

**Postgraduate Student Conference 2014, Literature & Culture Colloquium
Tuesday, 6 May 2014, “Kostis Palamas” Building**

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“Spaces for Learning in the Contemporary American Adolescent Novel: The
Boarding School”

In the current presentation, I intend to discuss two boarding school Young Adult novels under the light of space theory in order to deconstruct the interaction between built space and human activity. My focus will be the interlacing spatial modality of the American boarding school on human activity as shown in modern Young Adult novels set in boarding schools. In my presentation, I will be looking into *Old School* by Tobias Wolff and *Prep* by Curtis Sittenfeld analyzing the unraveling of the plot as well as the identity formation of the adolescent characters through their boarding-school setting. In both Young Adult novels the plot is set in the confines of a boarding school with all the rules and regulations that inevitably follow. Although parental supervision is eliminated, adolescent characters are called to form their identities and interpersonal relationships under the constant surveillance of the boarding school that acts in loco parentis. Thus, boarding schools become highly multifaceted spaces replete with intricacies of all sorts.