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| Laurent Hansen Attaché scientifique  UAI - Union Académique Internationale  Rue Ducale 1 B-1000 BRUSSELS |
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| Report of project 66: Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages |

Dear Laurent Hansen,

As requested, I send you information about CHLEL, Coordinating Committee for Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages.

CHLEL is in a very prolific period of development. Below you will find a text of presentation, including, recent publications and new projects. At the end of the letter, you will find our URLS and an overview over members and projects. Attached you will find 3 images of recent publications, including short description.

**Text of presentation**

The main aim of the committee is to publish comparative, collaborative and experimental literary histories. We have four sub-series: a geographical, a period-oriented, at 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 that the book contains a genuine new approach to a specific area of literary history and that it builds on a comparative methodology. All volumes are published with John Benjamins. We are committed to publish at least one volume each year but in recent years we have published more than one volume. As the title of the committee hints we focus on literatures in European languages, but always on new perspectives on European literature.

In 2016, the second volume of *A Comparative History of Literatures in the Iberian Peninsula* (ed. C. Dominguez et al) came out. It opens up for a discussion of critical relations between national and regional literatures in the Peninsula. Last year we published the first vol. of *Nordic Literature* that analyses Nordic literature from innovative angles: the main approach in this volume being “spatial nodes” (incl. landscapes, waterscapes, cityscapes, lightscapes etc) (Eds. S. Sondrup and M. Sandberg). This year the second vol. will come out that focuses on figural nodes. The last volume (2019) will focus on temporal nodes. In 2017 the fourth and final volume of our huge literary history of the renaissance came out *L'Époque de la Renaissance (1400–1600),* Tome II: *La nouvelle culture (1480–1520)*¸(ed. Eva Kushener). We have an ongoing project on Latin Literatures (Ed. Francesco Stella) that focuses on 1000 years of Latin ‘cosmopolitan’ culture in Europe and the intermediality and literariness of this culture.

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 have an ongoing project, whose first volume will be finished this year on *Transculture: Contemporary Literature and Migration in Europe* (ed. Fridrun Rinner, et al). An ongoing project on *Landscapes of realism* (ed. Dirk Göttsche) brings together the study of very different forms of realism inside and outside of Europe. We have a project on *Transatlantic Cultures* (ed. Jean Moura) and a project with the title *A Comparative Literary History on Slavery.*(Eds. M. Dobie, M.A. Baggesgaard and myself). All projects rethink European literature in a global world, including literatures in Latin America and Africa.

The relation between Europe and the world was also debated at our 50 years anniversary celebrated with a conference June 2, 2017 at St. Andrews University that had the title of *Global Perspectives on the Past and Future in Comparative Histories on Literatures in European Languages.* Contributions to this conference are to be published with *Arcadia* in 2018, guest editors are CHLEL-members C. Dominguez and Birgit Neumann.

We also have a strong focus on the literary object, 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. In 2016 we published *Or Words to that Effect: Orality and the Writing of Literary History*, edited by Daniel Chamberlain and Edward Chamberlin which was a problem oriented volume dedicated to the problem of historicizing oral literature.

This year we accepted a new project on *The literary history of writing processes* (ed. Dirk van Hulle) which will historicize authors’ approach to writing in different genres. And we accepted a project on *A Comparative Intermedial History of Literature in tbe Baroque Age* (eds. M. Fusillo and H. Mitterbauer) that will focus on the relations between different media and art forms in Europe and Latin America both in the historical baroque and in the neo-baroque.

In CHLEL we have members from 16 universities in Europe and America. We have one meeting every year in changing locations. This year we were at Antwerp University. Next year the meeting will take place in connection with the ICLA-conference in China. We hope to host a panel there on *world literary historiography*.

**URLs**

**General website:**

<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/about-chlel/websites/>

Please note that we are in the process of re-making the website to make it more appealing and user-friendly.

**Website of Publications at John Benjamins:**

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

**List of involved members/universities/countries**

OFFICERS  
President: Ass. Professor Karen-Margrethe Lindskov Simonsen, Aarhus University, Denmark.  
Vice-President:  Professor Mark Bennion Sandberg, Department of Scandinavian and Department of Film and Media, University of California, Berkeley, USA.

Secretary:  Ass. Professor César Domínguez, Comparative Literature, Jean Monnet Chair, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain.

Treasurer:  Professor Vivian Liska, Department of Literature, Director of the Institute of Jewish Studies, University of Antwerp, Belgium.  
   
COMMITTEE MEMBERS (as of March 2016)

Prof. Helena Buescu, Full Prof. of Comparative Literature, University of Lisbon, Departamento de Literaturas Românicas. Portugal.

Prof. Massimo Fusillo, Literary Criticism and Comparative Literature, Università de l'Aquila, Italy.

Prof. Dr Dirk Göttsche, Professor of German, Nottingham University, UK.

Prof. Margaret-Anne Hutton, Prof. of French and Comparative Literature / Director of the Institute for Contemporary and Comparative Literature, University of St Andrews, UK.

Prof. Patrizia Lombardo, French, Comparative Literature and Film Studies & Affective Sciences, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Prof. Helga Mitterbauer, Chaire de Littérature allemande, Département de Langues et Lettres, Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium.

Prof. Dr. Birgit Neumann, Chair of Anglophone Literatures and Literary Translation, University of Düsseldorf, Germany.

Prof. Thomas Pavel, Gordon J. Laing Distinguished Service Professor, University of Chicago, USA.

Prof. Galin Tihanov, Comparative Literature, Queen Mary University of London, UK.

Prof. Anja Tippner, Institut für Slawistik, Universität Hamburg, Germany.

Prof. Dr. Dirk Van Hulle, English Studies / Head of Department, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

Prof. Emer. Robert Weninger, German and Comparative Literature, King’s College London, UK:  
 

**Projects, project directors and associated editors***Nordic Literatures*, Steven Sondrup, Dept. of Comparative Literature, Brigham Young University, USA; Mark Sandberg, Film Studies, University of California, Berkeley, USA

*Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern Times inside and outside Europe. A millennium history*, Ed. Francesco Stella, Università degli Studi di Siena, Dipartimento di Filologia e Critica delle letterature antiche e moderne, Siena, Italy.

*Transculture: Contemporary Literature and Migration in Europe*, Fridrun Rinner, Comparative Literature, Université de Provence, Aix-Marseille I, France; Franca Sinopoli, Dipartimento di Italianistica e Spettacolo, "La Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy.  
  
*Transatlantic Literatures*, Jean-Marc Moura, Université Paris Ouest, Nanterre La Défense, France.

*Landscapes of Realism,* Dirk Göttsche, University of Nottingham, UK.

*A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery*, Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Comparative Literature, Aarhus University, Denmark, M-A Baggesgaard, Comparative Literature, Aarhus University, Denmark, M. Dobie, French Literature, Columbia University, New York, USA.

*A Comparative Intermedial History of Literature in tbe Baroque Age,* M. Fusillo, Universitá de L’Áquila, Italy and H. Mitterbauer, University of Bruxelles, Belgium.

*The literary history of writing processes*, Dirk van Hulle, University of Antwerp, Belgium.

As mentioned, CHLEL is in a very productive period. We would like to thank U.A.I. most sincerely for your support. It is really invaluable and we hope that we can continue the collaboration in the future. If you have any doubts or questions, please let me know.

Kind regards

Karen-Margrethe Simonsen

President of CHLEL

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature

Director of the PhD Programme for Art, Literature and Cultural Studies