

NEWW newsletter

4.3

July 2010



Pictured above: participants of the NEWW conference “Routes out of marginalization: Gender and narrative practice in novels by German-speaking women, 1780-1914” organized by Kerstin Wiedemann (Nancy) and Elisa Müller-Adams (Trier) on June 24 and 25 2010, at the Goethe Institut in Nancy.

NEWW project news

A new COST meeting has been held in Turku (Finland): about 35 members met here, many of them for the first time after having collaborated online or by e-mail. Discussion was about the work that had been carried out in the Working Groups. In particular the ways of working in the database *WomenWriters* have been commented, leading to a list of requirements for immediate adaptations. For the longer term Joris van Zundert explained in what way the Alfalab project will be useful for projects like ours, and for the building of a “Virtual Research Environment”. What has been presented in Turku will be further developed, and prepared for presentation at the Conference which is being organized for next November in Madrid.

The Minutes of the WG’s meeting (and of the MC meeting) are accessible on the COST Action site, which also contains a series of photos by Biljana Dojcinovic.

NEWW conference

The NEWW conference “Routes out of marginalization: Gender and narrative practice in novels by German-speaking women, 1780-1914” has taken place at the Goethe Institut in Nancy (France) on June 24 and 25. It was organized by Kerstin Wiedemann (University of Nancy, *Centre d’études germaniques interculturelles de Lorraine*, CEGIL) and Elisa Müller-Adams (University of Trier, *Centrum für Postcolonial und Gender Studies*, CePoG).

Thirteen papers have been presented and keynote addresses have been given by Andrea Geier (University of Trier) and Helga Abret (University of Metz). The [program](#) is still available on the NEWW website. Papers will be published at *Presses universitaires de Nancy*.

Ljubljana World Book Capital

This year Ljubljana is “World Book Capital”. In this context will take place, on 22 and 23

September, the Symposium “Women’s Authorship and Literatures of Small Countries in the 19th Century”. Organized by Katja Mihurko, it will investigate the role and place of women authors within “smaller” cultures, and these women’s connections with their female counterparts in “larger”, dominating cultures. Slovenia is itself one of the small states of Europe, and a small linguistic area. Smallness is thus an intrinsically interesting issue for Slovenia. But the Symposium will also revisit this concept of literary smallness, which is not unproblematic. It might be redefined in national, linguistic, and (sub)cultural terms, and extended to include female writing. Fifteen speakers will participate in this event. The [program](#) is to be found on the NEWW site.

COST: Milestone 1

11-12 November 2010 will take place the first COST Milestone conference, entitled: *Women telling nations*, at University Complutense (Madrid-Spain), organized by Amelia Sanz, Begoña Reguero, M.José Calvo.

In this meeting, we want to ask ourselves how women were telling and de-telling stories and Histories, territories and boundaries, literary nations.

Building on what has been discussed and shown during the [3rd NEWW November meeting](#), this conference will also present results of the activities of the COST Working Groups concerning *quantitative* approaches to be used when studying women authors – be it per country, per period, per genre, etc.

4th NEWW November meeting

We plan to organize again this year this one-day workshop in The Hague, in collaboration with Huizinga Institute, Doctoral School in Cultural History, Amsterdam. It addresses in particular (but not exclusively) PhD-students, who are invited to present (parts of) their work. The theme will be: the use of irony, in particular by narrators – male or female.

The 2010 “NEWW November meeting” is a follow-up of previous NEWW conferences about female narration ([Bochum, May 2009](#)), and more specifically about narrative techniques used by 19th-century German female authors ([Nancy, June 2010](#)). Irony was clearly one of those techniques. Yet it is also evident that this irony, in relation to gender issues, has not always been understood as such.

However difficult to realize, we would need means to determine how to recognize supposed irony as used by narrative instances. This will be discussed during this 4th November meeting, which, however, takes place on 3 December. The subject of this meeting has been decided in collaboration with members of the [SATOR](#): the Societe pour l'Analyse de la Topique Romanesque, and with colleagues of the Huygens Institute, The Hague.

