

## Literary Representations of Coexistence (KRS)

**Lead researcher:** assoc prof. Brian Willems (bwillems@ffst.hr)

**Project timeframe:** January 2025. – December 2026.

### **Project goal:**

Our planet is home to a complex coexistence of multiple worlds. More recently, the difficult nature of living together with other people and ecologically with other species has begun to approach a crisis point. In theoretical discourse, one important aspect of improving ecological, ethical, racial, and gender relations is the recognition that each life coexists with a multitude of other lives, but we increasingly lose sight of our interconnected worlds. Understanding how different worlds coexist is a necessary component for a better life for the greatest number of beings, whether that comes from appreciating the differences of others through empathy, political recognition, or species equality. The goal of this project is to contribute to scholarly discourse by showing how literature imagines new spaces and new techniques for living together in creative, productive, peaceful, and sustainable ways. Specifically, this will involve defining and building a corpus of texts, developing reading methodologies that lay a solid scientific foundation for future research in this area, and connecting literary practice – including ‘literary’ texts such as novels, poetry, as well as video games, moving images, and critical analysis – to key contemporary issues of inclusivity, openness, transculturality, tolerance, and knowledge and excellence. The Literary Representations of Coexistence project aims to outline literary strategies in using text to represent the multiple entanglements of worlds and the diverse lives of multiple individuals, cultures, and species, as well as to begin the difficult task of mapping the relationship between literary insights and the most pressing contemporary issues. The research aims to locate and understand the diverse range of literary strategies in representing differences within the known, arguing that greater cultural awareness of what is not-us will lead to better lives for more beings.

### **Members of the project team:**

- full prof. Boris Škvorc, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- assoc prof. Simon Ryle, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- Victoria Vestić, assist., Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- dr. sc. Ivana Dizdar, assist., Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Split
- Gianna Brahović, PhD student