

Anglistentag 2014 - Section

Poetry and Performance

PD Dr. Pascal Fischer (Würzburg), Dr. Julia Lajta-Novak (Wien)

While our understanding of drama has been greatly advanced by the insights of "performance criticism", literary scholars have only just begun to take account of the performance aspect in their explanations of poetry, for instance where song lyrics are seen as part of the genre. Simultaneously, we are experiencing a surge of performed poetry in a multiplicity of forms in the public sphere, from readings of canonical texts to ever more creative poetry slams. These recent developments remind us that the spoken mode of realisation and the direct contact with an audience are integral elements of the art of poetry.

The panel aims to explore the dynamic relationship between poetry and performance from a great variety of angles. A particular emphasis will be put on the theory of poetry and how it should be modified in the light of an increasing awareness of oral, paralinguistic and non-verbal communication. However, written poems can also be studied in terms of their performative dimension, which is manifest in occasional genres like the epithalamium, the paean or the dirge, but also palpably appears in many ballads and odes. A tendency towards performance can furthermore be found in Shakespeare's *Sonnets*, in English anacreontics and in the fabricated immediacy of Romantic poetry. The examples show that contributions with a historical perspective are highly welcome. So is an interest in the more recent phenomenon of live poetry, which is conceded an aesthetic value independent of print.

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Identifiable characteristics of poems meant to be heard rather than read silently
- The relationship between text-internal and text-external speakers and addressees
- Songs as performed poetry
- Performance as interpretation
- Performance and poetic genres
- Poetry performances, performativity and ethnic/class/gender identity
- Poetry performances and British/American culture
- Poetry performances in different media, e.g. audio recordings, poetry films and Web 2.0
- Performing poetry as a teaching method

If you are interested in contributing a thirty-minute paper, send your proposal of approximately 300 words to the organisers by email. The deadline is 31 August 2013.

Contact:

pascal.fischer@uni-wuerzburg.de

julia.lajta-novak@univie.ac.at