

Foreword

In late October 2018, 27 scholars, researchers and activists gathered in Ljubljana to present 25 papers at the first international conference on LGBTQ+ literature in Eastern Europe to be organised in Slovenia: **Go East! LGBTQ+ Literature in Eastern Europe / Na vzhod! LGBTQ+ književnost v vzhodni Evropi.**¹

Today, due to the remarkable progress made in recent years, it may seem that LGBTQ+ literature has been safely mainstreamed and commodified. Moreover, the impressive work by LGBTQ+ historians, theorists and writers has been widely recognised and institutionalised. At least in the West. What about the East? How have LGBTQ+ literary production and scholarship developed in Eastern Europe and why has Eastern Europe been (perceived as) less accepting of sexual and gender non-normativity? What are the literary depictions of non-normative sexualities and gender identities by authors from Eastern Europe? What is the place and function of LGBTQ+ literature in Eastern European literary systems and cultures? What about LGBTQ+ literature for young readers? What are the national canons of LGBTQ+ writers and the relationships between LGBTQ+ rights movements and literature? What has been the reception of LGBTQ+ texts at home and abroad? What are the linguistic and discursive features of these texts?

These are just some of the issues that the participants who decided to go east examined in their papers, 20 of which are published here in revised and extended versions. The papers are organised in alphabetical order by authors' names, and Professor Gregory Woods's keynote speech is published as the introduction.

1 The conference took place on 25 and 26 October 2018 at the Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, and it was co-organised by Škuc Ljubljana and the Faculty of Arts. The scientific and organising committee consisted of Prof Dr Roman Kuhar (Dean, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), Prof Dr Alojzija Zupan Sosič (Department of Slovenian Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), Prof Dr Vojko Gorjanc (Department of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana), Suzana Tratnik (MA, writer, translator, activist), Brane Mozetič (writer, translator, editor, activist), Dr Andrej Zavrl (independent researcher, teacher, translator).