

ABOUT WOMEN'S WRITING ONLINE

The journal was founded in Autumn 2009 as an international cooperation between academic researchers and literature and art specialists. The idea of founding such a journal was born during the international seminar *Poland Under Feminist Eyes* held in London (November 2008) at University College London School of Slavonic and East European Studies, where a group of women's studies researchers gathered to discuss the role of feminism in contemporary Poland and in Polish literary and cultural history. Several of the speakers were already connected with the teamwork of Urszula Chowaniec, Marja Rytkönen and Kirsi Kurkijärvi at the University of Tampere (2007-2010) where the joint project *Polish and Russian Women's Writing in Transformation: Generation, National Identity and the Body* (www.womenswriting.fi) is based as well as with the conference on *Femininity and Masquerade* (2006). This Polish-Finnish initiative was joined, also in 2006, by Ursula Phillips, who organized the seminar in London altogether with Urszula Chowaniec. The seminar was attended by many dedicated and enthusiastic women and men from Poland, Britain and Finland keen to share their research results and ideas.

The main aim of our journal was and still is to popularize academic research on women's writing, art, film, theatre, cultural history in both Poland and Russia as well as in other countries of Eastern and Central Europe. We wish to build an international network of researchers, thinkers and writers as well as to initiate a platform for academic exchange in the form of academic conferences, research seminars and workshops, projects, internet websites, blogs on women's writing or other feminist concerns in Eastern and Central Europe, which will reach interested readers all over the world, and contribute especially to building bridges between so-called East and West.

Nevertheless, due to institutional and personal changes the journal, following the publication of the second issue on Izabela Filipiak's fascinating drama *My Life as a Rabbit*, will change into an intellectual BLOG and platform for co-operation and exchange.

The main language of the journal, and now the blog, is currently English; however, certain issues and/or articles in particular issues may be published in future in Polish or Russian.

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EDITORS OF ISSUE NO. 1, 2009

Urszula Chowaniec (University of Tampere/The Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków University) is a researcher at the department of Russian Language and Culture, University of Tampere in Finland. She also teaches literary theory at the Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Kraków and in the Department of Interdisciplinary Gender Studies at the Jagiellonian University. Main areas of her research are: the metaphors of illness in contemporary women's writing, comparative studies in Polish and Russian women's writing, and metaphor in translation studies. She gained her PhD in literary studies at the Jagiellonian University in 2004 and is the author of *In Search of Woman: On the Early Novels of Irena Krzywicka* (2007) as well as a co-editor of *Masquerade and Femininity. Essay in Polish and Russian Women Writers* (2008) and many articles and essays.

Kirsi Kurkijärvi (University of Tampere, Russian Language and Culture) is a PhD student and researcher at the University of Tampere, Finland. Main areas of her research are war literature, women's writing, gender and memory studies. She is currently involved in the international project on Polish and Russian women's writing—*Polish and Russian Women's Writing in Transformation: Generation, National Identity and the Body* (PURU), based at the University of Tampere, School of Modern Languages and Translation Studies. Her publications include “Gendered War: Mothers and Widows in Irina Grekova's Novel *The Ship of Widows*” in *Masquerade and Femininity* (2008) and “Dialogues with War in *Remembrance Day* by Natalia Baranskaia” in *Recalling the Past—(Re)constructing the Past. Collective and Individual Memory of the World War II in Russia and Germany* (2008).

Ursula Phillips (University College London) is Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. She is co-editor of *Gender and Sexuality in Ethical Context: Ten Essays on Polish Prose* (2005) and co-author of *Polish Women Writers from the Middle Ages to the Present Day* (2000). She is a contributor to and joint editor of *Masquerade and Femininity. Essays on Russian and Polish Women Writers* (2008). Her book, *Narcyza Żmichowska: Feminizm i religia* based on her PhD dissertation on Narcyza Żmichowska was published in Poland in 2008 (Fragments of this book in English are available on: <http://womenswriting.fi/files/2009/05/chapter-of-ursula-phillips-book.pdf>).

Marja Rytkönen (University of Tampere) is a post-doctoral researcher and director of the project on Polish and Russian Women's Literature (*PURU*) based at the University of Tampere, Department of Russian Language and Culture. Her Ph.D. dissertation discussed Russian women's autobiographical texts of the 1990s. She is currently researching contemporary Russian women writers and the construction of memory and generation in their texts. Her publications include *About the Self and Time: On Autobiographical Texts by E. Gershtein, T. Petkevich, E. Bonner, M. Plisetskaja and M. Arbatova* (2004). She is a contributor to and joint editor of *Real Stories, Imagined Realities: Fictionality and Non-fictionality in Literary Constructs and Historical Contexts* (Tampere, 2007) and of *Masquerade and Femininity. Essays on Russian and Polish Women Writers* (2008).

Asia Zgadzaj (Independent Scholar) is a postgraduate student who is currently working on her PhD thesis on contemporary Nigerian and Zimbabwean fiction. Asia is a member of the Postcolonial Studies Association where she is one of the executive members and of the British Comparative Literature Association. Her research interests include feminist and postcolonial comparative literature, identity and womanhood in 20th - and 21st-century women's writing, postcolonial theory and

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