

NEWW newsletter

5.3

August 2011



Pictured above: Second COST-WWIH Training School The Hague, May 2011: Ramona Mihaila, Carolina Blutrach, Carmen Dutu, Suzan van Dijk, Ines Castro, Anne Birgitte Ronning, Birgitta Johansson, Astrid Kulsdom, Kim Heuvelmans - during lunch break (Photo: Ramona Mihaila).

NEWW list

Our NEWW mailing list has changed address. It is now kept in Southampton University (by Gillian Dow) instead of Geneva: owner-neww-eu@lists.soton.ac.uk. You have probably all received information about this. If not: send a message to the above address, please. Any news or questions to be communicated to the NEWW colleagues? Send them to this same address. See also: http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/NEWW_List.

COST-WWIH: Milestone 2

With fast steps, we are approaching our next International conference: *Voices in Dialogue*:

Ideational production and reception of Women's Writing in Europe. It will be held at Chawton House Library in Chawton (UK), 3-5 November 2011, and is organized by Nicole Pohl and Gillian Dow. Please see details about this event as well as the call for papers here (deadline now passed). Soon the organizers will contact proposers and provide further information.

Keynote Speakers will be: Prof. Markman Ellis, University of London; Dr. Ursula Phillips, honorary associate at UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University of London, and Vanda Anastacio, Vice-Chair of COST-WWIH.

This conference aims to develop the quantitative and transnational data gathering into reflection about large-scale qualitative approach of the data (concerning production and reception). The conference represents the

“Second Milestone” of the COST-WWIH Action – the first one having been presented last year in Madrid. The “Milestone document” discussed then, will be further developed now. To this Milestone will have also contributed collaborative work carried out, during this second Action year, within three COST “Training Schools” (two in The Hague and one in Gothenburg), and two COST “Short Time Scientific Missions” (Nancy). During the Chawton conference, the respective outcomes of these will also be presented.

Database news

The Norwegian group (Anne Birgitte Rønning, Torill Steinfeld and Marie N. Sørbo) invited interested researchers to a two-day workshop at the University of Oslo on June 15th-16th. The purpose was twofold: to give more people a chance of familiarizing themselves with the *WomenWriters* database, and to enter more Norwegian data.

A small but enthusiastic group of scholars attended, and started work that will hopefully continue in the coming period. As a result, now we have another six contributors to the database, in addition to the three previous Norwegian editors. The increase of Norwegian authors and reception documents will prove useful also for transnational studies.

COST seminar

Continuing on this, Monday, September 19, will be a day devoted to the COST action at the University of Oslo. Suzan van Dijk will give a guest lecture: “‘Women Writers In History’: the relevance of studying literature” which will be followed by the seminar: “Scandinavia within the European context: Women's contributions to European literary culture before World War I”

Papers to be presented:

- Torill Steinfeld, University of Oslo: “Personal voices and unaffected writing: Camilla Collett, Rahel Varnhagen, Therese von Bacheracht”
- Petra Broomans, University of Groningen: “Awards and networks. A secret formula for the

canonization of a cultural transmitter? On Swedish women’s literature in Dutch translation”

- Tone Selboe, University of Oslo: “Male Melancholics and Female Fighters: Camilla Collett on George Sand”
- Marie Nedregotten Sørbo, University College of Volda: “Genius and housewife: The Norwegian nineteenth-century reception of George Eliot.”
- Janet Garton, Norwich: “Amalie Skram and her German translators”
- Viola Capkova, University of Turku: “Finnish Women Writers as Translators and Mediators of Writing by European Women at the Turn of the 18th and the 19th Century”
- Ragnhild J. Zorgati, University of Oslo: “From Denmark to the hammam: the international female networks of the Danish – Polish painter Elisabeth Jerichau Baumann”.

New members

Turkish colleagues now have definitely joined the COST-WWIH Action, with a “Panoramic Research” spanning the 16th-21st Centuries.

They are working on *Women Writers of Turkey*, a trilingual (Turkish, English, French) database project, aiming to provide biographical and bibliographical information about women writers in Turkey, along with the analytical examination of the idea of canon and the profiles of women writers in Turkey. It will increase both the research potential on these authors and their work and the attention that previous critical research will receive.

