

# **5th Biennial John Updike Society Conference**



**University of Belgrade, Faculty of Philology  
Serbia - June 1-5, 2018**



## **The Fifth Biennial John Updike Society Conference**

Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Couples* and Updike abroad and in translation  
Belgrade, Serbia, June 1-5 2018

### **Conference Director**

Biljana Dojčinović

### **HOST: FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF BELGRADE**

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Ljiljana Marković

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Ljiljana Marković, Faculty of Philology, Univ. of Belgrade

Zoran Paunović, Faculty of Philosophy, Univ. of Novi Sad

James Plath, Illinois Wesleyan Univ.

Radojka Vukčević, Faculty of Philology, Univ. of Belgrade

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### **THE JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY**

James Plath, President

James Schiff, Vice President & Editor, *The John Updike Review*

Peter J. Bailey, Secretary    Marshall Boswell, Treasurer

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*With the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of the  
Republic of Serbia*

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



Photo: Annalena McAfee

**Ian McEwan** is one of the most significant and respected writers in English. Like Updike, whom he knew, McEwan worked in multiple genres, the author of 14 novels, three short story collections, two plays, two children's books, five screenplays, and even a libretto. Among his numerous awards are the Booker Prize for his eighth novel, *Amsterdam* (1998); the Jerusalem Prize for the Freedom of the Individual in Society (2011); and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gold Medal from the University of Sussex. Long an advocate for Updike's legacy and an admitted beneficiary of Updike's influence, McEwan has gone on record as saying that Updike's Rabbit quartet is the prime contender for Great American Novel. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, the Royal Society of Arts, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His most recent novel is *Nutshell* (2016), which retells the story of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* from the point of view of an unborn child. *Opening Keynote: Friday, June 1, 7:40 p.m., Hall of Heroes, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 3*

**Alexander Shurbanov** is a distinguished Shakespeare scholar who translated Updike's novel, *Gertrude and Claudius*, into Bulgarian. Now Professor Emeritus at the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski" in Bulgaria, Shurbanov corresponded with Updike while translating the *Hamlet* "prequel" and was also a longtime friend of Blaga Dimitrova, the prototype for Vera Glavanakova from Updike's O. Henry Award-winning short story "The Bulgarian Poetess." Shurbanov, who also taught at the University of London, UCLA, and SUNY-Albany, has translated 14 texts ranging from Chaucer, Shakespeare, and the *Magna Carta* to *Tales* by Beatrix Potter and poetry by Milton, Coleridge, Dylan Thomas, Ted Hughes, and Rabindranath Tagore. As a poet and essayist he is also the author of 18 collections, including three bilingual Bulgarian-English titles: *Frost-Flowers* (Princeton, 2001), *Beware: Cats* (Sofia, 2001), and most recently *Foresun: Selected Poems in Bulgarian and English* (Sofia, 2016). *Keynote: Saturday, June 2, 11:15, Conference Room, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 3*



**Michael Updike**, a slate sculptor by profession, is the youngest son of John Updike. At the very first conference at Alvernia University in Reading, Pa., Michael took part in a panel with his mother Mary and sisters Elizabeth and Miranda; at the second conference at Suffolk University in Boston, he and Elizabeth mounted an extensive exhibit of objects mentioned in their father's fiction and non-fiction, and Michael also led a walking tour of Ipswich, where his father had an office within walking distance of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century house in which the family lived. In Serbia he will share slides and talk about the year that his family spent in London after *Couples* was published. Included will be slides of "side vacations to Morocco, Austria, etc." *Keynote: Tuesday, June 5, 8:20 a.m., Conference Room, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 3*



## PLENARY SESSIONS

### **Saturday, 2 June, 8:30-9:30 a.m. (Conference Room) —Translating Updike**

Moderator: Kazuko Kashihara, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan

“Translation as a Means of Literary Criticism: *Couples* in Serbian”

Ivana Đurić Paunović and Zoran Paunović  
University of Novi Sad, Serbia

“More than Half a Century of Translating Updike in Serbia”

