



## Conference Across Borders VIII – Rector’s Opening Speech

Ladies and Gentlemen, participants in the eighth edition of the Across Borders conference!

It is my great pleasure to welcome all of you to Krosno. I know that you have come from literally across the globe – our plenary speakers have travelled from Taiwan and the United States. An especially warm welcome and our special gratitude to professor Szakos Jozsef from the Catholic University of Taipei and professor Linda Kean from our very important partner university – East Carolina University from Greenville in the US– your presence and that of your colleagues from ECU is most appreciated. Let me welcome all the other international speakers too – from Korea, Canada, Great Britain, Estonia, Latvia, Hungary as well as those from Polish universities – Kraków, Opole, Sosnowiec, Tarnów, Rzeszów, and last but not least, our numerous local speakers from Krosno State College – I am particularly glad you are actively involved. The conference you are attending is a small conference, but an ideal size to develop mutual understanding and discuss “across border” issues this conference is all about.

Across Borders conferences started in Krosno in the year 2004 on the initiative of Professor Fritz Koenig, present today in the audience – welcome! – and professor Władysław Witalisz, our successful foreign cooperation coordinator for years – also present here and equally welcome! The stimulus for the series of biannual conferences was the ideal location of Krosno State College – in between borders and cultures – in the melting pot of Central Europe. The idea was to hold a conference every four years in Krosno and every four years in one other location in the region and thus develop research as well as to build partnership and understanding. So far, apart from Krosno, the conference met in Kosice in Slovakia (2008), in Sarospatok in Hungary (2012) as well as in Tartu in Estonia - this was the last conference (2017) and a very successful one – here let me welcome Doctor Ene Vainik, who represents Estonia here. We are looking forward to a new excellent location for the year 2021.

Conference participants have published great many scholarly articles over the 15 years of the conferences – apart from 8 collections of papers published in the series of *Papers on Language, Culture and Literature* by Krosno State College, a volume on *Migration, Narration, Communication* have been published in the international Peter Lang publisher as well as recently a special issue in the Estonian literary journal called *Methis- Studia Humaniora Estonica* (2018). You can read all about the conferences and publications on our website and look at them in our library across the square from here– I strongly recommend a visit there.





I believe this steady effort is bringing progress in scholarship and mutual understanding and this time it will do so too. I am glad that you have all accepted the invitation from Krosno State College and have come to our town – we are always happy to welcome visitors as some of you, our regular guests, may testify – this is not the first and hopefully not the last visit for you. We will continue to invite Polish and international scholars in the future since this is always an eye-opening experience both for us, academics and administrators, and for our students.

I wish you successful discussions over the next two days, many fruitful thoughts and new useful contacts. Enjoy our town, not very big, but very picturesque and international as you will find with just a few steps into the market square. Enjoy your trip to Łańcut Castle tomorrow – you will be positively surprised.

Have a good conference and come back to Krosno.

