

# NEWW newsletter

6.2

July 2012



Pictured above: participants in the Bucharest workshop at the entrance hall of Spiru Haret University  
(Photo: Onorina Botezat).

## This NEWWletter

If one of the network members is interested in joining the group of NEWWletter editors, she (he) will be very welcome...

## COST-WWIH: Bucharest Workshop

The workshop *Women's Writing and the East-West Connections within Europe: Visualizing the Channels* took place on 25-28 April 2012, in Bucharest, at Spiru Haret University, on behalf of the Central Institute of Research. As it was announced in the Call for Papers, the workshop aimed at "reflecting on what kind of factors (Increasing travelling possibilities? Need for money? Increasing education? Feminism? Political developments? Growing curiosity?) were at stake when women put themselves to

writing, publishing and entering into contact with readers." On the technological level, the concept of *Visualizing* covered the terms of "maps, trees, graphs" (cf. Moretti) in showing influences going from West to East and vice versa, making visible proportions and percentages and illustrating influences exerted by a work, an author, a group of authors.

Being a member of the Group 4 within the COST project, Ramona Mihaila had made important efforts to disseminate information concerning the workshop in Bucharest, sending invitations to Romanian institutions of higher education, to the Romanian Academy, to other foreign institutions. She had promoted the event with posters, flyers, announcements in print media (see [www.opinionational.ro](http://www.opinionational.ro)), a radio clip (H2.FM), a video clip broadcasted on national TV channels (Etalon TV) and the university channel (see <http://centralresearchinstitute.weebly.com/evenimente-iccs.html>).

The workshop had also media partners, the television channels H2O, Etalon TV that recorded the presentations delivered by the participants and interviewed Professor Suzan van Dijk, the Chair of the COST Action, and associate Professor Ramona Mihaila, the organizer, (see the interview: <http://centralresearchinstitute.weebly.com/evenimente-iccs.html>).

The workshop was organized in seven sessions dedicated only to the members of the Action, two workshops focusing on the *WomenWriters* database, and a keynote presentation. The new thing concerning the workshop was the presence of faculty members and students from the Spiru Haret University among the members of the Action. There were also guests from other foreign universities around Europe. The workshop was opened by Professor Manuela Epure, Vice Rector on Research, Spiru Haret University and Professor Suzan van Dijk. They gave the floor to Ramona Mihaila who tried in her presentation, *(In)Visible European Connecting Channels: Mapping Nineteenth Century Women's Writings*, to find European (in)visible connections by mapping the activities of the 19<sup>th</sup>-century women writers and taking into account: their birthplace, death place, their studies accomplished abroad, their travelling and writing travelogues etc.

On the evening of the first day, all the participants visited the Castle Mogosoia ([http://www.ghidinfoturism.ro/obiective\\_turistice/muntania/judetul\\_ilfov/mogosoia/palatul\\_mogosoia/](http://www.ghidinfoturism.ro/obiective_turistice/muntania/judetul_ilfov/mogosoia/palatul_mogosoia/)) that belonged to Marthe Bibesco, a very important international Romanian-French author. While visiting the museum/castle, Onorina Botezat talked about this fascinating woman's life and writing in a speech entitled *Martha Bibescu: a Muse of Wisdom and a Sculptor of Words*.

The keynote lecture, *The Romanians in Paris. Romanian-born French Women Authors: Dora d'Istria, Anna de Noailles and Marthe Bibesco*, given by Professor Efstratia Oktapoda (Sorbonne University) aimed at offering a French approach to three prominent Romanian writers, Dora d'Istria, Anna de Noailles and Marthe Bibesco, who lived in Paris and wrote in French.

The first session, *Comparing between East and West*, focused on mapping Europe in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by finding connections between writers from Eastern and Western countries of Europe.

The second session, *"Female" Spaces and Places*, allowed the audience to become familiar with customs and traditions of European cities in the travelogues of women writers: such as Venice, Vienna, Prague.

The third session, *International "Female" Influences*, brought into attention four important 19<sup>th</sup>-century European women writers, George Sand, Fanny Seculici, Dragojla Jarnević, and Sofía Casanova and their influence upon transnational connections.

The fourth session, *International Reception Networks*, intended to underline the international dimension of authorship.

The fifth session, *Looking from the Outside*, dealt with the dissemination of Eastern European literature in 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The sixth session, *The Influence of Western Ideas*, offered perspectives on the transferring of 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Western notions to Central and Southern European countries through educational practices, ideas, or concepts of feminism.

