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Plenary Lecture

May 18th 2023, Friday, 10:30 – 11:30

Estonian Literary Museum, Tartu, Estonia



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Humor and Figurative Language

This paper will address the following questions: What is figurative language, and how does it differ from 'literal' or 'zero-degree' communication? When does a figure of speech become humorous? And how does figurativeness relate to other basic features of humor, such as script opposition? The paper will provide a systematic overview of classic and recent studies on figurative language and humour (from Raskin's early work on metaphor to interdisciplinary contributions in the field of cognitive linguistics), transcending the fuzzy boundary between the stylistic and conceptual dimensions of humorous expression – or, in different terms, between 'figures of language' and 'figures of meaning.' Moreover, we will highlight the potential for interdisciplinary collaborations on the topic, including for example new avenues for research on humorous interaction between verbal and non-verbal figures.

Dr. **Wladyslaw Chlopicki**, Prof.

Linguist. Senior Lecturer at Department of English Studies at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków and in Krosno State College. He authored e.g. the Polish language monograph on humour research (O humorze poważnie) and co-edited numerous monographs. His academic interests include interdisciplinary humour research in the context of cultural studies, cognitive linguistics, linguistic pragmatics and narratology as well as translation studies. Member of editorial boards of international journals and co-editor of European Journal of Humour Research and Tertium Linguistic Journal.