Such a profile and canon analysis has not yet been carried out for Turkish Literature. Can we speak about a women’s literary “canon” in Turkey? Parallel to this question, we are trying to find out if we can say that women writers in Turkey have/had a common profile sociologically or culturally, and in terms of their education or economical situation of their families. Do/did they form a literary solidarity in accordance with the idea of a canon?

Supported by TÜBİTAK, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, the project is led by Dr. Çimen Günay-Erkol

(Ozyegin University) and the research team includes: Senem Timuroğlu (also Ozyegin University), Dr. Burcu Alkan (Celal Bayar University), Dr. Gülşen Çulhaoğlu and Arzu Erekli (Cankaya University), Ruken Alp and Dr. Reyhan Tulumlu (Sabanci University), Dr. S. Elif Aksoy (Dogus University), Şima Begüm İmşir (Ozyegin University, Istanbul University).

NEWW website

In the NEWW site (Bibliography part) we have created a new page planned to contain references to publications in English about women authors writing in other languages – in particular in languages not commonly understood: http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/In_English. Please check it and send relevant references, so that for “your” authors colleagues will be allowed to inform themselves. We might plan to add pdf-files of the most important of these texts.

Check also the feature recently created and entitled Authors about authorship: as the authors whom we are studying have also *themselves* commented on their authorship, their relation to their readers and their places in literary history, we started this online anthology of quotations. All colleagues are invited to send suggestions – to Juliana, Zsuzsanna or Suzan. (If in other languages than English, please add a translation).

Finally: check, from time to time, the information about your own research on the Participants’ page! Please send us updates if appropriate.

Members’ activities

On May 20th 2011 the symposium *Minority and Migrant Literature in the European North* was held at the Institute for Scandinavian language and literature and Fennistik, of the Philosophical Faculty in Köln, Germany. Viola Čapková gave a paper entitled: *The Romas as a Structural Literary Element of Finnishness*.

Other NEWW members were gathering together as audience at this conference: Kukku

Melkas, Maarit Leskelä and Juliana Jovicic. All together, it was a productive meeting with discussions about female minority and migrant literature.

On May 21st 2011 Ursula Stohler gave birth to Leon, a brother for her twenty months old children Raya and Benjamin.

On May 28th 2011 Juliana Jovicic finished her magister studies. With best note she defended her magister thesis: *Intercultural and gender aspects of 19th-century German and Serbian literature. The contributions of Therese Albertine Luise von Jakob-Robinson (Talvj, 1797-1870) and Wilhelmine Karadzic-Vukmanovic (Mina, 1828-1894) in front of an international committee of professors from Serbia and Croatia*. The magister thesis consists of 120 pages + 40 private letters from Talvj and Mina as corpus, and will be published at the end of this year.

Marie-Louise Coolahan gave the following paper: *Archipelagic Nuns in Europe: Irish Nuns in Exiled English Convents*, at the Conference *Identities, organisations and exile: Literary and historical inspirations from the ‘Who Were the Nuns? Project’*; Queen Mary, University of London; 23-23 June 2011.

Zeina Hakim taught a Masters seminar on the Enlightenment at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, as a Visiting Assistant Professor in spring 2011. She gave a paper on the topic of « The Female Narrator in Marivaux’s *La Vie de Marianne* » at the Annual Conference of the Northeast Modern Language Association held on 7-10 April at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

Publications by NEWW members

Hilary Brown and Gillian Dow (eds.), *Readers, Writers, Salonnières. Female Networks in Europe, 1700-1900*. Oxford, Bern, Berlin, Bruxelles, Frankfurt am Main, New York, Wien, 2011. VIII, 283 pp.

In this volume the following articles are by NEWW members:

Marianna D'Ezio:

“Literary and Cultural Intersections between British and Italian Women Writers and ‘Salonnières’ during the Eighteenth Century”.

Eve-Marie Lampron:

“From Venice to Paris: Fame, Gender and National Sensibilities in Late Eighteenth- and Early Nineteenth-Century Female Literary Networks”.

Nicole Pohl:

“European Networks: Dorothea von Kurland’s Salons”.

Laura Kirkley:

“Translating Rousseauism: Transformations of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre’s *Paul et Virginie* in the Works of Helen Maria Williams and Maria Edgeworth”.

Suzan van Dijk:

“Sociability and Mentoring by Correspondence: George Sand and Contemporary Female Writers”.

