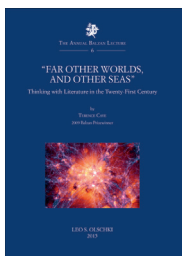


TERENCE CAVE

«FAR OTHER WORLDS, AND OTHER SEAS»  
THINKING WITH LITERATURE  
IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

What is the object of knowledge in literary studies? What is the relation between the academic study of literature and the public sphere? Terence Cave addresses these and other questions about the discipline as a human activity by inserting it into a wider interdisciplinary frame that is at once flexible and respectful of its special character as an object of knowledge: a cognitive approach to the study of literature. Cave spent five years exploring this approach in a series of intensive workshops and discussion groups that constituted the research project for his 2009 International



Balzan Foundation Prize for Literature. In this sixth Annual Balzan Lecture, Cave begins by sketching out a general perspective within which the work of the interdisciplinary Balzan research project «Literature as an Object of Knowledge» (St. John's College Research Centre, Oxford, 2010-2013) has taken shape, with considerations on some of the problems encountered, in particular the relation between literary study and cognitive science. He then focuses on literary texts, applying cognitive approaches to offer a new perspective on the material out of which literature is made.

*Dopo aver delineato il perimetro entro il quale si è svolto il lavoro del progetto interdisciplinare Balzan «La Letteratura come Oggetto della Conoscenza» (St. John's College Research Centre, Oxford, 2010-2013), Cave prende in esame alcuni aspetti della ricerca, in particolare la relazione fra studi letterari e scienze cognitive. La Lecture si concentra sui testi letterari, letti con un approccio cognitivo, per offrire una nuova prospettiva sulla materia di cui è fatta la letteratura.*

TERENCE CAVE is Emeritus Professor of French Literature in the University of Oxford and Emeritus Research Fellow of St John's College, Oxford. Fellow of the British Academy and member of numerous learned societies, he was recently named Commander of the Order of the British Empire. Known for his studies *The Cornucopian Text: Problems of Writing in the French Renaissance* (Clarendon Press, 1979) and *Recognitions: A Study in Poetics* (Oxford University Press, 1988), he has also written widely on early modern French literature and on the history of poetics. After being awarded the 2009 Balzan Prize for Literature since 1500, he was director of the Balzan interdisciplinary project «Literature as an Object of Knowledge» (St. John's College Research Centre, Oxford, 2010-2013), and in that context is exploring the value of cognitive approaches to literary study.

**The Annual Balzan Lecture, vol. 6**

2015, cm 17 × 24, 82 pp. con 6 tavv. f.t. a colori.  
[ISBN 978 88 222 6407 7]

<http://www.olschki.it/libro/9788822264077>

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