

EDITORIAL  
Culture in crisis

New terms have been proposed for the new age, after 2000, to reflect the changes in society and mentality and the challenges of the contemporary world, including Geoffrey Nealon's Post-Postmodernism (2012), Nicholas Bourriaud's Altermodernism (2009), Alan Kirby's Digimodernism (2009), Adam Kelley's New Sincerity (2016), or 'Metamodernism' (in Hamelaar 2018: 4). T. Vermeulen and R. van den Akker employed the same last term (see <http://www.metamodernism.com/>), as it favourably reevaluates modernism through its permanent questioning of accepted norms and its use of modernist techniques. The two explain this term that

has gained traction in recent years as a means of articulating developments in contemporary culture, which, it is argued (and our generation appears to intuitively recognise) has seen a move beyond the postmodern mode of the late 20th century. In the wake of the myriad crises of the past two decades – of climate change, financial meltdown, and the escalation of global conflicts – we have witnessed the emergence of a palpable collective desire for change, for something beyond the prematurely proclaimed “End of History”... (<http://www.metamodernism.com/>)

Rowson&Pascal (2021) identify, among others, socio-emotional, educational, epistemic and spiritual meta-crises of our times. However, perhaps the most acute issue causing wide-ranging anxiety and concern has been, since 2020, COVID-19, the infectious disease that led to a worldwide pandemic, with numerous effects. The crises of contemporary times cover numerous areas of human life, whether strictly related to the ongoing sanitary crisis or with others that had already been there and which were heightened by it, for instance, in the worlds of culture, education, language and communication, the psyche and emotions, family life, politics, finances, society, climate and, as if encompassing or resulting from the ones above, the crisis of identity.

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The articles of the current issue constitute critical reflections on many of these difficult situations. Gabriela Andrioai ponders over the educational crises caused by COVID-19, with online education as an alternative to face-to-face education, and its subsequent challenges. Iuliana Barna goes back to the communist period to discuss the crises faced by exiled Romanian writers. Culture and society in crisis are also tackled by Katarína Brziaková, who analyses film adaptations of detective fiction. Réka M. Cristian's article turns to literary representations and focuses on end-life crisis in plays by Edward Albee. Maria-Camelia Dicu shows that language has its difficulties, too and the translating process makes no exception. Luminița Drugă chooses the sociolinguistic perspective to reflect on the gender-based perceptions of domestic labour and the major changes in Romanian society over the last two centuries regarding the topic. The article proposed by Jehad Faraj et al. deals with the problem of representing only surface culture in EFL textbooks, whereas Raluca Galița looks at the ways in which language has been affected by recent developments in technology, with textese and texting as examples. In their article, Tú Anh Hà and Andrea Roxana Bellot discuss the challenges in promoting an inclusive environment for British children and offer solutions for creating a tolerant intercultural setting. Difficulties related to gender are of interest for Elisabetta Marino, whose article offers a close reading of Manju Kapur's *Home* (2006). Saša Simović reviews some critical points in E. A. Poe's disagreement with American Transcendentalism, while Helga Szabó explores the recent transformations in American film criticism. Andreia-Irina Suciu and Mihaela Culea analyse the crisis of humanity in the 22<sup>nd</sup> century, as imagined by neuroscientist-cum-writer Susan Greenfield.

The editors

### References

- Hamelhaar, Iza (2018): *"A Great Many Things Were Dead": Crisis in British Metamodernist Fiction*, HLCS Thesis (Literary Studies).
- Rowson, Jonathan; Pascal, Layman (2021): *Dispatches from a Time Between Worlds: Crisis and Emergence in Metamodernity*, Perspectiva.
- <http://www.metamodernism.com/>, accessed October 24, 2021.