

Ewa Luczak

“The Quality of Hurt”: African American Writerly Exile in Europe

ABSTRACT

My talk addresses the presence of African American expatriate writers in Europe in the 1960s. It examines the “New Breed’s” departure from the discourse of expatriation of earlier generations: diasporic displacement epitomized by ideas of Pan-Africanism and “modernist exile” symbolized by the Parisian sojourn of Richard Wright. It proposes to read exilic fiction of that time as a manifestation of both attraction and resistance to the European rhetoric of humanism in the wake of WWII and the Holocaust. The talk will set the context for the stories of expatriation of William Gardner Smith, James Baldwin, William Demby, Cecil Brown and Carlene Hatcher Polite. Special attention will be paid to the European travels of John A. Williams and his novel *The Man who Cried I Am*.

BIO

Ewa Łuczak is the author of *Breeding and Eugenics in the American Literary Imagination* (Palgrave 2015) and *How Their Living outside America Affected Five African American Authors: Toward a Theory of Expatriate Literature* (Mellen Press 2010). In addition, she is the editor of *Ernest Hemingway* (University of Warsaw Press 2017); *An Indian writer: Alexie, Vizenor, Silko* (together with Joanna Ziarkowska, University of Warsaw Press 2016); *Toni Morrison* (University of Warsaw Publications 2015); *In Other Words: Dialogizing Race, Ethnicity and Postcoloniality* (together with Justyna Wierzchowska and Joanna Ziarkowska, Peter Lang 2012), *Black and white: African-Americans who moved America* (together with Andrzej Antoszek, University of Warsaw Publishing House 2009) and *Mosaics of Words . Essays on the American and Canadian Literary Imagination* (together with Agata Preis Smith and Marek Paris, Institute of English Studies of the University of Warsaw 2009). Along with Marek Paris, she is also the editor of the publishing series entitled "Masters of American Literature" devoted to famous



American writers of the 20th and 21st century. Her latest publication is edited with Samir Dayal and Anna Pochmara *New Cosmopolitanisms, Race and Ethnicity: Cultural Perspectives* (de Gruyter 2018). Łuczak is a scholarship holder of many prestigious institutions such as the Kościuszko Foundation (University of California Irvine 2018; Johns Hopkins University 2012-3); Corbridge Trust (Cambridge University 2017, 2016, 2014); Fulbright Commission (University of California Riverside 1996-7, University of California Los Angeles 2007-8); American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia 2013); School of Criticism and Theory (Cornell University 2006). Łuczak has repeatedly visited international universities where she had the opportunity to familiarize her students with research on African-American émigré literature and eugenic discourse in American literature and culture. She visited, among others, California State University, Los Angeles and San Bernardino; the State University of New York, Buffalo; Colorado State University, Fort Collins; Colorado University, Colorado Springs; University of California, Riverside and Los Angeles; Universidad de Santiago de Compostela; Universitat Innsbruck and Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Professor Łuczak is the vice president of the Polish Society for American Studies.