

Report
The Coordinating Committee for
the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL)
Summer 2019-January 2020
For ICLA- meeting, online, January 2021 (postponed from 2020)
By President Karen-Margrethe Simonsen

Information about CHLEL: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/>

Information about publications, John Benjamins:

<https://www.benjamins.com/#catalog/books/chlel/volumes>

About CHLEL

The main aim of the committee is to coordinate the publication of comparative, collaborative and experimental literary histories. In the past year, we specified the profile of the series and have now divided it into four sub-series: a geographical, a period-oriented, a topic-oriented, and a problem-series. Books in the first three series typically include 2-4 volumes, books in the last one include one volume that focuses on one selected literary historiographical problem.

Criteria for acceptance of a project within any of our series is high level academic quality, a genuine new approach to a specific area of literary history, an international team of editors and contributors and a comparative methodology. As always, all volumes are published with John Benjamins.

We have an increased focus on literatures in European languages outside of Europe for instance in Africa and Latin America, an increased focus on the interactions between literature in Europe and literature outside of Europe and on the understanding of European literature seen in light of the consequences of globalization, migration and transcultural influences. We also have a strong focus on the literary object, its materiality historically and its redefinition in a new digital era, its old and new media forms, and relations to other aesthetic art forms and literature's relation to literary culture.

We have eight ongoing projects:

- *Landscapes of Realism. Rethinking Literary Realism(s) in Global Comparative Perspective.* Principal editors, Dirk Göttsche, Margaret Higonnet, Svend Erik Larsen and Robert Wenginger. Proposed publication dates: Vol. 1: 2020, Vol. 2: 2021.

- *Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern Times inside and outside Europe*, Ed. Francesco Stella, that focuses on 1000 years of Latin 'cosmopolitan' culture in Europe. Proposed publication date: 2021.

- *Trans-Culture: Literature and Migration in Europe since the 1950s*, Project Directors: Fridrun Rinner, Myriam Geiser, Jeanne Glesener, Helga Mitterbauer, Franca Sinopoli, Sandra Vlasta

- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery.* Eds. Madeleine Dobie, Mads Anders Baggesgaard and Karen-Margrethe Simonsen. Vol. 1: *Slavery, Emotions and Literature* is expected to be published 2021. Vol. 2: *Slavery, Memory and Literature + Slavery, Authorship and Literary Culture*: 2022.

- *Toward a Comparative History of the Literary Draft in Europe*, Eds. Dirk van Hulle and Olga Beloborodova

- *A Comparative Intermedial History of the Baroque Age.* Eds. Massimo Fusillo and Helga Mitterbauer.

- *Nordic Literature. A Comparative History*, Vol. 3. *Temporal Modes*. Eds. Steven P. Sondrup, Mark B. Sandberg, Thomas A. DuBois and Dan Ringgaard.
- *A Comparative History of Small and Minority Literatures in Europe*. Ed. Jeanne E. Glesener et.al. (accepted by CHLEL in 2020)

Volumes about to be published

- *Landscapes of Realism. Rethinking Literary Realism(s) in Global Comparative Perspective*. Vol. 1: in process with John Benjamins

We expect four manuscripts to be handed in in 2021 to CHLEL

- *Nordic Literatures: A Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures*, Vol. 2
Directors: Steven P. Sondrup and Mark Sandberg
- *Transculture and Migration*. Eds. Fridrun Rinner, Franca Sinopoli, Helga Mitterbauer.
- *Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern times. inside and outside Europe. A millennium heritage*, ed. Francesco Stella
- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery, Vol. 1*, Eds. Madeleine Dobie (main editor) and Mads Anders Baggesgaard and Karen-Margrethe Simonsen
- *Landscapes of Realism. Rethinking Literary Realism(s) in Global Comparative Perspective*. Vol. 2.

New Projects

At the business meeting this year, the project: *A Comparative History of Small and Minority Literatures in Europe* was presented to CHLEL by the proposed main editor Jeanne E. Glesener. It was unanimously accepted.

