

NEWW newsletter

3.1

January 2009



Pictured above: some of the participants in our latest November meeting, from left to right: Hanneke Boode, Suzan van Dijk, graduate student Rogier Visscher, Anke Gilleir, Zsuzsanna Varga, graduate students Olivier Nyirubugara and Steven Stroobants, Monica Soeting and Alicia Montoya. (Photo: Hilde Hoogenboom.)

A new NEWW newsletter

First of all, happy new year, and let us hope it will be a particularly productive one for our collaboration! As we enter the third year of our (formalized) network and its accompanying NEWW newsletter this January, our newsletter is set to change somewhat in purpose and content. This is because, as of October, a long-held need of ours was met with the creation of a NEWW discussion list: many thanks to Agnese Fidecaro for her work in making this possible! Henceforth, we would ask you to post news of general interest (publications, calls for papers) on the discussion list, and to use the newsletter for news more focused specifically on our own NEWW group activities and member news. Because of this development, we will no longer include the sections “Other publications of interest”, “Other calls for papers” and “Other upcoming meetings and events” in the newsletter.

NEWW project news

The past few months have been particularly busy ones. Most importantly, we spent them (among other things) preparing a COST grant preproposal, which was accepted, and then a full proposal which we submitted in January. This grant, if we receive it (we expect to hear back from the COST offices in May), will allow us to finance a number of yearly meetings, coordinated by four or five work groups, in order to prepare a full European-scale project and to set up the network that will carry out the research. Although a limited number of NEWW members were involved in the actual proposal-writing, the point of COST is to expand the present group and to create the appropriate structures for a long-term project, so please do start reflecting on what your own role could be within this more structured research network!

Another European financing scheme we might want to consider is the HERA Joint Research Programme (HERA JRP). A call has

been launched for transnational Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) in two humanities research areas: “Cultural Dynamics: Inheritance and Identity” and “Humanities as a Source of Creativity and Innovation”. This does not apply to all of us: only 13 national funding partners have created this new transnational funding mechanism. The countries in question are Austria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Successful proposals will require the building of consortia of three or more partners based in three or more different HERA JRP countries. Please visit the HERA website at www.heranet.info, and try to find out if the research you are planning in the context of NEWW could be interesting to carry out in a group of researchers working in 3 to 5 countries.

In November, in Utrecht, we held the second annual NEWW November meeting, organized in collaboration with the Dutch graduate school Huizinga Instituut. The theme of this workshop was *Literary Historiography and the ‘Other’*. Speakers included doctoral student Hanneke Boode, who addressed the reception of the Hungarian novelist Margit Kaffka; Hilde Hoogenboom, who talked about the early modern and 19th-century tradition of lists of famous women; Zsuzsanna Varga, who discussed Hungarian women’s literary historiography; Anna van Buul, who discussed the work she did on the database during the past year; and Monica Soeting, whose talk focused on the biographical *topos* of “the first woman in history who...”(wrote for a living, whose works were widely read, etc.)

Finally, the executive committee (Suzan van Dijk, Agnese Fidecaro, Anke Gilleir and Alicia Montoya) met again in November in Utrecht, together with Hilde Hoogenboom, where they prepared upcoming NEWW events, including the third annual NEWW conference, to be held in May 2009 in Bochum. In addition, they worked on the COST proposal submitted in January, and on putting together the forthcoming NEWW volume *Women Writing Back / Writing Back Women*, scheduled for publication in 2009 by Brill.

NEWW discussion list

Our NEWW discussion list is now fully operational. The list is hosted by the University of Geneva and is administered by Agnese Fidecaro. All NEWW members who receive the newsletter should have automatically been registered as subscribers: however, should you have a question or problem, please write to neww-owner@list.unige.ch. The messages sent to the list should be related to the activities of the network. The topics may include:

- the database www.databasewomenwriters.nl
 - research and teaching about women writers' place in literary history
 - the theory and methodology of literary history and reception studies, especially in a gender perspective
 - the development of the NEWW network and possible collaborations with other projects.
- You may also send (in English or French):
- announcements for events, conferences, seminars, publications
 - calls for papers/projects/collaboration
 - information requests
 - discussion topics and contributions to debates
 - reviews of articles and books.

To write to the list, please send a message to neww@unige.ch.

Upcoming NEWW events

On May 15-16, the third annual NEWW conference, entitled *Theorizing Narrative Genre and Gender*, will be held at the Ruhruniversität Bochum. Key-note lectures will be given by Joan DeJean (University of Pennsylvania) and Vera Nünning (University of Heidelberg). The programme is available online at the project site: www.womenwriters.nl (in: Conferences etc.). The day before the conference, on Thursday May 14, a NEWW meeting will be held in order to discuss continuing research together, new projects for upcoming events to be organized, etc. On Sunday the 17th, a touristic programme is scheduled. NB: Bochum and the Ruhr region have been designated a “Cultural Capital of Europe” for the year 2010.

Database news

The database *WomenWriters* at present (January 20, 2009) contains 18,410 records concerning the reception of women's literary works before 1900; of these, 13,613 concern the Dutch reception.

All NEWW members are invited to enter any of their own data that may be of interest to colleagues. Please contact [Suzan van Dijk](mailto:Suzan.van.Dijk@uu.nl) to obtain a password, instructions for use, and (if needed) support by telephone or E-mail. It is important that "new" users experiment and comment on the user-friendliness of the tool. Their feedback will be important in discussions about perfecting and upgrading the database. The database in its present form can be consulted at: www.databasewomenwriters.nl.

