

# NEWW newsletter

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July 2008



On May 22-23, the second NEWW conference was held in Chawton, U.K., in the manor house that once belonged to Jane Austen's brother.

## NEWW project news

On May 22-23, the second of our international NEWW conferences, entitled *Readers, Writers, Salonnières. Female Networks in Europe 1700-1900*, was held in Chawton. In the beautiful rooms of Chawton House (see above), we discussed women ranging from Elisabeth Rose of Kilravock to Helene Druskowitz, Amely Bölte, Sophie Duvaucel, Henriette Herz and Catherine de St. Pierre – not all of them familiar names, but all of them women who did participate in the creation of female networks. Interestingly, the continuity of NEWW research was also apparent: some women who had been discussed last year during the Geneva conference – Madame de Staël, Mary Wollstonecraft and Elisabetta Caminer Turra, for example – were again the subject of papers in Chawton. The conference programme can still be consulted at [http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Chawton%2C May 2008](http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Chawton%2C%20May%202008).

The executive committee (Suzan van Dijk, Anke Gilleir and Alicia C. Montoya) met again in June in Utrecht, where they discussed ongoing NEWW matters (funding possibilities, network organization) and prepared upcoming NEWW

events, including the second in our series of “November meetings” (November 28, Utrecht), and the NEWW conferences in May 2008 (Chawton) and May 2009 (Bochum).

## NEWW call for papers

CALL FOR PAPERS. *Theorizing Narrative Genres and Gender*. Proposals are invited for the third international NEWW conference, to be held at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany), on 15 and 16 May 2009. This conference would like to discuss (1) the ways in which certain narrative genres (novels, short stories, fairy tales, autobiographies, personal diaries, etc.) have been gendered, and (2) the impact that these texts have had on readers, both men and women. Finally (3), what consequences have readers' reactions and the gendered critical discourse had for the formation and development of narrative literary genres?

Recent research, for example on the feminocentrism of the seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French and English novel, on narratology or on the differences between female and male reading, has shown that not only is the literary discourse tied to issues of gender, but the

metadiscourse is equally imbued with it; the 'querelles des femmes' were frequently intertwined with literary disputes.

In keeping with NEWW's objectives, the conference will cover a relatively long time period, extending from 1400 to 1900, and will also present contributions treating European literatures that are considered 'marginal'.

Contributors could address the following issues:

- the effects that literary genres (e.g., the novel) were supposed to have on a female public;
- the relationships between morality and literature, between realism and idealism;
- the impact of the concept of gender on key aesthetic notions;
- the consequences for literary history;
- the mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in literary movements;
- the 'gendered' quality of literary theory and narratology.

Contributions will preferably move beyond individual cases and attempt to expand the discussion within a theoretical perspective. Proposals (approximately 250 words) in French or English, the conference languages, may be sent to the organisers Suzan van Dijk, Universiteit Utrecht ([Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl)) and Lieselotte Steinbrügge, Ruhr-Universität Bochum ([lieselotte.steinbruegge@rub.de](mailto:lieselotte.steinbruegge@rub.de)). Contributions should be 20 minutes long. The articles resulting from this meeting will be published; a committee of readers will make a selection. Deadline for proposals: November 1, 2008.

## Upcoming meetings and events

July 21-23, London. International conference *Evidence of Reading, Reading the Evidence*, on the history of reading, organized by the Open University and the Institute of English Studies. NEWW will be present with a delegation consisting of [Lizet Duyvendak](#) and [Suzan van Dijk](#). For further details, see <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2008/RED/index.htm>.

October 2-4, Toronto. 22nd international conference of the SATOR (Société pour

l'analyse de la topique romanesque), *Geographiae imaginariae: dresser le cadastre des mondes inconnus dans la fiction narrative de l'Ancien Régime*. Links between the SATOR and WomenWriters databases are longstanding, and will be further developed. This will be discussed by NEWW members [Madeleine Jeay](#) and [Suzan van Dijk](#) during a workshop. For further details, <http://www.arts.yorku.ca/french/colloques/conference1.html>.

## Database news

The database *WomenWriters* at present (July 2008) contains 18,220 notices concerning the reception of women's literary works before 1900; of these, 13,500 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](#) or [Anne van Buul](#) to get 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](http://www.databasewomenwriters.nl).

The companion website, *Women Writers' Networks* ([www.womenwriters.nl](http://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](#).

