Languages; Badji Mokhtar University, Annaba, Algeria

This paper explores the intricate interplay between poetry and modern media in shaping students' understanding and internalization of values. As vessels of knowledge, emotion, and experience, both poetry and media serve as powerful conduits for value transmission, yet their methods and impacts differ significantly. My research examines how traditional poetic forms and contemporary media formats present and communicate values to students, analyzing the cognitive and emotional processes involved in their reception. Through a combination of literary analysis, media studies, and educational psychology, I investigate the comparative presentation of values in classical poetry versus digital media content, exploring the cognitive mechanisms by which poetic devices in both mediums influence value perception. I also examine the role of cultural context in students' interpretation of values across these platforms, highlighting the importance of digital literacy and critical thinking in discerning values in diverse media forms. Additionally, I consider potential educational strategies for integrating poetry and media analysis to enhance students' awareness of values. The methodology relies on content analysis of selected poems and media examples. By bridging the gap between traditional poetic expression and modern media consumption, this research aims to provide educators with novel approaches to foster value literacy and critical engagement among students in an increasingly complex information landscape. Finally, this study contributes to the conference theme of "Poesis of Knowledge" by illuminating how poetry and media act as complementary beacons, guiding students through the vast realm of knowledge, emotion, and experience in the digital age.



9:15 – 10:45

## **Exploring Poiesis in the Digital Age: Fostering Cross-Cultural Communication and Personal Growth Through AI-Assisted Poetry Education**

*Wafa Nouari, doctor*

Mostafa Benboulaïd Batna 2 University, Algeria

In the ever-evolving landscape of education, the ancient concept of poiesis, transcending the mere act of creation to embody the essence of knowledge and human experience, remains profoundly relevant. This study explores the intersection of poiesis and AI, focusing on AI-assisted poetry education to enhance personal growth and cross-cultural communication. Utilizing classroom interventions and case studies, it analyzes how AI tools make poetry more accessible, aiding in comprehension and expression. Findings highlight AI's role in fostering self-discovery and intercultural dialogue. This innovative approach encourages educators to leverage technology to enrich education and build a global community of learners.

## **Learning Literature through Watching: A Transhumanist Strategy**

*John Steward Raj, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

The advent of artificial intelligence and technology created a new paradigm in teaching, learning, and testing. Learners who are reared on screen have developed visual and mobile learning styles for accessing knowledge. These recent transhumanist movements, as defined by Julian Huxley (1957), present the collaboration of human minds with ever-developing technology to help people achieve more in this mortal experience. In this accord, the researcher tries to promote watching as a new skill in learning literature, trying to provide a different strategy to help the present-day learners' style of studying literature. Though watching as a skill and infusion of technology into literature classrooms are seen as a threat, the researcher considers them as a propelling force to enhance definite literature learning skills and tools. Furthermore, the researcher presents watching skills as a new mobile learning methodology that promotes a concrete and serendipitous learning of literature through watching.

## **Abjection to Affirmation: Reading Dalit Women's Poetry**

*Joel Gnanadoss Timothy Chelliah, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

Dalits are one of the marginalized groups in India. Due to the Caste system, they have been denied intellectual labour millennially. But Dalit literature has seen a spurt since the 1990s. Dalit have been able to articulate their sufferings, struggles and success stories through poetry, life narratives and fiction. Dalit Poetry played a crucial role in the Dalit Panther movement during the late 1960s. Dalit Women's poetry has carved out a counter public by emphasizing triple marginalization of Dalit women on the axes of caste, class and gender. Dalit women's poetry not only depict the miseries faced by Dalit women; these poems seem to produce counter-intuitive accounts that shock and create a space for rearrangement in the caste-gender power formation. They also seek to alter the perceived images of Dalit women, turn them on their head to reclaim Dalit female body and identity from being 'abject' (Kristeva) selves to radical selves. This paper "Abjection to Affirmation: Reading Dalit Women's Poetry" would attempt to read Dalit Women's poetry as a political process of interrogating, negotiating and reconstituting the norms set by the dominating and oppressive regimes. Through a close reading of select poems of Sukirtharani, Meena Kandasamy and Aruna Gogulamanda, this paper would seek to analyse the ways the poems sabotage the status quo for a more affirmative and celebratory projection and knowledge of what has been rendered as dirt, defilement and disrespectful in the casteist-patriarchal logic.

