

## Foreword

The XIX Conference on Romance language research in Scandinavia took place from August 12 to 15 2014 in Reykjavik under the auspices of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages, a research institute within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Iceland. The objective of the conference – as has been ever since its creation in 1958 – was to enable academics in the field of Romance Language and Literature Studies to meet and present their research and projects to other colleagues at Nordic and Baltic Universities.

The conference was open to all teachers and investigators of Romance languages and literature at Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Danish, Icelandic and Baltic Universities. Members of the organisation committee were: Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir, Ásta Ingibjartsdóttir, Erla Erlendsdóttir, François Heenen, Hólmfríður Garðarsdóttir, Irma Erlingsdóttir, Kristín Guðrún Jónsdóttir and Stefano Rosatti. The conference programme was organised around the following themes:

- Pragmatics and semantics
- Phonetics and phonology
- Syntax and morphology
- Contrastive studies, translation and lexicology
- Historic linguistics and History of language
- Didactics of language and literature/New technologies
- Literature and literary history/Historiography
- Literature and linguistics/Linguistic approaches to literary texts
- Medieval literature and literature of 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th century
- Extreme contemporaneity (21st century literature)
- Translation and literary reception and transculturality
- Stylistics and poetics
- Literary genres and modalities
- Autobiography/autofiction/fiction
- Cinema
- Popular culture/Popular literature

Participants were just under 150 and well over 100 papers were delivered in French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. The selection of papers that are now published in the *ACTES/ACTAS/ATTI ROM Reykjavík 2014* will give an idea of the wide range of subjects that are currently being investigated in the Romance Language Departments at the Nordic and Baltic Universities.

Four specialists were invited to give plenary conference papers: Dr. Mirelle Calle-Gruber, Université de la nouvelle Sorbonne – Paris 3, Dr. Emma Martinell, Universitat de Barcelona, Dr. Hanne Leth Andersen, Roskilde Universitet and Lorenzo Coveri, Università di Genova and we sincerely thank them for their participation.

We also thank the rector of the University of Iceland Kristín Ingólfssdóttir for opening the conference and Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, ambassador of UNESCO, for her words of welcome to the participants, as well as the City of Reykjavík and the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages for the welcome reception of the participants. Furthermore, we would like to thank the following supporters of the conference: The Centre for Research in the Humanities, University of Iceland, the French Embassy, the Italian Embassy, the Spanish Embassy in Oslo, Mr. Alessandro Era, Norðurslóðir Travel Agency and Mr. Friðrik Steinn Kristjánsson, honorary consul of Spain in Iceland. Last but not least, we thank all the participants for their contribution to making the XIX Conference ROM14 a success.

On behalf of the committee of organisation,

*Sigrún Á. Eiríksdóttir, editor.*