

**Department of Languages and Cultures**  
2017 Research Seminar Series

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**Places of Encounter:  
Celebrating the “Flowering of the Human Spirit”  
in Contemporary Europe**



This presentation will discuss the latest editions of Edinburgh International Festival and Sibiu International Theatre Festival, as well as the Theatre Olympics in Wrocław – European Capital of Culture 2016, from the point of view of the phenomenology of encounter. Drawing on elements of critical theory and anthropology, it will highlight some of the most radical tendencies in the universe of present-day European performance, as reflected in the programmes of these events. Ultimately, it will seek to prove that the symbolic and cultural capital generated by Europe’s greatest festivals transcends the ephemeral and becomes an enduring investment in what was once described as the “flowering of the human spirit”.

**Thursday: August 10, 2017 12:00pm A3N7 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor Arts Building)**