Kerstin Wiedemann:

“Intertextuality and Network Creation: References to George Sand in Novels by Mid-Nineteenth-Century German Women Writers”.

Ursula Jung:

“The Reception of Germaine de Staël and George Sand among Female Novelists in Nineteenth-Century Spain”.

Daphne M. Hoogenboezem:

“Marvel, Feminism and Reason: Rewriting Marie-Catherine d’Aulnoy’s Fairy Tales for Dutch Children”.

Zeina Hakim recently published: “Louise Labé’s *Elégies*; or, The Assuming of a Borrowed Voice”, in Colette Winn (ed.). *Teaching French Women Writers of the Renaissance and Reformation, Approaches to Teaching World Literature*, 31, MLA Series, 2011, p. 123-131.

Shafquat Towheed (Open University) recently developed a range of web based tutorials in the *Reading Experience Database* and relating to readers in history. One of these tutorials looks at two British women writers with strong European connections – Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Vernon Lee. Details can be found here:

<http://openlearn.open.ac.uk/mod/oucontent/view.php?id=401097&direct=1>

The tutorials are freely available for all to use, and are distributed through the Open University's OpenLearn division. There are also new short essays on the topic of reading in the British Isles, and three are about pre-1900 women readers and writers (Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, and Molly Hughes). Details can be found here: http://www.open.ac.uk/Arts/reading/UK/explore_exploring.php

Interesting conferences

A large international conference entitled “Gender Studies in the Age of Globalization” was organized by Ramona Mihaila. It took place June 2-3, 2011, at Spiru Haret University (Bucharest).

A panel (in three sessions) was dedicated to the COST Action “Women Writers In History” and more largely to the NEWW network. The first two sessions were meant for paper presentations and feedback, and the third provided room for further discussion (disseminating information for the new Turkish members, sharing the experience of The Hague training school, and also pinpointing some theoretical issues).

The NEWW COST sessions (with contributors from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Turkey) generated such intense debate from the beginning, blending paper presentations with the NEWW dissemination of information, that decision was taken to consider the Gender conference as the starting point for further collaborative research. Having raised awareness – in particular thanks to case studies by Sirmoula Alexandriolu and Nadia Alexandrova – that we share a common past that cannot and should not be researched individually (i.e. at a national level), concrete measures were taken for establishing a Thematic Network, which will function within the COST Action.

For information, contact Carmen Dutu (cb.dutu@gmail.com); see also the [NEWW site](#).

Calls for papers

Proposals are invited for a COST-WWIH panel in the next Women in French Conference Crossing Boundaries: French and Francophone Women in Literature and Science, Culture and the Arts at Arizona State University, Tempe Campus, USA, February 24-25, 2012. The WiF Conference is organized by the School of International Letters & Cultures Arizona State University; the COST-WWIH panel has been proposed by Hilde Hoogenboom. It is entitled: Bio-Bibliographic Compilations of Women in France Before and After Fortunée Briquet.

The work of women circulated through many spaces within the international community of letters: salons, letters, newsletters, poetry, plays, memoirs, novels. Compilations of women were another such space. Their contents offer rich narratives of the transnational circulation of women, and of textual production, reception, and classification. In the centuries after Boccaccio's *Famous Women* (1361-75), biographical compilations about women spread across Europe, first as manuscripts, then as books, and now as databases, to become a varied national and transnational genre. In this highly coherent, yet dynamic genre, the category of women writers as a sub-genre arose in the sixteenth century in Italy, and that of national women writers appeared a century later in France and England. In the eighteenth century, such compilations join the international European competition for learned women as a sign of national enlightenment.

In 1804, Fortunée Briquet published an important comprehensive compilation of over 500 women who contributed to French civilization through their published and unpublished writings in literature, politics, and the sciences. More recently, in *Tender Geographies* (1991), Joan DeJean lists seventeenth- through nineteenth-century French compilations of women writers, while in *The Other Enlightenment* (2001), Carla Hesse provides a bibliography of over 300 women who published in various fields during the French Revolution, from 1789 to 1800. These kinds of sources are now part of the *WomenWriters*

database, in which NEWW members are handling their research material.

Papers for a session about any aspect of these compilations are solicited (250 words maximum) and to be sent to Hilde Hoogenboom (hilde.hoogenboom@asu.edu). Deadline: 1 September 2011.

