

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

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“The Missing Body in Gertrude Stein’s *Wars I Have Seen*”

This paper focuses on Gertrude Stein’s *Wars I Have Seen* and investigates the representations of the body image through the word plays in her work. *Wars I Have Seen* is Stein’s third biography and together with *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* and *Everybody’s Autobiography* it completes the trilogy about Stein’s persona that starts from “she,” moves to “everybody” and leads to “I.” *Wars I Have Seen* reflects how human perception and identity are challenged during war, exploring the prevalence of “everybodiness” as a new reality in human life. Stein’s work is time and space-specific—the WWII era in the French countryside—and combines autobiographical and historical events. Sarcasm, criticism but mostly the inability to express reality constitute some of the meanings hidden in Stein’s pastoral and quotidian scenes where the body is constantly present and absent at the same time.