Mirjana Daničić, Sandra Josipović, and Milica Abramović  
University of Belgrade, Serbia

### **Monday, 4 June, 8:20-9:20 a.m. (Conference Room)— Reception of Updike Abroad**

Moderator: Susan Norton, The Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland

“The Reception of John Updike’s *Couples* in Serbia and Montenegro”

Radojka Vukčević, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“John Updike in Russia: Translations and Receptions”

Olga Karasik, Kazan Federal University, Russian Federation

“Translations of John Updike in Japan under the U.S. Cold War Cultural Politics”

Takashi Nakatani, Yokohama City University, Japan

### **Tuesday, 5 June, 5-6:30 p.m. (National Library of Serbia)— Panel: Does Rabbit Angstrom’s Political Evolution Help to Explain Trump Supporters?**

Moderator: James Plath, Illinois Wesleyan University, USA

Biljana Dojčinović, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Sylvie Mathé, Aix Marseille University (LERMA) France

Yoav Fromer, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Scott Dill, Case Western Reserve University, USA

**THE FIFTH BIENNIAL JOHN UPDIKE SOCIETY CONFERENCE**  
**Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade**  
**June 1–5, 2018**

**PROGRAM**

**DAY 1—FRIDAY, JUNE 1**

**5:30 – 7:15 p.m.**—Registration open (Entrance Hall, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg—Students' Square—3)

**6 – 7:15 p.m.**—Reception hosted by the Faculty of Philology (Courtyard of the University of Belgrade—Kapetan Miša's Edifice—Studentski trg 1)

**7:30 – 7:40 p.m.**—Welcome by the Conference Director, Dean of the Faculty of Philology and JUS President (Hall of Heroes, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 1)

**7:40 – 9 p.m.**—Opening keynote: **Ian McEwan**—talk, questions, booksigning (Hall of Heroes, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 3)

**DAY 2—SATURDAY, JUNE 2**

**8:15 a.m. – 1 p.m.**—Registration open (Hall in front of the Conference Room, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg—Students' Square—3)

**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**—Plenary Session: Translating Updike (Conference Room, Faculty of Philology, Studentski trg 3)—Moderator: Kazuko Kashihara, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan

“Translation as a Means of Literary Criticism: *Couples* in Serbian”  
Ivana Đurić Paunović and Zoran Paunović, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

“More than Half a Century of Translating Updike in Serbia”  
Mirjana Daničić, Sandra Josipović, and Milica Abramović, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**9:45 – 11 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1:** Updike in Comparative Perspective (Room 33)—Moderator:  
Alexandra Glavanakova, University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski,” Bulgaria

“Staying Alive: Updike's Harry Angstrom and McEwan's Michael Beard,”  
Zorica Đergović-Joksimović, University of Novi Sad, Serbia

“The Influence of John Updike on Ian McEwan’s Novel *Solar*,” Jovana Srećković, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“Religion Is the New Sex: Juxtaposing Updike with David Foster Wallace,” Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI), USA

**Panel 2:** Updike and Art(s) (Room 34)—Moderator: James Schiff, University of Cincinnati (OH), USA

“The Colors of John Updike’s Narrative,” Florentina Anghel, University of Craiova, Romania

“John Updike’s *Centaur* and the Artist Divided,” James Plath, Illinois Wesleyan University, USA

“Calligraphy of Parallel Spaces’ — Musical Net in the Works of Joyce, Updike and Kiš,” Mina Đurić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**—Keynote: **Alexander Shurbanov**, University of Sofia, Bulgaria, “Recreation of the Second Degree: Updike’s Shakespeare in Bulgarian (Conference Room) — Moderator: Zorica Bečanović-Nikolić

**12:30 – 1:30 p.m.**—Visit to the Writer’s Union Conference Room (where Updike had a press conference in October 1978) (Francuska 7)