Proposals are invited for *The Sixth International Interdisciplinary Symposium ENCOUNTER OF CULTURES* to be held on 1 December 2011 to celebrate the Day of the Faculty of Philosophy of Novi Sad, Serbia. The conference brings together scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences for a day of intellectual debate, cultural experience and networking. Proposals from university staff and doctoral students are welcome. Please find information and details about participation here (in English):

http://www.ff.uns.ac.rs/fakultet/susret_kultura/2011/poziv_eng.htm.

Your applications have to be sent not later than 30 September 2011 in an email addressed to susret.kultura@ff.uns.ac.rs.

We might envisage presenting a COST-WWIH or NEWW session. Colleagues interested, please take contact with Juliana Jovicic (julianajovicic@yahoo.de), preferably before 15 September.

Proposals are invited for an International, interdisciplinary conference organized by Anne-Marie De Gendt, Alicia C. Montoya, with the support of Philiep Bossier: *Serial Thinking, from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment*, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, June 7-8, 2012.

In order to organize and render comprehensible the world around them, medieval men and women developed a clear predilection for serial thinking. These series included the four elements, the five senses, the seven vices and virtues, and many others. While these mental categories, thus organized into list form, allowed them to structure thought, the numbers in these series also had a symbolic value, explaining perceived correspondences between the microcosm and the macrocosm. Various networks of correspondences were created between the different series, at times

resulting in real feats of sleight of hand. Indeed, how could the five senses be reduced, for example, to the four elements?

It was often by means of symbols and allegories that serial thinking, together with metaphorical thinking, expressed itself at the textual and visual level. Literary series such as the Nine Worthies, the Twelve Pairs of France or the ten days of the *Decameron* enjoyed considerable popularity until the early modern period and beyond, as for instance in a late text like Sade's *120 Journées de Sodome*.

During this two-day conference, we would like to examine how serial thinking functioned during the premodern and early modern periods, as well as the transformations it underwent throughout the centuries.

Papers (in French or English; 300 words) to be sent with a short bio-bibliographical notice, to Anne-Marie De Gendt and Alicia C. Montoya: a.m.e.a.de.gendt@rug.nl, A.C.Montoya@rug.nl before October 15, 2011.

NEWW sessions in conferences?

We might plan to present NEWW or COST-WWIH sessions for the following conferences:

1. The annual conference of the SATOR (Société pour l'Analyse des Topiques Romanesques), to be held at the university of Victoria (BC, Canada), 20-23 June 2012. Theme is *Amitié*. A NEWW session might be proposed about women's friendship in narrative fiction (a recent question asked in the NEWW list demonstrated that this theme interests several of us).

More information and Call for proposals at: www.satorbase.org. If you are interested in participating in a COST-WWIH or NEWW session to be presented for this conference, take contact (before 15 September) with Madeleine Jeay or Suzan van Dijk (jeaymad@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca or suzan.van.dijk@huygens.knaw.nl).

2. The annual **SHARP** (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing) conference, next year in Dublin, 26-29 June 2012. A session

about women's role in the publishing business might interest several NEWW members.

If you are interested in participating in a COST-WWIH or NEWW session to be presented for this conference, please contact Lizet Duyvendak (Lizet.Duyvendak@ou.nl) or Suzan van Dijk (suzan.van.dijk@huygens.knaw.nl), before 1 October.

3. The annual **Digital Humanities** conference, which will be held in Hamburg, 18-20 July 2012. Given our program, it would be useful to engage in discussions in this context.

If you are interested in participating in a COST-WWIH or NEWW session to be presented for this conference, please take contact (before 1 October) with Marie-Louise Coolahan (marielouise.coolahan@nuigalway.ie) or Suzan van Dijk (suzan.van.dijk@huygens.knaw.nl).

If you do not wish to receive the NEWW newsletter, please send a message stating so to Suzan.van.Dijk@huygens.knaw.nl.

Contacts

NEWW network manager:

Suzan.van.Dijk@huygens.knaw.nl.

Project websites: <http://www.womenwriters.nl> (general website, currently under reconstruction), <http://www.databasewomenwriters.nl> (database).

Discussion list:

owner-neww-eu@lists.soton.ac.uk.

Newsletter editors: vargazsuzsi@hotmail.com, julianajovicic@yahoo.de,

Suzan.van.Dijk@huygens.knaw.nl.