PhD-students (Dutch or non-Dutch) working on irony and/or narration are invited to send proposals, before 30 September.

Also participating: Madeleine Jeay and Stefan Sinclair (McMaster University Canada), Daniel Maher (University of Calgary Canada), Marie H el ene Chabut (Lehigh University, USA).

Organisers : Anne Hilde van Baal (A.H.M.vanBaal@uva.nl) and Suzan van Dijk (suzan.van.dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl).

Database news

As mentioned above, during the Turku meeting a list of requirements for the database has been made. It will be discussed this week at Huygens Institute, so that urgent adaptations will be made soon.

All colleagues are kindly asked to continue informing us about problems they experience when working in the database.

NEWW website: new page

Since some weeks the NEWW site contains a new feature: a page entitled “Quoting ‘our’ authors”. Considering that the authors we are studying have also reflected *themselves* about their authorship, their relation to their readers

and their – possible – places in literary history, we decided to compose an online anthology of quotations.

All colleagues are invited to send propositions – to Juliana, Zsuzsana or Suzan. (If in other languages than English, please add a translation; next to, of course, complete bibliographical references.)

Other conferences

28-30 June the [XXIVth annual conference](#) of the SATOR (Société pour l'Analyse de la Topique Romanesque) took place in Coimbra (Portugal), organized by Marta Teixeira Anacleto. Several NEWW members were participating: Yasmina Foehr-Janssens, Madeleine Jeay, Stéfan Sinclair, Suzan van Dijk. This year's subject was: "Topique(s) du public et du privé dans l'espace de l'écriture romanesque européenne – du Moyen-Age à la fin du XVIIIe siècle", which of course was interpreted in quite a number of papers as related to the opposition between masculine-feminine.

One of the important aspects of the already long-standing collaboration between NEWW and SATOR is the (presumed) possibility of characterizing the specificity of women's novels – not only by referring to the female pen that wrote them, but also by distinguishing female "topoi". SATOR distinguishes and analyzes these elements, recurring in narrative texts before c. 1800, which allow qualitative analysis of both the narration (and the role of male or female narrators), and narrated content (and the roles of male and female characters).

The idea (confirmed for a number of cases) is that topoi – at least some of them – are used differently by female authors and narrators. In our future qualitative and comparative textual analyses (COST Milestone 2), a number of narrative topoi considered as relevant for gender issues will be and have to be studied from this perspective.

In view of this, some SATOR colleagues proposed to start or continue studying novels while focusing on particular topoi:

- women's spaces (Daniel Maher, University of Calgary, Canada);

- "le don" (gifts and giving) (Florence Magnot, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier III, France);

- "le travestissement" (women in men's clothes and v.v.) (Yen-Mai Tran-Gervat (Université de Paris III, France);

- irony (Marie-Hélène Chabut, Lehigh University, USA).

The case of irony will be further developed during the next NEWW November meeting, which will take place on 3 December 2010, at Huygens Institute, The Hague (see above).

Members' activities (past)

Immediately after the Turku COST meeting six NEWW members also presented two sessions in the Turku annual conference of the International Society for Cultural History, entitled « [Literary women before 1900](#) ».

This led to interesting discussions with other colleagues, in particular from Finland and Estonia.

Marie Nedregotten Sørbo attended the *Author-Translator* conference at Swansea University in Wales, where she presented a paper July 1st, on "[Translation as Reception](#) in the Norwegian Jane Austen".

Suzan van Dijk attended the *Digital Humanities 2010* conference at King's College London. Here she learned a lot about how [DH projects](#) are progressing, how they are considered by the institutions and which are some current problems.

One of the things she concluded is that as soon as possible some articles/presentations must be put on the NEWW site, in order to show some meaningful results of our computer assisted research.

Another conclusion: next year we will present the COST Action at the *Digital Humanities 2011* conference in Stanford.