11:00 – 12:30

## **Heterotopia and Poiesis in Kamala Das's My Story: A Spatial Study**

*Alisha Oli Mohammed, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

Kamala Das, a prominent Indian poet and writer, is known for her fearless introspective exploration of femininity, sexuality, and personal freedom. Her writings often challenge the conventions and restrictive norms of Kerala and Indian society. Michael Foucault's heterotopian reading of Kamala Das's writing helps to understand the spaces of otherness that exist outside of the social or cultural order. She creates or embodies spaces (heterotopia) in her poems that are different from ordinary realities to offer the readers alternative perspectives or experiences to get away from (harsh) reality. Her later autobiography *My Story* explains her raw and unspoken aspects of love, suffering, and womanhood which is alluded to in her poems. She quotes her poetic lines in her narrative that blur the boundaries of truth and imagination. Kamala Das also engages in an act of poiesis to create and bring something (heterotopia) new into existence. Her poems serve as an alternative space to explore her identity, desire, and love which is confessed in her autobiography. The paper discusses the act of poiesis in Kamala Das's *My Story*, by creating heterotopia where multiple, often contradictory, realities coexist to defy societal constraints.

## **Dravidian Aesthetics in Tamil Sangam Poetry**

*Thomas Kodiyat Varghese, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

The rich tapestry of Tamil Sangam poetry, spanning from approximately 300 BCE to 300 CE, offers profound insights into Dravidian aesthetics, a distinctive cultural and philosophical framework that has shaped the literary traditions of South India. This paper explores the nuances of Dravidian aesthetics as reflected in select poems from *Agananuru*, *Natrinai*, and *Purananuru*, with particular emphasis on Kaniyan Poonkundraanaar's famous poem "Yaadhum Oore Yavarum Kelir." Drawing on A.K. Ramanujan's translations, this study examines the interconnections between landscape (*tinai*), emotion (*thinai*), and ethical living (*aram*) within these classical texts. Through a close reading of the poems, the paper illustrates how Sangam poets used the natural world as a mirror for human emotions, articulated a deep sense of universalism and humanism, and expressed philosophical reflections on life and society. By focusing on the interplay between nature and culture, as well as the ethical imperatives that underpin the poetic expressions, this study elucidates the core principles of Dravidian aesthetics. The paper also engages with the broader cultural context in which these poems were composed, highlighting their relevance in contemporary discussions on identity, ecology, and social justice. This exploration not only contributes to a deeper understanding of Tamil literature but also offers a fresh perspective on the universal values embedded in Dravidian thought.

## **Defamiliarisation of the Narrative Structure in Zack Snyder's Snow Steam Iron**

*Densingh Daniel, professor*

The American College, Madurai, India

This paper traces formal concerns of literature, such as writers, painters, creators and film makers, who establish symbolism and aestheticism in their seminal works. This gave form to a new pitch and self awareness to literature and critical theory. This theoretical turn is reflected in various sections of literature including films and other visual media. The article will pay special attention to the movement that redefined literature as an autonomous, autotelic object: defamiliarisation. The form would become a message itself rather than be a way of reflecting reality or carrying moral and intellectual lessons. Literature is thus a mode of expression singular and distinct from the intellectual disciplines of rhetoric, philosophy, history and psychology. In view of this formal preoccupation, considering the wider implications,

it is held that social alienation is a result much deeper than the frames of solitary retreatism to aestheticism as a refuge from a materialistic world. An insular approach separates literature from broad social forces, from the personal contexts of its makers, a withdrawal from history and biography to making it a message in itself. Zack Snyder's *Snow Steam Iron* is an acknowledgement of social helplessness coupled with a retreat into the realms of sensibility and humanistic values. Thereby, it shuts off the literary artifact from its origins and larger influences.

**13:00 – 13:30**

### **Investigating the Impact of Critical Thinking Integration on EFL Students' Attitudes Towards Engaging with English Literature at University Level**

*Ahmed Abdulwahid Mohammed Aliftihat and Ali Yousif Mohammed, lecturers*

Department of English, College of Arts, University of Mosul, Iraq

In the context of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) education, the integration of critical thinking (CT) represents a pivotal area of inquiry, particularly concerning its impact on students' engagement with English literature at the university level. This study investigates the effects of incorporating a critical thinking-based approach on university students' attitudes towards English literature. By examining the potential attitudinal shifts among EFL students following the integration of CT, the current study aims to elucidate how CT can enhance students' learning experiences and foster a deeper appreciation for English literature. Employing a control-experimental pretest-posttest design, the study assessed the effectiveness of this approach using a structured questionnaire administered before and after the intervention. The findings demonstrate a significant positive transformation in students' attitudes towards English literature, indicating the efficacy of the critical thinking-based approach in enriching their engagement with the subject.