

## From the Editor

The whole editorial board of the *Polish Journal of English Studies* would like to welcome you wholeheartedly to our first issue in 2021. The current volume offers – as always – a selection of greatly varied papers on English and American literature. We begin chronologically with William Shakespeare as Amira Aloui discusses “the rotten state of Denmark” in her paper dealing with the discourse of reason of state in *Hamlet*. Dorota Osińska takes a closer look at Victorian popular press and the way it depicted spiritualism. Michał Palmowski deals with a particularly poignant topic in the second year of the Covid-19 pandemic: the representation of a polio epidemic in Philip Roth’s novel *Nemesis*. The fourth paper we have prepared for this issue, written by Ewa Kowal, discusses the issues of racial tensions as presented in Benjamin Markovits’ recent novel *You Don’t Have to Live Like This*. We close this issue with two reports on recent conferences, including our own PASE conference, which took place in Lublin.

The work of our editorial board stops now but only briefly as we are already well advanced in the preparation of the second 2021 issue, which will be dedicated to E. M. Forster. Our plans go even further, so in 2022 you can expect a special issue commemorating the centenary of the publication of *Ulysses*, *The Waste Land*, and *Jacob’s Room*, three major works of English Modern literature. A call for papers for the issue will appear later this year, so make sure to follow us on social media and check our website.

The year 2021, so difficult for most of us in many respects, has proven quite fortunate for our journal. We have been included in Directory of Open Access Journals DOAJ – where you can now find all the published papers – and in ERIH Plus. In recognition of these developments, our journal has also been included in the register of academic journals of the Polish Ministry of Education and Science. We all hope that these developments will help us make our journal even more attractive and accessible both for readers and for authors. Last but not least, we would like to thank Professor Jacek Fabiszak, who has recently stepped down as the co-editor-in-chief of our journal, for the six years of work together.

Krzysztof Fordoński

Editor-in-chief of the *Polish Journal of English Studies*