Members' activities (future)

On 25-27 August will take place in Amsterdam the conference of the International Federation for

Research in Women's History, entitled: *Unequal Sisters: Women, Gender, and Global Inequalities in Historical Perspective*. Biljana Dojcinovic will speak about: "Feminism and the Emancipation of Women in Serbian Printed Culture, 1870-1914". It will be held in Aletta (formerly: International Women's Archives), with whom NEWW is collaborating for PR activities.

This conference is related to the 21st International Congress of Historical Sciences, also in Amsterdam, 22-28 August. Here Maarit Leskelä-Kärki will speak about: "Women biographers and the uses of source material in life-writing".

Future conferences

The panel or session we might want to present for the next Digital Humanities conference (see above), which will be held at Stanford University 19-22 June 2011, can concern either the content aspects (outcome of large scale approach of the question of women's role in the literary field), or the "human resource" aspect (how to explain to specialists in "non-digital" humanities the usefulness of these tools), or finally the technical side, in particular the collaboration with projects such as Alfalab, TAPOR, Orlando, national digital libraries etc.

Please think about your possible willingness to participate, and send a message.

Continuing on our contribution to the 2010 Turku Congress of the International Society for Cultural History (see above), we might again propose a panel for next year. The Congress will take place 3-6 August in Oslo. It is entitled: *History – memory – myth. Representing the past*.

A NEWW session might concern for instance: our plans and ideas about representing the female literary past, or the ways in which this female literary past has been represented in earlier periods, for instance in bio-bibliographical compilations which are an important source for us.

The call for papers is to be found here: <http://hf.uio.no/ikos/english/research/events/conf>

[ences/isch2011/index.html](http://www.icesh2011.org/index.html). Deadline is 15 October; we might discuss it in September with those interested ?

Recent books by NEWW members

Alicia Montoya, Anke Gilleir, Suzan van Dijk (eds.), *Women Writing Back / Writing Women Back. Transnational Perspectives from the Late Middle Ages to the Dawn of the Modern Era*. Leiden: Brill, 2010.

Petra Broomans (ed.), *From Darwin to Weil. Women as Transmitters of Ideas*. Eelde: Barkhuis, 2010

Nicole Pellegrin, *Ecrits féministes, de Christine de Pizan à Simone de Beauvoir. Anthologie*. Paris: Flammarion, "Champs classiques", 2010.

Nicole Pellegrin, *Grandes voix du féminisme. Anthologie.*, Paris: Le Monde et Flammarion, 2010.

Cathy McClive, Nicole Pellegrin (eds.), *Femmes en fleurs, femmes en corps. Sang, santé, sexualités, du Moyen Âge aux Lumières*. Saint-Étienne: PUSE, 2010.

Guyonne Leduc, *Réécritures anglaises au XVIIIe siècle de l'Égalité des deux sexes (1673) de François Poulain de la Barre. Du poluquye au polémique*. Paris: L'Harmattan, 2010.

Martine Reid, *Des femmes en littérature*. Paris: Belin, 2010.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Nicole Pellegrin, "Fleurs saintes. L'écriture des stigmates (XVIe-XVIIIe siècles)", in C. McClive and N. Pellegrin (eds.), *Femmes en fleurs, femmes en corps. Sang, santé, sexualités, du Moyen Âge aux Lumières*, Saint-Étienne: PUSE, 2010, p. 101-122.

Amelia Sanz, "Les nations d'Anne de la Roche-Guilhem", in Rainer Zaiser (ed.), *Ecrivaines du*

XVIIe siècle, special issue of *Oeuvres et critiques*, XXXV/1, 2010, p. 105-124.

Member profiles

Alicia C. Montoya is Rosalind Franklin Fellow / Assistant Professor of Romance Languages at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). She is the author of *Marie-Anne Barbier et la tragédie post-classique* (Paris: Champion, 2007), as well as the co-author, with Volker Schröder, of a critical edition of Barbier's play *Cornélie, mère des Gracques* (Toulouse: Société de littératures classiques, 2005). In addition, she has published articles on seventeenth and eighteenth-century women writers and book history in various edited collections and journals, including *De achttiende eeuw, Intersections: Yearbook for Early Modern Studies, Littératures classiques*, and *Studies in Medievalism*. Her current book project focuses on late seventeenth and early eighteenth-century French medievalism (working title: *Literary Modernity and Gallic Antiquity. The Middle Ages in French Literature, from Jean Chapelain to Jean-Jacques Rousseau*), and includes chapters on women-authored fairy tales and on women as readers of chivalric romance.