The last session, *International Figures (19<sup>th</sup> Century)*, pinpointed the transcending boundaries through the works of four important 19<sup>th</sup>-century women writers: Dagny Juel Przybyszewska, Carmen Sylva, Alexandra Papadopoulou, and Stéphanie de Genlis.

The panel chaired by Astrid Kulsdom (Editorial Board of the database) focused on ways of working in the *WomenWriters* database: demonstration and discussion and handling the large-scale sources, as used (and to be used) in the database.

Gertjan Filarski, developer at Huygens ING, chaired a workshop that tried to find ways to visualize project members' research material into maps and networks. Together with his discussion partners, Henriette Partzsch and Madeleine Jeay, they presented and commented methods to face the further away future: research to be planned, connections to be created, proposals to be/being formulated. In the end, Biljana Dojčinović introduced the participants to the *Knjizenstvo*

project and Database for Serbian Women's Literature.

At the conference there were also about 30 participants affiliated to other institutions from Romania or abroad, who gave (short) presentations covering a span of time starting with the 18<sup>th</sup> century and ending with the 20<sup>th</sup>.

There were two sessions dedicated to presentations delivered by the faculty members and students from the Spiru Haret University. All of the contributors talked about Romanian women writers and their connections with other European countries in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A small number of faculty members from the Center of Multilinguistic and Interdisciplinary Research, Faculty of Letters, Spiru Haret University, talked about the French influence upon Romanian women writers. As it concerns the students, most of them delivered their speeches in pairs.

The workshop *Women's Writing and the East-West Connections within Europe: Visualizing the Channels* had 66 participants from 19 countries around Europe and was preparatory to the conference which will be held in Poznan in November 2012, organized by Magdalena Koch.

The complete programme is still visible in the NEWW-site:

[http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Bucharest%2C April 2012](http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Bucharest%2C%20April%202012).

## Participating by video conference

Chrysoula Anagnostopoulou (Greece), who was unable to come to Bucharest, participated through video conferencing in some of the sessions. She reports about it:

“As far as I was able to watch, the quality of the picture was quite satisfying and the camera view was efficient enough to include the complete panel, the attendees and the presentation screen. The projections on the latter were however not identifiable via the video.

The brief snapshot that I had the time to get showed that the setting of the room, lighting and ambiance were quite vivid indeed, while the speakers appeared at ease during their interactions with the attendees; I also got a

glimpse of Mrs Dalakoura asking questions on Friday noon.

Video conference, as known, proves to be an efficient solution for those who are interested in attending via long distance and in this case enjoyed the opportunity to have some interesting announcements made to them.

It would be advisable for the videos to become and remain available for a given period of time, on our website for further reference.

In any case, it has been a useful experience that could very well extend its reach to other activities as well with Training Schools, Workshops being prime among them.”

## COST Milestone 3 conference

The November International conference *Transcultural, Transnational, Trans-disciplinary Perspectives on Women's Literary History* presenting the 3rd COST-WWIH Milestone will be organized at Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań (Poland) 26-28.11.2012 by [Magdalena Koch](#) and a team of colleagues of Poznan University. This conference, for which the deadline of sending proposals is 15.07.2012, will constitute the 3rd Milestone of the international COST Action IS 0901 “Women Writers In History: Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture”. It is being organized by the Institute of Slavic Studies and the Interdisciplinary Center for Gender and Identity Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The “TRANS” categories are essential ones within the COST Action “Women Writers In History”. They provide in particular a critique of binary oppositions, and take into account the mobility, migration cross-referencing, nomadism, which characterize women's writing – more than that of men. Adopting this “TRANS” perspective may be a step towards a new historiography of women's authorship, allowing approaches other than the chronological, and helping us to understand the complexity of women's contribution to literature – a complexity resulting from the overlapping of, and contradictions between norms and images regarding women's behaviour and actual

women's own desires and activities. This perspective will be adopted in the upcoming COST-WWIH conference. See the call: [http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Conference\\_presenting\\_the\\_3rd\\_Milestone](http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/Conference_presenting_the_3rd_Milestone). Deadline is: 15 July 2012.

## **Collaborating with Turkish colleagues**

During the Bucharest Workshop was announced the final symposium of the "Women Writers in Turkey" project. Two of its researchers are also COST-WWIH members: Senem Timuroglu and Cimen Gunay Erkol. In this symposium it will be interesting to make explicitly the connection with what is being done in COST-WWIH, and to disseminate COST-WWIH findings. Here the announcement and call for papers:

Transnational Perspectives on 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Women's Writing, International Workshop (27-28-29 September 2012) Istanbul-Turkey.

