

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOREIGN LITERATURES IN SOCIALIST ALBANIA

UNIVERSITY OF SHKODRA “LUIGJ GURAKUQI”

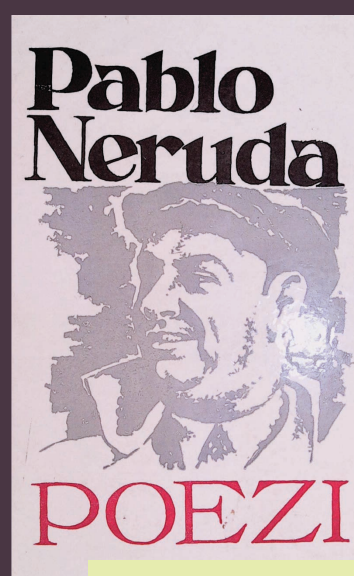
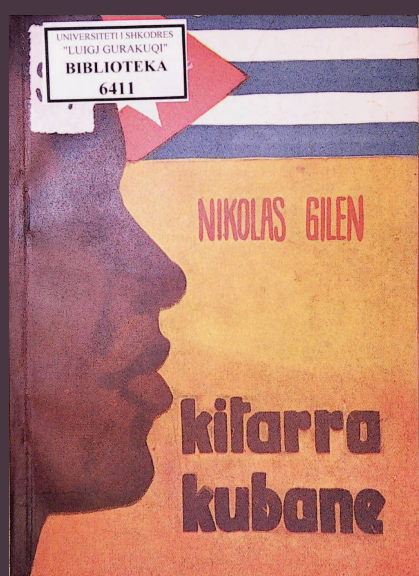
12-13 OCTOBER 2026

During the socialist period, foreign literature played a dual role: in some cases, it helped reinforce the narrow creative frameworks imposed by political and politico-cultural authorities; yet in other cases, it enabled access to diverse foreign realities and literary styles, and even served as a bridge through which certain writers could connect with cultural fields abroad and project themselves beyond Albania's borders. When analyzing the role of foreign literature in this historical context, it is advisable to take into account a plurality of individual and institutional agents (writers, translators, critics, publishing houses, the Lidhja, etc.) and to adopt a broad linguistic perspective. Accordingly, although this symposium is directly connected to the project *Latin American Writers in European Socialist Countries during the Cold War. Phase II (ELASOC II)*, the organizing committee wishes to invite specialists not only in literature written in Spanish, but also in other languages that entered the Albanian cultural field through translation. We therefore propose the following lines of research:

1. Special panel on the reception of literature in Spanish and Portuguese (Spain and Ibero-America).
2. The reception of literature from the socialist bloc.
3. The reception of literature from the Western bloc.
4. The Albanian publishing system: mechanisms of importation, production, and control.
5. The role of criticism.
6. The role of translators.
7. Dialogues and influences between Albanian-language production and foreign literature.
8. The role of cultural institutions: *Lidhja e Shkrimtarëve dhe Artistëve të Shqipërisë*, Naim Frashëri Publishing House, 8 Nëntori Publishing House, etc.

Organizing Committee:

Brikena Smajli, University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”, Shkodra, Albania.
Emilio J. Gallardo Saborido, School of Hispano-American Studies / Institute of History, CSIC, Seville, Spain.
Xherardo Nikjari, Museum: Site of Witness and Memory, Shkodra, Albania.



Extension of deadlines for
abstracts until August 15

- ▶ Proposals for papers (200 words) are welcome and should be sent to brikena.smajli@unishk.edu.al and emilio.gallardo@csic.es by 30 June 2026. Selected papers should not exceed 20 minutes.
- ▶ Those who wish to attend as listeners may register by writing to brikena.smajli@unishk.edu.al and emilio.gallardo@csic.es.
- ▶ The working languages of the symposium are Albanian, Spanish, and English.
- ▶ Registration is free of charge.

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