Calls for papers

A One-Day Postgraduate Interdisciplinary Conference will be held at the University of Warwick, Saturday 22 January, 2011.

Entitled *Picturing Women's Health 1750-1910* it will explore the interface of diverse discourses that constructed ideas about women's health in Britain (and elsewhere...) during the Romantic and Victorian periods. In these years, writers and artists documented extraordinary discoveries and advancements in science, anatomy, and medicine. This inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary conference will examine the vicissitudes of attitudes towards women's 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' bodies over the one-hundred-and-sixty year period. In particular, conference papers will consider representations of the female body in fictional/non-fictional

literature, fine arts, and visual media and how they reflected or influenced women's understandings and experiences of their own health and bodies.

For information, contact Francesca Scott (F.M.Scott@warwick.ac.uk)

The First International Conference on English Studies *English Language and Anglophone Literatures Today (ELALT)* will be held on Saturday, 19 March 2011, at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad (Serbia). Abstracts can be sent to Conference's email address: elalt.novisad@gmail.com. Deadline for submission: 31 October 2010.

For information, contact Juliana Jovicic (julianajovicic@yahoo.de).

University College London: the Centre for Early Modern Exchanges is organizing a Conference for 15-17th September 2011; it seeks proposals for panels or individual papers that address the theme of intercultural exchanges 1450 – 1800.

Contributors are encouraged to focus on the Centre's themes: travel, exile and migration in early modern Europe and the New World; trade and flows of material as well as cultural goods within and beyond Europe; translation, translators and language learning; literary influence across national, provincial and linguistic borders; representations of intra- and extra-European 'others' in literature and art; religious and political interactions in the wake of the Reformation; occasions of significant cultural contact and/or heightened national anxiety; the production, circulation, and collection of books and manuscripts across Europe, the emergence of libraries and the book trade; dissemination and development of scientific and medical knowledge; Old worlds and New worlds, colonialism and ethnography; interplay between past and present, historiography, classical and medieval pasts, archaeology and material cultures.

Anyone interested in offering a paper should send a short abstract (no more than 200 words) to the organizers, while panel convenors are asked to send a summary of the panel's theme, a

list of speakers with titles, institutional affiliations and abstracts by 17th January 2011: Alexander Samson (a.samson@ucl.ac.uk), Helen Hackett (h.hackett@ucl.ac.uk).

Prize: Amelia Sanz

Our NEWW colleague Amelia del Rosario Sanz-Cabrerizo and her Madrid colleague José Luis Sierra-Rodríguez just received one of the 12 Google's Digital Humanities Research Awards, for their *Collaborative Annotation of Digitalized Literary Texts*.

More information [here](#). Congratulations!

Prize: Master thesis women's writing

Those of you who have students writing Master theses on female authors active around 1800, might be interested by the Belle de Zuylen Prize.

In 2006, the Association Isabelle de Charrière decided to establish a biennial prize intended to recognize the excellence of a Master's thesis, written in French, English, or Dutch, focusing on Isabelle de Charrière and her work, or on one or several other female European writers of that same period (around 1800).

The next Belle de Zuylen Prize will be awarded in 2011: theses that have been or will be defended during the current or the next academic year may be submitted to Madeleine van Strien, editor of the *Cahiers Isabelle de Charrière / Belle de Zuylen Papers*, before February 1, 2011. The results will be published in the sixth issue of the *Papers*. The recipient will again be invited to write an article, based on his/her thesis, which will be published in the *Papers*.

Book offer

We can still 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.

Receiving the NEWWletter

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

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