

Vesna Lopičić has been one of the key figures in Canadian Studies in Serbia for more than twenty-five years, as teacher, translator, editor, project coordinator and active participant in both national and international Canadian Studies associations.

Vesna Lopičić's interest in Canadian Studies was already evident in her PhD, which treated human nature in the works of William Golding and Margaret Atwood. Canadian literature and culture have subsequently formed an important part of her academic work. At the University of Niš she has introduced Canadian subjects to hundreds of students and guided many of them in Master's and doctoral theses dealing with Canadian topics. She is the author of several dozen articles covering a wide range of Canadian literary and cultural experience, from Gothic influences on Atwood to echoes of Shakespeare in Munro to the preservation of the self in Martel's *The Life of Pi*. Two collections of her essays have appeared, and as co-editor she is responsible for two volumes of proceedings resulting from the biennial conference organized by the Serbian Association for Canadian Studies, which she helped found and where she also served as President.

Of particular interest to Vesna Lopičić are the rich literary ties between Serbia and Canada, the fascinating dialogue between the two countries as reflected in the fiction of such authors as the novelist David Albahari, the short story author Goran Simić and the memoirist Dragan Todorović. This led her to propose a research project devoted to the Central European diaspora in Canada. As coordinator of the CEACS Diaspora Project, she oversaw a team of over twenty academics from the eight member countries of the CEACS who focused on two aspects, oral histories in which immigrants from Central Europe spoke of their personal experiences in Canada, and literary texts produced in Canada by Central European immigrants, some in their mother tongue and others in English or French. The outcome of this highly ambitious project was the very impressive two-volume *Migrating Memories: Central Europe in Canada*, which appeared in December 2010.

In recognition of her outstanding services to Canadian Studies in Serbia and the Central European region as a whole, the Central European Association for Canadian Studies is pleased to present Vesna Lopičić with its Certificate of Merit.

