

Lectures by Prof. Fátima Marinho from the University of Porto during the Days of Lusophony at the Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology

University of Porto's Prof. Dr. Fátima Marinho is a guest lecturer in Portuguese Philology as part of the Erasmus + Academic Exchange. Ms Marinho's lectures' series was dedicated to the Portuguese historical novel and was part of the international program of the traditional Days of Lusophony held at Sofia University's Faculty of Classical and Modern Philology (FCMP).

The cycle of international scientific, educational and cultural events is organised by the Program "Portuguese Philology" at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese Studies and the Chair "José Saramago", established at the FCMP in 2019, with a cooperation agreement between Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" and Camões - Institute for Cooperation and Language, I.P, at Portugal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms Marinho's series of lectures were attended by students, PhD students, post-doctoral students and lecturers from the speciality of Portuguese Philology.

Professor Marinho is a distinguished researcher of Portuguese literature and in particular of Portuguese historical prose from different eras. During Prof. Marinho's presentation to the current Portuguese students and young researchers, Prof. Yana Andreeva, Head of Portuguese Philology and Coordinator of the Chair "José Saramago", highlighted the honour of once again having such a prominent Portuguese scientist as Prof. Marinho at Sofia University, who is highly recognised in the world's scientific community. Prof. Marinho has held senior academic positions at the University of Porto: Vice-Rector for International Relations and Culture (2014-2018), Dean of the Faculty of Philology (2010-2014), and is currently the Director of the Doctoral Program in Literary and Cultural Studies. Prof. Marinho has been a leader and member of a number of national and international expert groups in the field of culture and education, a visiting professor at numerous foreign universities, a holder of high Portuguese and foreign awards, author of numerous scientific publications.

As a starting point in her lectures on how the Portuguese historical novel from different eras portrays the national and world past, Prof. Marinho considered the importance of the past for medieval and renaissance man, drawing on the ideas of Peter Burke. She presented in detail the concept that history is a reading of the past and present events that are ideologically constructed in the light of subjective or public interests. Literature is also a construct, but its inherent fictional nature distances it from the goals and

intentions of historical science. Prof. Marinho examined the specific historical and social context of Romanticism, affirming the popularity and significance of the historical novel. Prof. Marinho emphasised the conceptual change of genre in the twentieth century, pointed out by researcher Linda Hutcheon and expressed in the new way of textualising the past through historiographical metafiction.

Leading works by John Fowles, Virginia Woolf, Marguerite Yourcenar and other writers, who are examples of the current metafictional reading of history, were also the subject of in-depth analysis by the lecturer. Prof. Marinho examined the last decades of the last century in detail to highlight a critical look at the historical fiction of prominent Portuguese authors such as José Saramago, Mário Claudio, Agustina Bessa-Luís, António Lobo Antunes and Gonçalo M. Tavares. An important parallel was the comparison between the work of Gonçalo M. Tavares "Journey to India" and the classic epic work of Luís Vaz de Camões' "Os Lusíadas", which allowed to highlight the deconstructive techniques of modern metafiction. In the concluding part of her lectures, Prof. Marinho focused on the messages of historiographical metafiction and highlighted the fact that we know about the past only what has come down to us in writing, which in turn allows us to say that the official historical and literary canon today is very fragile.