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AMAC-UK award report

In 2017/2018, Petra Pugar received the AMAC-UK research grant to visit the University of Glasgow. The research, which focused on the corpus of works by the Scottish author Alasdair Gray, was carried out from 4th to 18th May 2019 and consisted of examining relevant critical texts during the University of Glasgow Library opening hours; observing the Alasdair Gray Visual Archive at the University of Glasgow Archives and Special Collections; participating in two meetings with Dr. Alan Riach, the leading expert in contemporary Scottish Studies, literary and visual imagination in the work of Alasdair Gray; and meetings with Katy Hastie and Dr. Calum Rodger, experts in Scottish Literature and Co-Directors of the Scottish Universities' International Summer School. During those meetings, complemented with the examination of library materials – the most extensive collection available on the subject matter – Petra received vital feedback for her presented ongoing research of the convergence of text and image in the work of the Glaswegian author and painter and planned her upcoming presentation at the 3rd Triennial World Congress of Scottish Literatures in Prague 2020.

Petra's library research was enriched by attending the literary festival The Crossways which took place during her stay, and where she had a chance to gain insight into how the contemporary Scottish literary production can be connected with the work that she is analysing for her dissertation. Furthermore, as her thesis is closely related to Alasdair Gray's visual production, Glasgow was the only place where she could see the author's murals in person and observe how they function as part of the city, being located on vibrant city points such as the Òran Mór Auditorium, where his mural is one of the largest public art pieces in Scotland; the Hillhead Metro Station and the Ubiquitous Chip local, all of which bear enormous relevance to the Cultural Studies part of her dissertation.

Due to the fact that no Department in Croatia has a separate Scottish Studies Section or a full course on Scottish Literature, and that at Zagreb University no other academic is currently systematically researching Scottish Literature and Culture, which is a growing discipline in the humanities worldwide, this research and the discussions it encouraged represent a necessary step in enhancing the quality of Petra Pugar's dissertation, and it is starting to yield first results,

as further collaboration and conversation with Scottish Universities is being planned, as well as the publication of her work in an international peer-reviewed journal.

Petra Pugar used the financial support received through the AMAC-UK award for covering the travel and accommodation expenses in Glasgow, as well as the daily expenses, meals and public transportation.

Petra would like to thank once again to the United Kingdom Association of Alumni and Friends of Croatian Universities for this award that represented a crucial step in the conception of the first draft of her dissertation and an opportunity to make her research communicate with the international circle of studies on the same subject. The award has been an invaluable incentive to continue with her PhD work and plans for further academic and intercultural cooperation.