Business meeting 2020 and Research seminar

Business meeting was originally planned to take place May 10-11 2020 at Nottingham University, host: Dirk Göttsche. In connection with the business meeting, a symposium was planned by Göttsche on *Emotions, Memory and Media in Comparative Literature*. The symposium was dedicated to the memory of Patrizia Lombardo who sadly passed away in 2019. She was one of the main editors of the project *Landscapes of Realism*.

Due to Corona, the business meeting and the symposium were cancelled or postponed. The business meeting instead took place online on October 9, 2020. The symposium has been postponed until 2021.

Business meeting 2021

We have not yet decided when and where to have the business meeting 2021. Normally we would have it in the spring but due to the circumstances, no university is willing to move ahead with concrete planning of this. We decided to postpone the decision until January 2021.

There are two possible scenarios:

- The Covid-19 situation finds a solution so that physical meetings will be possible again. If we estimate that that will be possible, we will plan a physical meeting approx. in August or September of 2021.
- The Covid-19 situation makes it impossible to have a physical meeting. We have the meeting online in May or in August/September.

Election 2021

Next year is the last year of the sitting committee. We will therefore have to plan elections. If the business meeting takes place during the fall, the planning of elections will happen independently of the business meeting and through mail or zoom. In accordance with our by-laws, a *comité-de-tri* will be found to handle all procedures. The result of the election will be sent to ICLA EC for approval in December 2021. The new committee will be in charge from January 2022.

Grants

In 2019 we applied for extra funding from The General Assembly of UAI (Union académique internationale). We applied for 1500 Euro for 2019 and 1500 Euro for 2020. We got an answer in 2020 and received a grant of a total of 2000 Euro for the period 2020-2021 that will be paid retrospectively in January 2022.

Economic request of 2020 to ICLA

ICLA has previously supported all necessary language revisions of volumes published via CHLEL with an amount of 2000 Euro per volume. This year we kindly ask for the support of 2000 Euro for the Project on *Toward a Comparative History of the Literary Draft in Europe*, Ed. Dirk van Hulle. This project has not received support from ICLA before.

Financial situation of CHLEL and request to ICLA to put account in order, by paying 6.000 Euro that was granted in previous years.

Going through our accounts for the business meeting this fall, we saw to our surprise that financial support granted in earlier years by the ICLA was never paid. The amount that is due to CHLEL is 6.000 Euro. I apologize for the fact that our checking up upon these grants has not been done efficiently enough during the years, which is due to a number of causes: shift in treasurer, partition of work and delay in the projects. As president I had the perception that grants that were approved by ICLA would be transferred. Obviously, this has not been the case. I am very happy that procedures are now changed which will mean that there will be a lot more control with the financial situation.

The CHLEL apologize for the late reaction but asks ICLA to pay the granted 6.000 EUROS.

Below you can see the details

In 2016, I requested support for three projects as can be seen from the CHLEL-report of 2016:

“Application for support for 3 projects

Two projects are in the process of translation. I kindly ask the support of 2.000 EUR for each of these two projects, namely the project on **Migrant Literatures** (*Migration and Literature in Europe in the second half of the Twentieth Century*), Ed. Fridrun Rinner, Comparative Literature, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille and **Transatlantic Literatures**, Ed. Jean-Marc Moura, Université Paris Ouest, Nanterre La Défense, France,

Also the volume on Nordic Volumes asks for support for photo permission, also 2.000 Euro. **Nordic Literatures**, Ed. Steven Sondrup, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University, USA and Mark Sandberg, University of California, Berkeley, USA.”

The money was granted at the 2016 meeting in Vienna

Minutes from ICLA-meeting 19.-20 July, 2016, University of Vienna:

“Professor Simonsen concluded with three requests for financial support, each of €2000: two of them for translations for the books on Migrant Literatures and Transatlantic Literatures and the other for photo permissions needed by the Nordic Literatures project.

- (1) On the committee report, the EC was unanimously in favor of approval. (2) To the total request of €6000 to advance the publication of the three volumes in the last stages of production, the EC also gave its full consent.” (please see here: <http://www.aile-icla.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/EN-MNTS-Full-Exec-2016.pdf>)”

However, the Transatlantic project never proceeded according to the plan and no money was paid for this project. We do not request the 2000 EURO that was granted for this project.

