

Foreword

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OTDK (The National Conference of Student Research Societies) has recently been recognised by a second place among the Highlights of Hungary and the special prize of Brain Bar. As the most wide-scale national competition of university students, both in terms of the number of contestants and the variety of academic fields covered, OTDK has indeed been at the very heart of motivating young talents and selecting the most promising projects for generations. The Conference has also served as an unofficial rite of passage on the way to PhD scholarships.

Flying in the face of the widespread talk about the decline of the humanities, the outpour of keen interest on the part of the scholarly youth has been a deeply positive sign. In the narrower field of English Studies, too, our problems are far too numerous to list. The conference, however, was a festive moment and the *EgerJES* section, collecting some of the finest work there presented, preserves that much-needed moment of hope, for teachers and students alike.

The papers showcase the rich variety of research fields and approaches. From an investigation based in Early Modern iconography of Marlowe's representation of death (Loretta Anna Jungbauer) to a reception-aesthetics oriented reading of William Blake (Mátyás György Lajos), from a feminist reading of Angela Carter's short stories (Anna Patricia Wynn) to an essay on *Frankenstein* using a psychological concept of "doubles" (Regina Andók), from a comparative analysis of Dorothy Richardson's *Pilgrimage* (Lilián Rácz) to an examination of David Mitchell's *The Cloud Atlas* as a response to consumerism (Daniella Krisztián), the selection bears witness to the vitality of English studies.

The entire English Studies community of Hungary owes a great debt of gratitude to *The Eger Journal of English Studies* and its editors-in-chief, Professors Éva Antal and Csaba Czeglédi for making it happen.