

EDITORIAL

The issue before you is a result of cooperation between the *Narodna umjetnost* journal and the *Nova etnografija* library, and its aim is to present three edited volumes whose publication is expected in 2017. The texts in this issue have been presented at conferences organized by and held at the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research, which will be published in three volumes: *Humor in Everyday Communication*, *Bypaths of the Humanities* and *Camp, Tent, Border: Studies of Refugeehood in the Contemporary Croatian Context*.

The volume *Humor in Everyday Communication* (Renata Jambrešić Kirin, Jelena Marković, Ljiljana Marks and Nataša Polgar, eds.) is a collection of papers presented at the folkloristic conference “*He who laughs last did not get the joke*”: *Humor in everyday communication*, organized with the aim of including folklore researchers into a wider interdisciplinary debate about social, cultural and psychological mechanisms of humor construction and its role in everyday communication. The conference presentations approached humor from different disciplinary points of view and using different methodologies, taking into consideration a wide variety of genres, contexts and reception phenomena – ranging from jokes, funny songs, ballads and political cartoons to fan *banter* and *weblore* satire. Moreover, they problematized the role and importance of humor in (primarily) folklore, artistic, political and everyday communication. These types of communication, it has been assumed, function as cultural catalysts which shape and dissolve categorial oppositions that the humorous motifs, forms and performances feed off; i.e., it is within these types of communication that the controversial topics and neuralgic points of communities or groups (which are generally beyond the range of humorous) are dissolved or consolidated. Articles written by Renata Jambrešić Kirin, Jovan Ljuštanović and Ljiljana Pešikan-Ljuštanović, and Marija Geiger Zeman and Zdenko Zeman were selected by the editors to be published in *Narodna umjetnost*.

The volume *Bypaths of the Humanities* (Petar Bagarić, Ozren Biti and Tea Škokić, eds.) is represented by texts authored by Hajrudin Hromadžić and Petar Bagarić. *Bypaths of the Humanities* presents articles from the conference of the same name, whose aim was to respond to the recent problems of the humanities in Croatia, including their unsatisfactory status in the wider public and in the contemporary trends of rethinking scientific policies. The aim of the conference was also to provide a space for a critical reevaluation of the “crisis of the humanities” discourse, which meant rethinking the former and current challenges of the humanities from various points of view: the scientific, activist, critical,

symbolic and educational. The idea of the *bypaths of the humanities* advanced in the title is a way to recognize possible deviations, as well as to interpret leaving beaten paths and swerving into the unknown as specific qualities inherent to the humanist calling. Keeping this in mind, new arguments for the strengthening of disciplinarity were offered, as well as those that favor interdisciplinary efforts in the humanities.

In this issue of *Narodna umjetnost* the volume *Camp, Tent, Border: Studies of Refugee-hood in the Contemporary Croatian Context* (Emina Bužinkić and Marijana Hameršak, eds.) is represented by texts written by Iva Grubiša, Marijana Hameršak and Iva Pleše, and Tea Škokić and Renata Jambrešić Kirin. Prompted by the events, policies and practices that followed the so-called European *long summer of migration*, in 2016, a group of scholars from the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Research launched an internal project *Ethnography of refugeehood: The Croatian context*, whose aim was to document and interpret the Croatian section of the Balkan refugee route. Within the project, and in co-organization with institutions and individuals who were active at different levels in the field at the same time (the Center for Peace Studies, the Center for the Study of Ethnicity, Citizenship and Migration at the Faculty of Political Science, the University of Zagreb, and the “Welcome” Refugee Support Initiative), the conference *Camp, train station, border: Microstudies of refugeehood in the contemporary Croatian context* was organized.