Canonization of "Cultural Saints":

Commemorative Cults of Artists and Nation-Building in Europe

International Workshop

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 28–30, 2015

Wednesday, October 28

18.00 *Keynote lectures* (Doelenzaal, University Library, Singel 425)

Joep Leerssen: *Canonicity and Veneration: Secular Religion and National-Cultural Hero-Worship*

Marijan Dović: *Canonizing Cultural Saints: A Model*

Thursday, October 29

9.00 *First session* (Doelenzaal, University Library, Singel 425)

Christian Noack: *The 'Plagues of Egypt', or: the Riddles of the Shevchenko Cult*

Bela Tsipuria: *Ilia Chavchavadze: Georgia's Cultural Saint and the Saint of Georgian Orthodox Church*

Bojan Baskar: *Re-Canonization of Njegoš as the Montenegrin Poet*

10.45 *Coffee break*

11.15 *Second session*

Andrei Terian: *Prophet, Martyr, Saint: Mihai Eminescu's Lateral Canonization*

Roman Koropeckyj: *Taming a Romantic: The Canonization of Adam Mickiewicz*

Levente Szabo: *From Cultural Saints to Literary Celebrities. The Cult of Ferenc Kazinczy and the Rising Market of Hungarian Cultural Sainthood in the Middle of the Nineteenth Century*

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 *Third session* (Oude Manhuispoort 4-6, room D0.09)

David Fishelov: *H. N. Bialik the Prophet and the Modern Hebrew Canon*

Andraž Jež: *Cultural Saints, Alternatives, and Negatives. Prešeren vs. Vodnik, Koseski, and Vraz*

Alenka Koron: *Patterns of Hagiography in Biographies of France Prešeren*

16.15 *Discussion* (moderated by Marijan Dović and Jón Karl Helgason)

19.00 *Conference dinner*

Friday, October 30

9.00 *First session* (Bungehuis, room 1.01, Spuistraat 210)

Jón Karl Helgason: *Modern Postulators of Jónas Hallgrímsson's Cultural Memory*

Simon Halink: *A Story of Many Snorris: The Canonization of Snorri Sturluson in Iceland, Norway and Denmark*

Andreas Stynen: "*Altars of the Flemish movement": Tombstones and Rituals of Nation-Building*

10.45 *Coffee break*

11.15 *Second session*

Irena Samide: *The Role of Educational Apparatus in Constituting Friedrich Schiller as the Cultural Saint in Central Europe*

Franca Sinopoli: *Political and Literary Italian Icons: The Mazzini Case*

Luka Vidmar: *Architects Antoni Gaudí and Jože Plečnik: Cultural and Catholic Saints?*

13.00 *Lunch*

14.30 Magí Sunyer: *Jacint Verdaguer as a Catalan Cultural Saint* (with a response from Jaume Subirana)

14.50 *Discussion and Conclusion* (moderated by Ann Rigney and Joep Leerssen)

Canonization of "Cultural Saints":

Commemorative Cults of Artists and Nation-Building in Europe

International Workshop

University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands, October 28–30, 2015

This workshop aims to identify and describe patterns in the nationally-motivated veneration of poets, writers, composers, and intellectuals in post-1789 Europe. The rise and rapid spread of such practices especially as of the 1840s should be understood within the framework of cultural nationalism. The incredible variety of this cultural commemoration, veneration, and "hero-worship" (Thomas Carlyle's term) can be grasped on the basis of an expanded concept of *canonization* (referring both to the acknowledgement of cultural prestige and durability, and to para-religious rituals of pious commemoration) in the context of newly emerging "imagined" communities and their (collective) cultural memory.

Following on from earlier research on commemoration of writers (cf. *Commemorating Writers in Nineteenth-Century Europe,* ed. by J. Leerssen and A. Rigney, 2014), "national poets" (cf. *History of the Literary Cultures of East-Central Europe*, vol. 4, ed. by J. Neubauer and M. Cornis-Pope, 2010), and "cultural saints" (articles by J. K. Helgason, M. Dović, and M. Juvan), this workshop aims to reappraise the continuous veneration of canonical figures as part of the European nation-building process, especially in those smaller cultural communities who drew their sense of identity primarily from language and literature. Our working hypothesis is that para-religious elements (which characterize national movements as forms of "secular religion") were instrumental in this process especially from the mid-nineteenth century to the beginning of the World War II. We aim to circumscribe the heuristic value of the metaphor of *sanctitude* through discussions of the relevant concepts (canonization, worship, rituals, relics) and the analysis of paradigmatic cases from a number of European literary cultures – from Iceland to Georgia and from Spanish Galicia to Estonia.

Organizers

Joep Leerssen, University of Amsterdam
Marijan Dović, ZRC SAZU, Ljubljana

Partner projects and institutions

SPIN Study Platform of Interlocking Nationalism
ZRC SAZU Institute of Slovenian Literature and Literary Studies, Ljubljana, project "National Poets and Cultural Saints of Europe: Commemorative Cults, Canonization, and Cultural Memory" (funded by ARRS, Slovenia)
University of Amsterdam