This international workshop takes place within the scope of the project "Women Writers in Turkey" supported by TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (109K517)). In our project in which we seek to explore the history of women's literature in Turkey in an interval spanning from 16th-century Ottoman Empire to 21st-century contemporary Turkey, we aim to establish a trilingual (Turkish, English and French) electronic database that makes biographical and bibliographical information about women writers in Turkey visible and increase both the research potential on their work and also the number of citations that previous critical research gets.

The 19th and 20th centuries witnessed acceleration in the interaction of international women's movements and women's writing. This transnational movement which spread out across borders, opened a door to the disintegration of colonial and orientalist discourse, which contained homogenous and monolithic fictions with strong influence on gender order, and also on solid constructions such as nation, ethnicity, and class.

This international workshop titled "Transnational Perspectives on 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-

century Women's Writing" aims to enliven the dialogue between texts published by women writers of different origins. A comparative look at women's writing will be animated with help from the theory of transnationalism which favors historical and experience-based relations over nationalist, ethnic, and cultural divisions.

Deadline for proposals was 15 June; more information soon.

## **Think-Tank-meetings**

Important for all of us are the discussions as going on within the two subsequent COST-WWIH "Think-Tank-meetings", held last September and July about interconnectivity to be created between the (next version of the) *WomenWriters* database and some online projects directed by Action members. The idea is that this would allow relying not just on manual data entry, but having the benefit of material already available somewhere on the Internet.

Two other Think-Tank-meetings will take place in July and September, in which we will discuss the ways in which the data need to be prepared for the next version of database.

Huygens ING developer Gertjan Filarski is participating actively in these discussions, together with developers of the projects of Amelia Sanz, Jenny Bergenmar, Biljana Dojcinovic, Tatiana Crivelli. In order to put plans into practice, we still need to find the appropriate funding; we will prepare a CLARIN proposal this summer.

## **COST-WWIH presence in conferences**

On 7-8 June, the conference "Serial Thinking: From the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment" took place at Groningen University. Participants included NEWW/COST members Madeleine Jay, who presented a paper on medieval and Renaissance lists of famous authors; and Alicia C. Montoya, who spoke about the tradition of women pedagogues (Fielding, Leprince de Beaumont and Genlis).



20-23 June 2012 was held the annual conference of the [SATOR](#), organized by Hélène Cazes from the University of Victoria (Canada). Theme this year was: “Friendship”. NEWW/COST members Madeleine Jeay, Stéfan Sinclair and Suzan van Dijk [participated](#) – insisting in particular upon the technological ways in which *WomenWriters* and SATOR can contribute to each other’s results.

On 26-29 June 2012 four members of the COST-WWIH Action organized and participated in a COST-WWIH panel session at the 20th SHARP Conference (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing) held in Trinity College, Dublin.

([http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/COST-WWIH\\_session](http://www.womenwriters.nl/index.php/COST-WWIH_session)).

The Chair of COST Action *Women Writers In History*, Suzan van Dijk, chaired the panel “Economic Imperatives for Women’s Writing”, in which COST-WWIH members Marie Nedregotten SØrbØ (Volda University College, Norway), Carme Font Paz (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) and Nina Geerdink (Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands) presented their contributions around the theme of the financial struggles of women’s writing in 17th-century Europe. The three contributions highlighted the common ground informing the economic demands for women within that period and triggered a lively discussion between the panel and the audience. This underlined the importance of the topic in the broader discussion of European Women’s Writing and their readers and made us decide to continue working on the topic.....

## Calls for proposals

..... we would like to make a COST-WWIH book volume presenting cases of 17th- and 18th-century women who tried to [profit financially](#) from their work. We are now looking for contributors.

With the volume, we hope to show to a broader audience how fruitful this approach can be and how much work there has to be done in

this field. In a traditional perspective, money becomes an important factor for authors only from the 19th century onwards. Before the nineteenth century, an idealizing discourse about authorship concealed possibilities and struggles to receive payments for literary work or profit from it in another way. This accounts for both male and female authors, but especially in the history of women’s writing, this theme is neglected for a combination of reasons, among which the focus on canonical female authors and the focus on women writing for their own circle.

