



KAZIMIERZ WIELKI
UNIVERSITY
BYDGOSZCZ



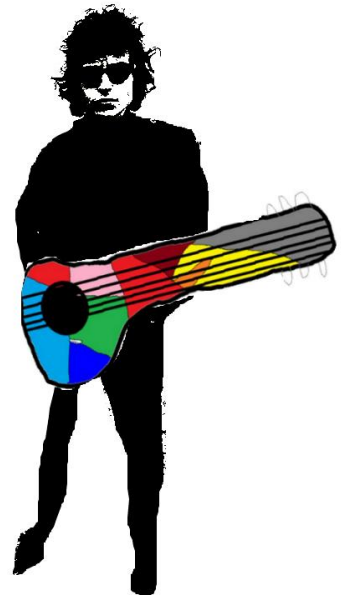
All Along Bob Dylan

America and the World

24 - 25 May 2017 Bydgoszcz, Poland

International Conference

Organized by
The Department of English and Faculty of Music Art
Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz



CALL FOR PAPERS

While the recent announcement of the award of the 2016 Nobel Prize for Literature to Bob Dylan has caused much controversy, the artist undoubtedly remains “a towering figure in American culture and a global twentieth-century icon” (Kevin Dettmar). From his involvement in politics and in American popular music tradition, through aspects of performance and religion, to the profound influence he has exerted on other musicians and audiences alike, Bob Dylan’s creative impact seems at once wide-ranging and multifarious. This certainly concerns his inclusion in academia as a legitimate subject of college curricula and scholarly articles which, surprisingly to some, extends back to the early 1970s (cf. Cambridge Companion to Bob Dylan). Even though the writing community may share Irving Welsh’s opinion that “this is an ill-conceived nostalgia award wrenched from the rancid prostates of senile, gibbering hippies” (the Guardian, 16/11/2016), the motivation behind the award “for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition” seems to recognize and value the literary aspects of the musician’s oeuvre. Transcending generic distinctions and differences, the decision of the Swedish Academy also constitutes an ultimate acknowledgment of popular culture’s inclusion within what traditionally was seen as high culture. In this way, it may both illustrate the route literary studies and criticism has taken in understanding its object of study as well as the growing significance of cultural and political contexts in these discourses and the way they may inform “reading of Bob Dylan”.

It is within this cultural context that we would like to use the opportunity of Dylan's Nobel prize in Literature as an occasion for an interdisciplinary thought exchange covering myriad aspects of his work. Our conference aims to discuss the artist whose work is as vexing and convoluted as his artistic persona and address its lasting influence across various disciplines. We aim to foster cross-disciplinary encounters and dialogue in reaction to Dylan's impact which, even though originally American, seems to transcend countries, nationalities, genres, cultures and poetics. We welcome submissions for papers from academics at all stages of their career analyzing Dylan-related topics from various theoretical standpoints, disciplines and methodological perspectives (including but not limited to Literary Criticism, Critical Theory, Cultural Studies, Feminist and Gender Studies, Music Studies) and suggest the following thematic issues (this list, of course, is neither exhaustive nor prescriptive):

- Bob Dylan as a Musician and Songwriter
- Literature and Dylan's Lyrics
- Intertextuality in Dylan's Songs
- Awards and Popular Reception
- Bob Dylan and Celebrity / Pop Icon
- Protest, Dissent, Politics and Social Consciousness
- Dylan in the Academy
- Teaching - Bob Dylan and Higher Education
- Feminist and Queer Readings of Dylan's oeuvre
- Religion and Bob Dylan
- Theft and Authenticity
- Translations and Reception around the World
- Dylan's Theme Time Radio Hour Activity

Venue:

Kazimierz Wielki University, Copernicanum Hall, ul. Mikołaja Kopernika 1, 85-001 Bydgoszcz

Proposals for 20-minute papers (ca 300 words +short bio) should be sent to allalongbobdylan@gmail.com by **20 February 2017**. Notification of acceptance will be sent by 28 February 2017.

The deadline for registration and payment of the conference fee: 31 March 2017.

The conference fee is **500 PLN | 110 EUR | 120 USD** for all participants.

Conference organizers: Dr. Tymon Adamczewski and Dr. Karl Wood

List of Keynote speakers to be announced shortly.

Selected (peer-reviewed) papers to be published following the conference.

For further details on the event please follow the conference website at

allalongbobdylan.wordpress.com