

CONFERENCE ON CULINARY CULTURE AT THE ESTONIAN LITERARY MUSEUM

The project titled *Communication Styles: Developing a Cross-Cultural Theoretical and Methodological Framework*, signed between Estonian and Polish Academies of Sciences, aims at an in-depth investigation of the subtopic of folkloric creativity, namely its expression in language, and intends to describe, comparatively, the elements of communication styles in different cultures. The launch to the three-year project, lasting from 2016 until 2018, was given by a small conference on culinary culture, which took place at the Estonian Literary Museum on May 2, 2016. The conference organised within the project between Estonian and Polish Academies of Sciences and in cooperation with the Bulgarian and Belarusian Academies of Sciences focused on foodways and their expressions in communication.

The conference brought together researchers from Poland, Bulgaria, Belarus, and Estonia, who presented interdisciplinary accounts on the topic. Linguists, experts in cultural studies and folklore, ethnographers and philologists got engaged in a discussion about how food affects meaning and vice versa.

The inherent untranslatability of food-related terms was the topic of the presentation given by Dr Władysław Chłopicki, who pointed at the (often unintentional) humour in restaurant menu translation. Cognitive linguist Dr Ene Vainik followed up on a similar topic and analysed insightfully how taste terms are used in relation to emotion, in particular to describe emotions (bitter for anger, sweet for love). Tracing the etymologies of these words in Estonian, she confirmed that these are examples of metaphorical mapping from the cognitive domain of taste to that of emotion. Two papers addressed cookbooks as ideological literature: Drs Ester Bardone and Anu Kannike talked about vegetarian diet in the early 20th-century Estonia, and Liisi Laineste examined more recent cookbooks where former first ladies of the state presented Estonian cuisine to the foreign readers – complete with its fascination with mushrooming, berry picking, and other deeply rooted traditions. Dr Dorota Brzozowska's presentation touched upon the cultural meaning of food consumption, and the discussion of her paper reached an important point about the use of food in magic practices in the East and West. The Bulgarian and Belarusian presentations (by Drs Ivanka Petrova, Lidia Bohan, and Natalia Bunkevich) focused on the lived traditions and their role in present-day societies and among different immigrant groups.

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For more details on the conference programme see <http://www.folklore.ee/rl/fo/koostoo/poola/abstracts.pdf>.

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