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Abstract

Time for Statements: from “Polish Language and Literature” to “Polish Studies” and beyond

This article is a general overview of the past, present and future of Polish studies in Rome, in Italy and in general. The author brings to the fore the three lines of research pursued by Italian Polonistics from the 1920s up until today (namely, the triple focus on text, context and contestation). His goal is to demonstrate and at the same time illustrate the increasingly wider scope of Polonistics. This discipline, the author argues, began as a strictly linguistic-literary one and gradually developed into a wider field of study, moving closer to comparative studies first and then to intercultural studies. Self-evidently, the vitality and plurality of Polish studies in the field of Slavic studies is part of a dialogue between disciplines that goes far beyond Slavistics. In fact, while still preserving their strong ties with general Slavic studies and its traditional approaches (literary history, linguistics, philology, bibliography, etc.), contemporary Polish studies (especially in Italy and Rome) are characterized by an increasingly broader methodological and thematic horizon, ranging from imagology to gender and postcolonial studies, from visual and performance studies to Jewish studies and the history of ideas, etc. This issue of “Europa Orientalis” collects a series of important contributions, including both historical reviews and proposals for the future development of Polish studies in Italy and abroad.

Keywords: Polish Studies, Polish language and literature, Comparative Studies, Intercultural Studies, Slavic Studies.