

## The global campus: Academic fiction in world literature

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In university history, the turn of the 21st century was marked by several books that proclaimed its changing role, rapid decay, and even ruin. The institution which had guaranteed the continuity of education since the 12th century, which was one of the pillars and powers of Western civilization for centuries, which guarded nation-states and national cultures in the 19th century, with the coming of globalization showed evidence of a deep crisis or a transition phase revealing the need of rethinking, redefinition, and reform. The condition of the university at different stages of its development was the focus of attention of philosophers, historians, sociologists, cultural theorists, writers, and literary scholars. After centuries of recording annals of the university in literary texts, 19th-century literature in English elaborated the genre of the campus novel, which despite all odds preserved its popularity through the 20th century into the present. In recent years, literary studies have moved beyond the Anglo-American tradition of the campus novel into examining non-Anglophone literatures around the world.

The topic of this issue of WORLD LITERATURE STUDIES provides a unique opportunity to present non-Anglophone campus fiction and, consequently, to view the literary representation of higher education in its plurality and diversity. In their choices, the authors focus on contemporary Ukrainian, Swedish, Spanish, Slovak, Romanian, Polish, German, Czech, Bulgarian, and American literature, providing comparative global/transatlantic and national/local perspectives on the university and the ways it is perceived in different cultural contexts. Simultaneously, the authors have attempted to delineate a series of idiosyncratic characteristics of the campus/academic novel within a specific national literary tradition, while drawing parallels with the best-known case, the Anglo-American subgenre. The issue places principal emphasis on the transatlantic perspective on campus fiction comparing literature written in English and contemporary European literature. In the context of world literature, the articles highlight the diversity of campus fiction, thus widening the discussion about the global campus and enriching it with the topics of national/local history and cultural memory, distinctive perspectives on multilingualism and hybrid identities, and above all, the past and present of the university that defines its future.