## Member profiles

[Faith E. Beasley](#) is Professor of French at Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire, USA. She specializes in women's writing and women's history of the French Ancien Régime. Her publications include *Salons, History, and the Creation of Seventeenth-Century France* (Ashgate 2006), *Revising Memory: Women's Fiction and Memoirs in Seventeenth-Century France* (Rutgers 1990), *Approaches to Teaching*

*The Princess de Clèves* (co-edited with Katharine Ann Jensen, MLA 1998). She is currently editing *Options for Teaching Seventeenth and Eighteenth-Century French Women Writers* (forthcoming MLA) and completing a book-length study of the relationship between France and India at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century. She has also published numerous articles on French salon culture, women's memoirs, and on the intersections of history and literature during the early modern period.

Biljana Dojčinović Nešić teaches at the Department of Comparative Literature and Theory of Literature, Faculty of Philology, Belgrade University in Serbia. She was one of the founders of Women's Studies Center in Belgrade, as well as Indoc center in Association for Women's Initiative. She has been editor-in-chief of *Genero*, a journal in feminist theory, since 2002. Her MA thesis, published as a book, *Ginokritika: Rod i proučavanje književnosti koju su pisale žene* (Gynocriticism: Gender and the Women's Writing) in 1993, was a pioneering work, introducing the category of gender to literary studies in Serbia. She has also published *Odabrana bibliografija radova iz feminističke teorije/ženskih studija 1974-1996* (Selected Bibliography in Feminist Theory and Women's Studies 1974-1996). Her most recent books are *Gradovi, sobe, portreti* (Cities, Rooms, Portraits), a collection of essays on H. James, V. Woolf, C. Gilman, M. Atwood, J. Updike and K. Chopin, *GenderRings: Gendered Readings in Serbian Women's Writing* (CD Rom, in English) and *Kartograf modernog sveta* (Cartographer of the Modern World), a study on the novels of John Updike.

Lieselotte Steinbrügge is full professor of Romance Philology at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum (Germany) since 2004, where she is also a member of the directory board of the master course in gender-studies. Before, she held visiting positions at Dickinson College (USA) and Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany). Her research in the field of gender-studies include eighteenth century discourses on gender, especially the anthropological discourse

in the French Enlightenment; epistolarity; the relation of narrative genres and gender in seventeenth and eighteenth century France. She is organizing together with Suzan van Dijk the next NEWW conference (15 and 16 May 2009) on *Theorizing Narrative Genres and Gender / Théorisation des genres narratifs et Études de genre*. Her publications include: *The Moral Sex. Woman's Nature in the French Enlightenment*, New York and Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1995; *Die Frau im Dialog. Studien zu Theorie und Geschichte des Briefs* (ed., with A. Runge), Stuttgart, Metzler 1991; *Genre - Sexe - Roman. De Scudéry à Cixous* (ed., with B. Heymann), Frankfurt/M., Peter Lang 1995; *Conceptualising Woman in Enlightenment Thought/ Conceptualiser la femme dans la pensée des Lumières* (ed., with H.-E. Bödeker) (Concepts and Symbols of Enlightenment Thought. Publications of the European Science Foundation), Berlin, Berlin Verlag, 2001.

### Lectures given

On March 18, 2008, Gina Walker gave a lecture, "Pride, Prejudice, Patriarchy: Jane Austen reads Mary Hays," in the Grand amphitheatre, Institut du monde anglophone, Université de la Sorbonne Nouvelle—Paris III, through the good offices of Isabelle Bour, Professor of English at the Sorbonne nouvelle, Director of the Centre de recherche en études anglaises du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle (CREA XVIII).

### Recent books by NEWW members

Bosquet, Marie-Françoise, *Images du féminin dans les utopies françaises classiques*, Oxford, The Voltaire Foundation (SVEC 2007 : 01), 2007.

— (ed., with S. Meitinger and B. Terramorsi), *Aux confins de l'ailleurs. Voyage, Altérité, Utopie*, Paris, Klincksieck, 2008.

Evain, Aurore, Perry Gethner and Henriette Goldwyn (ed.), *Théâtre de femmes de l'Ancien Régime*. vol. 2 : *XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle*, Saint-Etienne, Publication de l'Université, 2008, 622 p., 15€.

Gretchanaia, Elena and Catherine Viollet (ed.), *"Si tu lis jamais ce journal". Diaristes russes francophones, 1780-1854*, Paris, CNRS-Editions, 2008.

Hoogenboom, Hilde, Catharine Nepomnyashchy, and Irina Reyfman (ed.), *Mapping the Feminine: Russian Women and Cultural Difference*. Bloomington, IN, Slavica Publishers, 2008.

### Recent articles by NEWW members

Bosquet, Marie-Françoise, « L'Autre de l'utopie: 'Le Prince des Aigues marines' de Louise Levesque » in *Aux confins de l'ailleurs. Voyage, Altérité, Utopie*, Paris, Klincksieck, 2008.