For more information or if you are interested in contributing to this volume, please contact Nina Geerdink ([n.geerdink@let.ru.nl](mailto:n.geerdink@let.ru.nl)) or Carme Font Paz ([Carme.Font@uab.cat](mailto:Carme.Font@uab.cat))

In view of a workshop on [schoolbooks in literary history](#) to be organised in the course of 2012-13, preparatory to a collective publication on the subject, we invite colleagues working on 19th-century (and possibly 20th-century) schoolbooks in literature to take contact. Please describe the research you are carrying out, or even your plans for future research.

Please take contact with Ursula Stohler ([ursula\\_stohler@hotmail.com](mailto:ursula_stohler@hotmail.com)) or Suzan van Dijk ([suzan.van.dijk@huygens.knaw.nl](mailto:suzan.van.dijk@huygens.knaw.nl)).

## Upcoming conferences

In the Digital Humanities Conference to be held in Hamburg 18-20 July 2012, the COST-WWIH Action will be present by a [Poster](#): “Data Sharing, Virtual Collaboration, and Textual Analysis: Working on *Women Writers In History*”. It has been put together by Amelia Sanz, Hilde Hoogenboom, Jenny Bergenmar, Gertjan Filarski and Suzan van Dijk.

Finally in the Frankoromanistentag 2012 (19-22 September, Leipzig) COST-WWIH will again be represented, in the session entitled: *Révolution des médias, évolution des études de lettres?*, by [Action members](#) Annette Keilhauer and Suzan van Dijk.

## 4th COST–WWIH Training School

The Fourth COST – WWIH Training School was a great enriching experience. It happened last May in the *Huygens Institute for Dutch History*, in The Hague, Netherland, where we were all very well received. We were ten trainees and five trainers from several countries: Netherland, Portugal, France, United Kingdom, Ireland, Greece, Serbia, Switzerland, and Slovenia.

During five stimulating days, we have learned how to create records on the database so that the database itself could be increased. But it wasn't only the development of the database which was important. The Training School allowed the dialogue between different persons who work on these materials, so that we could discuss the problems that each one of us have on our own researches.

In my particular case, I used a large-scale source, the *Diccionario Bibliographico Portuguez*, written by Francisco Inocêncio da Silva in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued by Brito Aranha, since the death of Inocêncio da Silva. It's one of the most important Portuguese sources about literary authors, with biographic and bibliographic information on Portuguese male and female writers. From its 23 volumes, I have chosen Portuguese women writers born after 1801 and before 1900 - they were about 90, but in those five days of the training school, I only had time to insert a few more than 30.

I had two kinds of problems in this process. One, related to the source itself. Although being an overriding source, it hasn't the most complete information on biographic or bibliographic data. For example, in some cases it has no birth date of an author or no publication dates of the works. Or, in the case of some translations, sometimes it doesn't make references to the original author. And this question is related with the other problem, which is how to interact with the database. I had to be very aware not only to not duplicate any data but also to identify if it is a work or a reception because in some cases, due to the used source material, it can be difficult to understand it clearly.

The great benefit of this meeting was undoubtedly the contact with other experts in these subjects, especially if they study literature

of other countries, so that we could clarify doubts about works and receptions or even about the languages itself, because we are not only dealing with national cases, but a transnational literature – there's no frontiers to knowledge.

I'm very thankful for this opportunity to learn more about European women writers in history and to cooperate in this project, which is very rewarding. A last word to the organization and teamwork which were irreproachable. (Pedro Urbano)

## Members' activities

Carolina Blutrach Jelín organized a panel at the European Social Science History Conference (ESSHC, Glasgow, 11-14 April) and also presented a paper there. The panel was entitled: "Noblewomen Between Public and Private Affairs in Early Modern Europe. Informal Power and (In)visibility".

Title of her paper was: "Making the Informal Visible: Early Modern Noblewomen and Memory in Castile".

On 23rd of May Lucyna Marzec defended her dissertation *The Genres of Jadwiga Żylińska's Historical Writings* at the Faculty of Polish and Classical Philology, Institute of Polish Philology, Poland. The aim of the PhD dissertation is a re-reading, a modern interpretation and a new placement of the historical prose of Jadwiga Żylińska (1910-2009) on the background of the literary tradition, from the perspective of the historical consciousness of both: the People's Republic of Poland (PRP) and the contemporary times. She shows that the reconsideration of Jadwiga Żylińska's work in the context of the history of the Polish novel modifies the previous understanding of the genre and helps to significantly improve the periodization of the Polish feminist thought that has been established since the 1990s.

