

# International Conference on the *Oeuvre* of Louise Glück

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In May 2024, Eötvös Loránd University Budapest (ELTE, Budapest) and Károli Gáspár University of the Reformed Church in Hungary (KRE, Budapest) organised a hybrid conference on Louise Glück (1943–2023). The poet, whose paternal grandparents were Hungarian, taught creative writing at Yale and Stanford in the last phase of her life. She received the 2020 Nobel Prize in Literature for her several volumes of poetry, the crowning achievement of her many previous prizes. The closure of her life's work in 2023 was an opportunity for considering what Louise Glück has left behind.

The main question was how the results of the critical reception so far could be summarised and a first evaluation of the finished work of a lifetime made. The original voice of the author with Russian, Jewish, Hungarian, and American origins spoke up from an intercultural background. Since her poetic heritage is pure and rich at the same time, it could be approached from the perspective of comparative literary studies.

The topics for papers included the correlation between Louise Glück's intercultural background and her *oeuvre*, intertextual and intermedial elements in the *oeuvre*, the composition and poetic world of certain volumes, the interpretation of certain poems, social criticism in Glück's poetry, gender issues in Glück's *oeuvre*, conversation between poetry and related arts in Glück's writings, representations of the body and the rhythm of Glück's poems, as well as questions of translation studies.

The organisers of the conference were Márton Hoványi (ELTE), who initiated the idea, Katalin G. Kállay (KRE), and Ágnes Klára Papp (KRE). The conference

had an exceptionally welcoming, personal atmosphere. Beside the individual papers, there was a round table discussion on translating Glück's work into Hungarian, with the participation of András Gerevich, István László G., Bence Visky, and Anna Branczeisz. MA students of Károli Gáspár University (Gyöngyvér Fazekas, Lilla Kárpáti, and Rebeka Patai) also presented their own creative works inspired by Glück's poems.

The conference was greeted online by Richard Deming, award-winning poet and Director of Creative Writing at Yale University, Glück's personal colleague and friend. It was a special moment of a good encounter, reaching out and forming a metaphorical bridge across the Atlantic Ocean, in celebration of a great poet and the power of poetry. It was reassuring to see how much poetry matters for students and scholars alike. The following three papers, by Boglárka Hardy (independent researcher), Bence Visky (PhD student, ELTE), and Mária Varga (MA student, KRE), are great examples of the inspirational academic atmosphere of the event.