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# — Foreword

Dear readers,

We are pleased to present to you the newest topical issue of *Patchwork*, entitled "Horizons". "Horizons" was originally supposed to be another installment of our annual student conference, Anglophonia, which sadly never took place due to the ongoing world health crisis regarding Covid-19. Here, however, you will find a small selection of papers that were to be presented at the conference back in May 2020, and despite the conference never taking place, we hope you will enjoy the authors' work and that it will help you in your own research. The five papers in this issue all fall under the category of literary or cultural studies, yet at the same time, they are all interdisciplinary in nature and encourage dialogue with other adjacent disciplines. Thus you will find, for example, how Sofija Skuban's paper on Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs* is both a cultural study of present-day United States and the role of violence in American society and culture, and a beautiful exercise in film studies. Or, consider Iva Kurtović's extremely pertinent exploration of the intermedial nature of fan fiction through her analysis of *The Night War*, a series of *Captain America* fan fiction posts, and the way in which the paper implicitly raises the question of what constitutes a literary work. On the other hand, Urszula Świątek's paper on *Beowulf* or Barbara Bočkaj's paper on Shakespeare, though dealing with centuries-old works, propose new and alternative approaches to practically ancient topics in English departments around the world in a way that hopefully pushes the disciplinary boundaries a little bit—in particular, by considering *Beowulf* through the lens of musical studies, and by considering *Titus Andronicus* and *Coriolanus* through the lens of psychological trauma studies. Likewise, Joanna Łękawska's paper does the same by taking a look at the role of fantasy literature—here specifically Neil Gaiman's *Neverwhere*—in the EFL classroom, which is of course immensely relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century when the works of fantasy are more popular than ever before, and when at the same time TEFL curricula are being reconsidered at an increasing rate.

Of course, very little of all this could have been done without the support from the English Department here at the Faculty, and we would hereby like to express our immense gratitude for their assistance every step of the way. Many thanks to the Advisory Board as well, all of whom helped us greatly by evaluating these papers, and of course to the regular *Patchwork* team, who were kind enough to take the back seat on this issue (though, look out for another regular issue of *Patchwork* later this year). Despite the conference never taking place, and despite the dire nature of the times in which we now find ourselves, we sincerely hope that you will find these papers of some service to you.

Neven Brlek,  
the guest editor for this issue