On May 26 Juliana Jovicic participated in a public round table of a conference entitled *From another perspective: Women in Germany and*

*Serbia*, organized by the Belgrade Goethe Society in the library of the Cultural center of the „Student city“ in Belgrade, Serbia. Within this event she first gave a public lecture entitled *Women from the shadow: Talvj and Mina Karadzic*. Afterwards, she entered the discussion with other lecturers from Serbian Universities (Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac) and the audience and presented the COST-WWIH Action. It was concluded, that this should be the first scientific conference dealing with women issues from different multi-disciplinary perspectives and through different centuries in Serbia. Follow-up conferences are planned in the future.

Marta Součková from the University of Prešov gave a lecture on 12 June 2012 at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague. The title of the lecture was: “About the Axiology of the Post November Slovak literature” (K axiológii slovenskej ponovembrovej literatury). The lecture was organised by the Literary Science Circle in Prague.

Maarit Leskelä-Karki participated in a conference hosted by the Oxford Centre for Life-Writing and organised by the [European Network on the Theory and Practice of Biography](#), on 20-21 April 2012. The conference theme was 'Life-Writing in Europe: Private Lives, Public Spheres and Biographical Interpretations.' The title of Maarit's intervention was: “Figures from the Shadow: On the Tradition of Women's Biographical Writing in Finland”.

In the same conference Mónica Burguera spoke about: “Performing Middle-Class Womanhood in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Spain: The Memoirs of Juana de Vega, countess of Espoz y Mina”, in a session chaired by Mónica Bolufer.

Séverine Genieys-Kirk has been invited to give a plenary talk in Japan “Les dessous exquis de la littérature dite précieuse: érotisme voilé dans l'œuvre scudérienne”. This took place at Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, where she

was invited by Professor Nobuko Akiyama: July, 6th 2012.

## Member profiles

Francesca Scott is currently tutor of the Romantic Period Novel, Romantic and Victorian Poetry, Academic Writing and Communicating Science at the University of Warwick. She finished her PhD in September 2011, under the direction of Prof. Jacqueline Labbe, and her thesis was on “The Fuzzy Theory and Women Writers in the Late Eighteenth Century”. She is co-editor of two forthcoming essay collections, *Picturing Women's Health in the Long 19th Century* and *Awkward Austen*. Her research interests are in the history of women's health, especially the history of childbirth, female sexuality, female life writing and biography, and religious instruction in the long eighteenth century.

Janouk de Groot is a Master student of Romance Languages and Cultures at the University of Groningen (The Netherlands). She specialized in modern French literature, focusing in particular on 19th century and francophone literature. Her Master thesis concentrated on the element of cultural change in two novels of Guadeloupian woman writer Maryse Condé. She is currently involved in the COST-WWIH Action as a trainee at Huygens ING, where she is working on the organisation of the large-scale sources concerning reception and data (to be) entered into the *WomenWriters* database.

## Recent articles by NEWW members

Madeleine van Strien-Chardonneau, "Louise Colet (1810-1876), Promenade en Hollande (1859): voyage et histoire", *Genre & Histoire* [on line], no 9, Fall 2011, on line since 9 June 2012, consulted 13 June 2012, URL: <http://genrehistoire.revues.org/index1428.html>

## Questions to NEWW members (bis)

We wondered (*and still wonder*) if you are aware of the existence of societies and/or writers' houses or museums dedicated to one or (perhaps) several women authors in your respective countries?

Houses/museums like *Chawton House* (Jane Austen), the *Maison de George Sand* in Nohant, the house of Marthe Bibesco in Bucharest, the *Museum Betje Wolff* in Midden-Beemster (NL), the *Fronteira Palace* in Lisbon (where lived the Marquesa d'Alorna) ?

Societies like the *Friends of George Sand*, *Jane Austen Society*, *Genootschap Belle van Zuylen*, *Association Suisse Isabelle de Charrière*, *Stichting Babicka Nederland* (about Czech author Bozena Nemcova) ?

In some cases, directors of the museums/houses might be willing to contribute *to disseminating activities we will need to carry out*. Members of the societies might be interested *not only* in hearing about the outcomes of our research, but also in being engaged in crowdsourcing activities related to our project. It might be important to mention this in proposals for research funding.

Information about this can be sent to Henriette Partzsch (WG 4): [hamp2@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:hamp2@st-andrews.ac.uk).

## The NEWWletters on-line

The online versions of the NEWWletters are available at [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl) (click: NEWWletters). Here hyperlinks direct to the programmes, further information on the researchers, etc.

## Contacts

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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](mailto:owner-neww-eu@lists.soton.ac.uk)

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