**Performance:** “The Ballad of Henry Bech,” Jonathan Houlon, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA

**1:30 – 3 p.m.**—Lunch at the Writer’s Union Club or elsewhere in the area (on own)

**3:10 – 5:30 p.m.**—Tour of Tesla Museum

**6 – 8 p.m.**—Reception at the residence of U.S. Ambassador Kyle Randolph Scott, hosted by Mr. Scott

### **DAY 3—SUNDAY, JUNE 3**

**7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.**—Meet at Student Square across from the entrance to the Faculty of Philology at 7:30 a.m. to board the bus for an optional all-day bus tour of Serbian sites: Viminacium (Roman ruins, mammoth park), Smederevo Fortress (capital of Serbia in the Middle Ages, built 1427-30); lunch at Tarposh restaurant and winery (included); and a visit to Oplenac (St. George’s Church, Royal Vinery). Those who did not sign up for the tour have a free day.

## **DAY 4—MONDAY, JUNE 4**

**8:10 – 11 a.m.**—Registration open

**8:20 – 9:20 a.m.**— Plenary Session: Reception of Updike Abroad (Conference Room)—Moderator: Susan Norton, The Dublin Institute of Technology, Republic of Ireland

“The Reception of John Updike’s *Couples* in Serbia and Montenegro,” Radojka Vukčević, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“John Updike in Russia: Translations and Receptions,” Olga Karasik, Kazan Federal University, Russian Federation

“Translations of John Updike in Japan under the U.S. Cold War Cultural Politics,” Takashi Nakatani, Yokohama City University, Japan

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1:** Very American Updike (Room 33)—Moderator: Radojka Vukčević, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“Updike and the American Presidency,” James Schiff, University of Cincinnati (OH), USA

“Revisiting John Updike in a Time of ‘Fake News’,” Matthew Koch, Tarrant County College in Fort Worth (TX), USA

“Updike’s ‘Hub Fans Bid Kid Adieu,’ Baseball, and America,” Shawn O’Hare, Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN), USA

**Panel 2:** Parody, Transgression and Transposition (Room 34)—Moderator: Aristi Trendel, Le Mans Université, France

“John Updike’s *Gertrude and Claudius*: Parody and Narrative Expansions of Shakespeare’s Indeterminacies,” Zorica Bečanović-Nikolić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“*Brother Pig* and Henry Bech’s Hairy-Nostrilled God,” Scott Dill, Case Western Reserve University (Cleveland, OH), USA

“What’s in a Name? Authenticity in Autofiction: John Updike’s ‘The Bulgarian Poetess’,” Alexandra Glavanakova, University of Sofia “St. Kliment Ohridski,” Bulgaria



**11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1:** New Perspectives on the Well-Known Stories (Room 33)—Moderator: Biljana Dojčinović, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“The Chambered Art of Memory: John Updike’s ‘More Stately Mansions’,” Robert M. Luscher, University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA

“Vector and Variation: Cheever’s ‘O Youth and Beauty’ and Updike’s ‘Friends from Philadelphia’,” Robert Morace, Daemen College (Amherst, NY), USA

**Panel 2:** New Readings of *Terrorist* (Room 34)—Moderator: Pradipta Sengupta, M.U.C. Women’s College Burdwan, West Bengal, India

“*Terrorist*: A New Dichotomy for a Post-Cold War World,” Damjana Mraović-O’Hare, Carson-Newman University (Jefferson City, TN), USA

“From a Clean-Scrubbed Assembly to Filthy Infidels: The Hygienic Discourse in John Updike’s *Terrorist*,” Aleksandra Vukotić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“Master and Pupil in *Roger’s Version* and *Terrorist*,” Aristi Trendel, Le Mans Université, France

**12:30 – 2 p.m.**—Lunch on own

**2:15 – 3:15 p.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1:** Updike’s Rarely Discussed Works (Room 33)—Moderator: Robert Morace, Daemen College (Amherst, NY), USA

“Mustered Opinions: John Updike’s Non-Fiction Collections,” Matthew Asprey Gear, Edinburgh (Scotland) UK