The companion website, *Women Writers' Networks* (www.womenwriters.nl), aims to provide, in addition to the information already listed, a bibliography of works on women writers within a transnational perspective, which should be relevant to all of us. If you wish to contribute references, please contact [Anke Gilleir](mailto:Anke.Gilleir@uu.nl).

The site also furnishes information about ourselves, in the pages entitled "Participants". You might want to update or complete the information presently provided: in particular, if you have recently had to list your publication output for 2008 for your own institution, you may consider sending us this information to include here also.

Member profiles

[Katja Mihurko Poniž](#) (1972) has a Ph.D. in feminist theory and women's studies from the University of Ljubljana. She is the author of *Drzno drugačna. Zofka Kveder in podobe ženskosti* (Daringly different. Zofka Kveder and the images of femininity), Ljubljana: Delta, 2003, and the editor of *Zbrana dela Zofke Kveder* (The collected works of Zofka Kveder), vol. 1, Maribor: Litera, 2005. Her articles on Slovenian women writers have appeared in prestigious Slovenian and international publications, as well as in *A biographical dictionary of women's movements and feminisms*

in Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe : 19th and 20th centuries, Budapest; New York: CEU Press/Central European University Press, 2006, which she she co-edited with F. de Haan, K. Daskalova and A. Loufti.

[Irene Zanini-Cordi](#) holds a *Laurea in Lingue e Letterature straniere* (English and Czech) from the Università di Venezia Ca' Foscari. In 2004 she earned a Ph.D. in Italian Studies from the University of California, Berkeley. She has held lecturer positions at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz. Since August 2005 she has been an Assistant Professor of Italian in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at Florida State University. Professor Zanini-Cordi's areas of specialization are Renaissance and contemporary Italian literature, with emphasis on Narrative and Critical Theory, the *novella* and the novel, Feminist Theory and women's writing. She has published on Elena Ferrante, Ariosto and Cristina Trivulzio di Belgiojoso. Her first book, on the figure of the abandoned woman in Italian literature, is entitled *Donne sciolte. Abbandono ed identità femminile nella letteratura italiana* (Ravenna: Longo, 2008). Her current book project and interests focus on 18th and 19th century Italian literature, in particular on the women who animated Italian *salotti di cultura* and literary salons from the second half of the 18th century to the unification of Italy (1860s), and their influence on the birth of the Italian Nation.

Recent books by NEWW members

Zanini-Cordi, Irene, *Donne sciolte. Abbandono ed identità femminile nella letteratura italiana*, Ravenna, Longo, 2008.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Cossy, Valérie, "Gender and Sentiment Across the Channel : Isabelle de Montolieu, Stendhal, and the novels of Jane Austen", in *Sensibilities*, 37, The Jane Austen Society of Australia Inc., (2008), pp. 59-79.

———, “Traduire et retraduire *Sense and Sensibility*, Ou comment faire aimer Austen en français”, *Traduire, Revue française de la traduction*, 218 (2008), *De traduction en retraduction*, pp. 43-64.

Mihurko Poniž, Katja, “Nation and Gender in the Writings of Slovene Women Writers : 1848-1918”, *Aspasia*, vol. 2 (2008), pp. 28-43.

Van Strien-Chardonneau, Madeleine, "Trois voyageuses en Hollande : Anne-Marie du Boccage (1750), Stéphanie-Félicité de Genlis (1776), Louise Colet (1857)", in *Le voyage au féminin. Perspectives historiques et littéraires (XVIIIe-XXe siècles)*, ed. Nicolas Bourguinat, Strasbourg, Presses universitaires de Strasbourg, 2008, pp. 73-88.

Recent lectures by NEWW members

In November, [Hilde Hoogenboom](#) gave a lecture at the University of Groningen, for an audience composed primarily of students of the Gender Studies programme, titled “All Gender and No Politics : Representations of Empresses, Queens, and Princesses”.

Teaching

At the invitation of Lieselotte Steinbrügge and Ilse Lenz, Suzan van Dijk occupied the Marie Jahoda Chair for International Women’s Studies during the first semester of the academic year 2008-2009 at the Ruhr-Universität in Bochum. While there, she taught a course entitled “Les écrivaines et leurs écrits voyagent”.

The University of Groningen is putting together the final touches to a new research MA programme in Gender Studies that will be offered as a joint-degree programme with the University of Uppsala, and will start in 2009-2010. Within the programme, courses in women’s literature will be offered by NEWW members [Petra Broomans](#) and [Alicia C. Montoya](#). For further information, please contact Petra Broomans, P.Broomans@rug.nl.

Other announcements

BOOK OFFER. We are pleased to be able to offer NEWW members the volume *Writing the History of Women’s Writing. Toward an International Approach*, edited by Suzan van Dijk, Lia van Gemert and Sheila Ottway (Amsterdam 2001) at a special 50% discount, for 25 euros. Please contact [Suzan van Dijk](#) if you wish to order a copy.

CALL. NEWW members are asked to consider propositions for a new part of the NEWW website, entitled ‘Highlights’. For details, see : http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Belle-van-Zuylen%2C_for_instance%3F%3F.

NEWW membership

During the workshop held last year in April, we talked of the necessity to further formalize NEWW membership. To that end, we will list names of active members on the website following [this format](#). If you wish to be listed, please send the relevant information to [Suzan van Dijk](#).

If you wish to receive the NEWW newsletter, please send a message stating so to A.C.Montoya@rug.nl, and including your full contact information (university affiliation, address and e-mail address) and area of expertise (e.g. “Russia, 17th century”).

Contacts

Project director: Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl.

Project websites: <http://www.womenwriters.nl> (general website, currently under reconstruction), <http://www.databasewomenwriters.nl> (database)
Discussion list: neww@unige.ch.

Newsletter editor: A.C.Montoya@rug.nl

