

INTRODUCTION

LAURENCE RAW

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The papers contained in this special issue of *Linguaculture* were all given at the conference “Adaptation Unbounded: New Directions, New Agendas,” held at the University of Iasi from 31 October to 2 November 2013. Due to illness, I was unable to attend the event, but by all accounts it was a highly successful meeting, bringing together specialists in literary and media studies, translators and adaptation studies experts. It proved a fitting epitaph for **James M. Welsh** of Salisbury University, the co-founder of *Literature/Film Quarterly*, who had proposed the event in the first place but sadly passed away on 3 October 2013, a month before the conference was due to start. He will be much missed amongst the adaptation studies community.¹ Nonetheless many of his papers have now been made available for researchers in the Special Collections of Salisbury University (“Guide to the James M. Welsh Collection”).

Based on the evidence of the papers collected in this volume, Jim would have been proud to be associated with the Iasi event. The material represents a significant advance in research into adaptation studies, translation studies, and the relationship between the two disciplines. In 2012 I called for representatives of both disciplines to become more open, to acknowledge the work of their peers, as well as embracing more transdisciplinary approaches (“Identifying Common Ground” 1-21)). The contributors to this volume admirably fulfilled my expectations. They represent all areas of adaptation and translation studies – literature, film studies, theater studies, English Language Teaching (ELT) and translation – and originate from a variety of socio-economic contexts (France, Romania, United Kingdom, Canada and Italy). Many of the made by individual contributors are raised (and refuted) by others; but this is precisely the way in which academic discourse should operate. New theoretical frameworks are proposed – especially in **David Worrall**’s and **Georges Bastin**’s contributions – utilizing material which has hitherto remained largely untouched. **Sara Laviosa**’s piece looks at adaptation from a pedagogical perspective, while

¹ For an obituary of Jim Welsh, see the profile on www.legacy.com (“James Welsh 1938-2013”)

Bastin and **Roberto A. Valdeón** look at media adaptations. The first two pieces focus on Shakespeare from different angles – Ruth Morse’s looks at the BBC adaptation of the history plays (*The Hollow Crown*), while **Mădălina Nicolaescu** travels back in time to show how Shakespeare was reshaped in the eighteenth century. Her piece offers a fascinating counterpoint to Worrall’s which concentrates on the same period in history, but looks at the United Kingdom rather than Central Europe. The emergence of such unexpected parallels is one of the chief merits of the entire volume.

As I said before, I was due to attend the conference, but could not do so. Nonetheless I have included a revised version of the piece I would have delivered. It picks up on Bastin’s points about the relationship between translation and adaptation, while offering what I hope might be considered an alternative interpretation of both disciplines. The reason why it has been placed at the end of the volume is straightforward – I wanted to give priority to the conference attendees.

I hope that institutions worldwide are prepared to sponsor similar events such as the Iasi conference, as well as publish the proceedings. Such initiatives offer an invaluable means to bring people together in face-to-face exchanges, as well as conduct dialogues through written (and hopefully virtual) means.

Works Cited

- „Guide to the James M. Welsh Collection.” *Salisbury University Library*, Dec. 2013. Web. 8 Sep. 2014.
- „James Welsh Obituary.” *Legacy.com*, 10 Oct. 2013. Web. 8 Sep. 2014.
- Raw, Laurence. “Identifying Common Ground.” *Translation, Adaptation, and Transformation*. Ed. Raw. 1-21. London and New York: Continuum, 2012. Print.