“Artificial in Essence: Reevaluating the Critical and Academic Reception of John Updike’s Light Verse,” Gideon Nachman, Harvard University (Cambridge, MA), USA

**Panel 2:** Translation and Reception (Room 34)—Moderator: Mirjana Daničić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“‘Words, words, words’ Or Some Peculiarities of the Georgian Translation of John Updike’s ‘Tomorrow and Tomorrow and So Forth’,” Natia Kvachakidze, Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State University, Georgia

“Translating, Rendering and Re-constructing Updike’s Stream of Consciousness: The Case of ‘A&P’s Translations into Mandarin,” Wei-lun Lu, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

**3:15 – 3:45 p.m.**— Visit to the Library of the Department of Comparative Literature and Theory of Literature — Reconnecting John Updike and Danilo Kiš

**3:45 – 5:30 p.m.**—Group tour of Belgrade Fortress and Kalemegdan Park

**6 – 11 p.m.**—Group tour of Zemun, dinner at Restaurant “Reka” (included)

### **DAY 5—TUESDAY, JUNE 5**

**8:20 – 9:20 a.m.**— Keynote: **Michael Updike**, “After *Couples*: Family Slides of a Year Abroad (Conference Room)—Moderator: Sylvie Mathé, Aix Marseille University (LERMA), France

**9:30 – 10:45 a.m.**—Academic Sessions

**Panel 1:** Identity Quests (Room 33)—Moderator: Robert M. Luscher, University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA

“Establishing a Self: Women’s Productive Aging in *Seek My Face* and *The Widows of Eastwick*,” Kazuko Kashiwara, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan

“Psychic Sexuality: Memory and Dream in John Updike’s *Villages*,” Pradipta Sengupta, M.U. C. Women’s College Burdwan, West Bengal, India

“An Ironic Animal Called Man: The Futile Self-Sacrifice in *The Centaur*,” Sergej Macura, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**Panel 2:** Marriage, Family and Distortions (Room 34)—Moderator: Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State University (Allendale, MI), USA

“The Religion of Sex: An Evaluation of Its Effects on the Family Unit in Updike’s *Couples*,” Lynn Leibowitz-Whitehead, LMSW (Liberty, NY), USA

“Marriage in Updike’s Fiction,” Aleksandra Žeželj Kocić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

“The Evil Eden: The Town of Eastwick as a Mimicry of America,” Radojka Jevtić, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**11:00 a.m. – 12 p.m.**—John Updike Society membership meeting and announcement of 2020 conference site (Conference Room)

**12:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**—Refreshments (Café M&M)

**2 – 3 p.m.**—Visit to the Hotel Moscow with coffee/cake (included)

**3:40 – 4:20 p.m.**—Visit to the Church St. Sava (via public bus, in small groups)

**4:30 – 5 p.m.**—Tour National Library of Serbia

**5 – 6:30 p.m.**—Public Plenary Session at the National Library of Serbia—“Updike & Politics: Does Rabbit Angstrom’s Political Evolution Help to Explain Trump Supporters?”

**Panelists:**

Biljana Dojčinović, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Sylvie Mathé, Aix Marseille University (LERMA), France

Yoav Fromer, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Scott Dill, Case Western Reserve University, USA

Moderator: James Plath, Illinois Wesleyan University, USA

**7:30 p.m.**—Closing dinner at Skadarlija restaurant “Tri šešira” (The Three Hats) (included)

## Conference Participants and Special Guests

**Milica Abramović**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Florentina Anghel**, U. of Craiova, Romania

**Oliver Anghel**, Craiova, Romania

**Ken Baylis**, Nottingham, UK

**Zorica Bečanović-Nikolić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Laslo Blašković**, National Library of Serbia, Republic of Serbia

**John Brown**, Ontario, Canada

**Mirjana Daničić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Janette Dill**, Cleveland, OH, USA

**Scott Dill**, Case Western Reserve U., USA

**Biljana Dojčinović**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Zorica Đergović-Joksimović**, U. of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