Hoogenboom, Hilde, "The Non-Canonical Canon: From Nikolai Novikov's *Historical Dictionary to Dictionary of Russian Women Writers*," in Hoogenboom et al. (ed.), *Mapping the Feminine*.

Wiedemann, Kerstin, "Zwischen Unterhaltungsliteratur und Tendenzdichtung: Zur doppelten Vermittlung der George-Sand-Übersetzungen im literarischen Feld des Vormärzes", in B. Kortländer and H.T. Siepe (ed.), *Übersetzen im Vormärz*, Bielefeld, Aisthesis, 2008, p. 151-168 (= Forum Vormärz Forschung Jahrbuch 2007).

### Websites with NEWW contributions

Monastic Matrix: <http://monasticmatrix.org/>  
This website is devoted to posting primary and secondary sources related to Christian women and monasticism 400 c.e. to 1700 c.e. If you would like to provide materials (sources or other), a graduate assistant is available to post them, so all you have to do is contact Professor Lisa Bitel <[bitel@usc.edu](mailto:bitel@usc.edu)>. (Information provided by Lisa Vollendorf.)

<http://theatrefemmes-ancienregime.org>. Ed. Aurore Evain, companion site to the anthology *Théâtre de femmes de l'Ancien Régime* (see Recent books by NEWW members). The site contains summaries of the published volumes,

extracts, and news updates concerning current research on female dramatists, performances, etc.

### Other announcements

CALL FOR PAPERS. 7th European Feminist Research Conference *Gendered Cultures at the Crossroads of Imagination, Knowledge and Politics*. Utrecht, June 4-7, 2009. Paper abstracts to be submitted before September 15. See [http://www.genderstudies.nl/efrc/index.php?page\\_id=171](http://www.genderstudies.nl/efrc/index.php?page_id=171). NEWW members wishing to submit a proposal please also contact Suzan van Dijk, in view of scheduling a possible NEWW meeting afterwards.

CALL FOR PAPERS. International conference *Matters of State: Bildung and Literary-Intellectual Discourse in the Nineteenth Century*. Leuven University, April 23-25 2009. *Matters of State* proposes to revisit significant instances of the literary-intellectual attempt to re-think the State, and relevant intersections of these attempts with related and/or competing political, literary, scientific, (crypto-)religious, iconographic, discursive strategies to imagine the State. We are interested in papers that focus on explicit or implicit contributions to a public aesthetics of the State by way of new or modified rhetorics of community. We welcome proposals for panels and for 20-minute papers in English, French, or German. Please send your one-page proposal (two pages for panels), together with your contact data, in a separate word document to [matters.of.state@arts.kuleuven.be](mailto:matters.of.state@arts.kuleuven.be), before September 30. For panel proposals, provide a general introduction and short abstracts for the different papers (3 or 4). Notification of acceptance no later than November 15. Please see [www.arts.kuleuven.be/matters\\_of\\_state](http://www.arts.kuleuven.be/matters_of_state) for details. The conference website will be updated regularly as more information becomes available.

CALL FOR PAPERS. International symposium of the Germaine de Staël Society for Revolutionary and Romantic Studies, May 8-10, 2009, Washington University in St. Louis, *Germaine de Staël Today: Currents and Cross-Currents*. The event comes on the 20<sup>th</sup>



anniversary of the first international congress on Staël in America. It's time to survey the work of twenty years done in this field and to examine new paradigms for Staël studies in the 21<sup>th</sup> century. Submissions may address topics such as: transatlantic crossings; Staël's Anglo-Saxon and American followers and critics; known and unknown literary/intellectual relations; salon sociability; private correspondences; dissemination of knowledge; cultural studies; travel literature; ambiguities of places/spaces; national literatures and languages; colonial intersections; translation practice and theory; language as a socio-political system; language and performativity; improvisation; women's publishing and censorship, Staël and women's Romanticism; Staël as novelist, playwright, and theoretician; literature and other arts; political/social thought; Staël as historian; the French Revolution and the Terror; Staël and revolutionary aesthetics; reception theory; feminist and masculinist readings; Staël's critical practice; critical cross-currents; teaching *Corinne* today; cinematographic interpretations; Staël in the age of digital humanities; electronic journals and bibliographies; new biographies....Proposals written in French or English must be received by October 1, 2008. In addition to the traditional format of presentation (20-minute papers) more innovative formats are encouraged (i.e. round table discussions or performances). The participation of scholars both from abroad and from diverse fields, promises a conference of exceptional scope. The event will take place on the Washington University campus, and participants will be lodged at the Knight Center because of its convenient campus location and proximity to the Saint Louis's rich French heritage. DIRECTORS: Karyna Szmurlo [skaryna@clemsun.edu](mailto:skaryna@clemsun.edu), Professor of French (Clemson University). Tili Boon Cuillé [tbcuille@wustl.edu](mailto:tbcuille@wustl.edu), Associate Professor of French (Washington University).