In 2017 I made a special and extra request on behalf of the project of Transculture-project (formerly Migrant Literature)

“I kindly ask the support of 2.000 Euro for the project *Transculture. Contemporary literature and Migration in Europe* (main editor, Friedrun Rinner, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille). The request is due to a sudden financial crisis of the University of Luxemburg. This crisis has meant that the University has withdrawn financial support for the project. The project is in its terminal phase and Professor Rinner asks for 2000 Euro to complete the translations. “

“Minutes from ICLA-meeting, 4.-5. July, 2017 in Utrecht

“And [Karen-Margrethe Simonsen] asks, in keeping with the ICLA’s past practice of funding the translation of certain volumes, for 2000 euros for Friedrun Rinner’s project, *Transculture. Contemporary Literature and Migration in Europe*. Hans Joachim Backe, treasurer for Europe and Africa, indicates that nothing makes such funding impossible.”

Since the transatlantic project (directed by Jean Moura) was brought to a halt, the total of missing support is 6.000 Euro.

Below you find an overview over members and project directors.

MEMBERS OF CHLEL (as of January 2019)

OFFICERS

President: Ass. Professor **Karen-Margrethe Lindskov Simonsen**, Aarhus University, litkms@dac.au.dk

Vice-President: Professor **Mark Bennion Sandberg**, Department of Scandinavian and Department of Film and Media, University of California, Berkeley, sandberg@berkeley.edu

Secretary: Professor **Helga Mitterbauer**, Chaire de Littérature allemande, Département de Langues et Lettres, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), helga.mitterbauer@ulb.ac.be

Treasurer: Professor **Dirk Van Hulle**, Department of Literature, University of Antwerp, Belgium, dirk.vanhulle@uantwerpen.be

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Prof. **Susana Isabel Arsénio Nunes Costa Araújo**, FCT Senior Researcher with teaching and management responsibilities (CEC, Faculty of Letters, University of Lisbon (FLUL), s.i.a.araujo@gmail.com

Prof. **Peter Arnds**, Professor of German and Italian, Head of Italian Studies, Director of the M.Phil Programme in Comparative Literature, Trinity College, Dublin, ARNDSP@TCD.IE

Prof. **Santanu Das**, Professor of Modern Literature and Culture and Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College, Oxford, santanu.das@kcl.ac.uk

Prof. **Massimo Fusillo**, Literary Criticism and Comparative Literature, Università de l'Aquila, massimo.fusillo@gmail.com
Prof. **Jeanne E. Glesener**, Associate Professor for Luxembourgish Literatures at the Institute of Luxembourgish Linguistics, Head of the Institute of Luxembourgish Language and Literature, University of Luxembourg, Jeanne.glesener@uni.lu
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Prof. **Stefan Helgesson**, Professor of English Literary Studies, Department of English, Stockholm University, stefan.helgesson@english.su.se
Prof. **Margaret-Anne Hutton**, Prof. of French and Comparative Literature / Director of the Institute for Contemporary and Comparative Literature, University of St Andrews, mh80@st-andrews.ac.uk
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Prof. Dr. **Birgit Neumann**, Chair of Anglophone Literatures and Literary Translation, University of Düsseldorf, Birgit.Neumann@uni-duesseldorf.de
Prof. **Galin Tihanov**, Comparative Literature, Queen Mary University of London, g.tihanov@qmul.ac.uk

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A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery, Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Aarhus University, litkms@cc.au.dk, Madeleine Dobie, Columbia University, mld2027@columbia.edu, Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Aarhus University, litmab@cc.au.dk

Toward a Comparative History of the Literary Draft in Europe

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Olga Beloborodova, University of Antwerp, olga.beloborodova@uantwerpen.be

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Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern Times inside and outside Europe. A millennium history, Francesco Stella, Università degli Studi di Siena, Dipartimento di Filologia e Critica delle letterature antiche e moderne, Via Roma 56, 53100 Siena - Italy, Tel. 0577 234855 (int. 4855), Fax 0577 234839

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Report of CHLEL respectfully submitted by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen

Nov. 30, 2020