**Milena Đordjević**, National Library of Serbia, Republic of Serbia

**Mina Đurić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Ivana Đurić Paunović**, U. of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

**Yoav Fromer**, New School & Tel Aviv U., Israel

**Matthew Asprey Gear**, Edinburgh, UK

**Alexandra Glavanakova**, U. of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski," Bulgaria

**Avis Hewitt**, Grand Valley State U., USA

**Jodi Houlon**, Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Jonathan Houlon**, Philadelphia, PA, USA

**Radojka Jevtić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Sandra Josipović**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Aleksandra Jovanović**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Olga Karasik**, Kazan Federal U., Russian Federation

**Hideaki Kashihara**, The Kyoto College of Graduate Studies for Informatics, Japan

**Kazuko Kashihara**, Kansai Gaidai U., Japan

**Michael F. Kline**, Rehrersburg, PA, USA

**Matthew Koch**, Tarrant County College, USA

**Ana Kolarić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Natia Kvachakidze**, Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State U., Georgia

**Lynn Leibowitz-Whitehead**, Liberty, NY, USA

**Wei-lun Lu**, Masaryk U., Czech Republic

**Diana Luscher**, Kearney, NE, USA

**Robert M. Luscher**, U. of Nebraska at Kearney, USA

**Sergej Macura**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Sylvie Mathé**, Aix Marseille U. (LERMA), France

**Annalena McAfee**, Republic of Ireland

**Shabir Hussain Mirza**, Gov. College for Women M.A. Road, India

**Robert Morace**, Daemen College, USA

**Damjana Mraović-O'Hare**, Carson-Newman U., USA

**Gideon Nachman**, Harvard U., USA

**Takashi Nakatani**, Yokohama City U., Japan

**Susan Norton**, Dublin Institute of Technology, Republic of Ireland

**Shawn O'Hare**, Carson-Newman U., USA

**William Gary Parton**, Grand Rapids, MI, USA

**Zoran Paunović**, U. of Novi Sad, Republic of Serbia

**James Plath**, Illinois Wesleyan U., USA

**Jelica Rajković**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Saraya Beth Rogers**, Mountain Home, AR, USA

**Amy Salit**, Philadelphia, PA, USA

**James Schiff**, U. of Cincinnati, USA

**Pradipta Sengupta**, M.U.C. Women's College Burdwan, India

**Jovana Srećković**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Aristi Trendel**, Le Mans U., France

**Radojka Vukčević**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Jelena Vujić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Miljurko Vukadinović**, Writers' Union, Republic of Serbia

**Aleksandra Vukotić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Winfield Whitehead II**, Liberty, NY, USA

**Aleksandra Žeželj Kocić**, U. of Belgrade, Republic of Serbia

**Lang Zimmerman**, Mountain Home, AR, USA



## **Special Thanks**

**Dean Ljiljana Marković and the Faculty of Philology**  
for hosting the conference and welcome reception

**The Robert and Adele Schiff Foundation**  
for the help in making this conference truly international

**Radio Television of Serbia**  
for the clip of the Updike's press conference in 1978

**Writers' Union of Serbia**  
for hosting the performance of "The Ballad of Henry Bech"  
at the place John Updike had a press conference in 1978

**His Excellency, Mr. Kyle Randolph Scott**  
Ambassador of USA in Serbia,  
for hosting a reception for conference participants and guests

**National Library of Serbia**  
for hosting the concluding panel on "Updike & Politics"  
at the institution where Updike had been a guest in 1978

**Gordana Sakić-Petrović**  
for sharing her memories and photos  
of John Updike and Aleksandar Saša Petrović

**Conference Volunteers**  
University of Belgrade, Serbia

Marija Bosančić   Marija Bulatović   Višnja Krstić  
Mina Marković   Danijela Mazić   Jelena Nešić  
Teodora Todorić Milićević   Marko Srnić   Jelena Strainović  
Jelena Vidović   Jana Živanović

**Logo Design: Nataša Teofilović**