CALL FOR PAPERS. The Jane Austen Society of North America, a literary society comprised of enthusiasts, amateurs, and academics, holds its Annual General Meeting every October. In 2009, the conference will be held in Philadelphia and the theme will be "Jane Austen's Brothers &

Sisters in the City of Brotherly Love." The deadline for proposals is October 17, 2008. Detailed information about the conference date, theme, particular AGM events, and more is displayed on the JASNA web pages: <http://www.jasna.org/agms/philadelphia/index.html>

CALL FOR PAPERS. *GEMELA E- JOURNAL* (Grupo de Estudios de la Mujer de España y las Américas, pre-1800), [www.gemela.org](http://www.gemela.org). Call for Papers, Inaugural Issue, Summer 2009, *Embodying Women's Culture: The Hispanic Atlantic, 1500-1800*. Officially founded in 1999 and an Allied Organization of the Modern Languages Association, GEMELA (formerly AEEA) strives to unite scholars across traditional disciplinary boundaries through its focus on women's cultural production in medieval and early modern Spain and colonial Latin America, pre-1800. Our purpose is to distribute information and knowledge about women and their role as cultural producers. Our conferences and publications encourage teaching and research based on all approaches related to our principal field of inquiry. The focus of this issue springs from the theme of GEMELA's fall 2008 conference, and reflects increasing scholarly attention to transatlantic studies and continuing interest in feminist body studies. The body, the senses, and material culture mediated women's place in Hispanic social contexts, but they also call attention to women's agency: self-fashioning, speech, writing, listening, and visual perception. We expect to use the Atlantic as a complex space of analysis; proposals are encouraged to move beyond the national as a critical category and to explore women's writings and cultural productions from an intercultural, comparative perspective. Emphasis could include the points of intersection between Atlantic cultures and such processes as creolisation, hybridity, and translation. Suggested topics, all of which refer to women's writings and cultural productions in the early modern and colonial period, include (but are not limited to):

- Dress and Self-Presentation
- Visual Culture
- Aurality and Orality

- Language, Codes, and Silences
- Spaces and Movement
- Textual Authority
- Mediated Voices
- Sexuality and the Erotic Imagination

Essays in English and Spanish will be accepted. Articles should be approximately 17-22 pages in length (no more than 8,500 words), double spaced, Times New Roman 12-1", in MLA style with endnotes, and in Word format. Please attach a separate cover sheet with the title, author's name, affiliation, and e-mail address; no identification should be included in the body of the article itself, as the reviews will be anonymous. Deadline for submitting essays: November 1. Contributors must be members of GEMELA at the time of submission; instructions for joining may be found at <http://www.gemela.org/join.html>. Please submit articles to both: Stacey Schlau ([sschlau@wcupa.edu](mailto:sschlau@wcupa.edu)) and Emilie Bergmann ([elb@berkeley.edu](mailto:elb@berkeley.edu))

## Other announcements

**MA THESIS PRIZE.** In 2006, the Association Isabelle de Charrière established a biennial prize, intended to recognize an outstanding MA thesis, written in French, English or Dutch, focusing on Isabelle de Charrière and her work, or on one of several other female European writers of the same period. Theses that have been submitted during the current or preceding academic year may be sent to the editors of the *Cahiers Isabelle de Charrière / Belle de Zuylen Papers*, before February 1, 2009. The results will be announced in the fourth issue of the *Papers*. The Belle van Zuylen Prize will consist of a monetary award of €500 and a two-year membership in the Association. The recipient will also be invited to write an article, based on his/her thesis, to be published in the *Papers*. For more information, please contact [Suzan van Dijk](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl).

**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 plus postage. Please contact [Suzan van Dijk](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl) if you wish to order a copy.

## Personal news

[Faith E. Beasley](#) was promoted to Full Professor this year. She will be teaching for one term at Harvard this coming fall 2008.

[Anne van Buul](#) has been awarded a four-year fellowship to write her Ph.D. dissertation, on the Dutch reception of the pre-Raphaelites, at the University of Groningen.

[Zeina Hakim](#) has been appointed to a position of Assistant Professor of 18th-century French Literature at Tufts University in Boston. She will be leaving the University of Geneva in August in order to begin teaching at Tufts in the Fall.

## NEWW membership

During the April workshop, 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](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl).

If you wish (only) to receive the newsletter, please send a message to [A.C.Montoya@rug.nl](mailto:A.C.Montoya@rug.nl), including 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](mailto:Suzan.vanDijk@let.uu.nl).

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

Newsletter editor: [A.C.Montoya@rug.nl](mailto:A.C.Montoya@rug.nl)

