

NEWW newsletter

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July 2007

NEWW conference, Geneva



In May, NEWW members met at the University of Geneva preceding and during the conference “Women Writers at the Crossroads of Languages”. From left to right: Agnese Fidecaro (conference co-organizer), Anke Gilleir (plenary speaker, NEWW executive committee), Gillian Dow (next year’s NEWW conference co-organizer), Suzan van Dijk and Valérie Cossy (conference co-organizer).

NEWW project news

In May, the first of the three NEWW conferences scheduled for the project’s current phase (2007-2010), took place in Geneva. Entitled *Women Writers at the Crossroads of Languages 1700-2000*, it was organized by Agnese Fidecaro (University of Geneva) and Valérie Cossy (University of Lausanne). Plenary lectures were delivered by Sherry Simon (Université Concordia Montréal, “Circulation, interférence, trafic: médiatrices de Germaine de Staël à Gayatri Spivak”), Anke Gilleir (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, “The Case of Elise Krinitz / Camille Selden and Beyond”) and

Irène Kacandés (Dartmouth College, “Displacement, Language, Identity”). The bilingual (French-English) conference proceedings will be published in 2008 by MétisPresses in Geneva, and will be edited by Valérie Cossy (University of Lausanne), Henriette Partzsch (University of Geneva) and Suzan van Dijk (University of Utrecht).

The executive committee (Suzan van Dijk, Anke Gilleir and Alicia C. Montoya) met in April and again in June. In April, we asked for a small grant to organize an ESF exploratory workshop, in order to prepare our larger proposal for a European-wide collaboration, which we would like to submit during the course of 2008.

We will hear in mid-November whether we will obtain funding for our meeting.

The NEWW flyers are now ready and were distributed during the Geneva conference. Should you wish to receive additional copies to give to colleagues, please contact Suzan van Dijk. A PDF-version is also available on the NEWW site: <https://www.surfgroepen.nl/sites/NEWW-CMG> (Shared documents).

Upcoming meetings and events

July 10, Montpellier. At the 12th quadrennial Congress of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Suzan van Dijk is organizing a round table, on the subject: “L’importance d’Internet pour la reconstitution d’une histoire au féminin”. Participants will be: Susan Dalton, Ursula Stohler, Nicole Pellegrin, Marie-Pierre Legrand. Other NEWW-members present in Montpellier: Teresa Almeida, Gillian Dow, Zeina Hakim, Ileana Mihaila, Lieselotte Steinbrugge, and possibly others we overlooked in the voluminous program.

August 8-12, Sofia, Bulgaria. “Women, Gender and the Cultural Production of Knowledge”, Conference of the International Federation for Research in Women’s History. Séverine Genieys-Kirk (University of Edinburgh) will present a paper.

October 13, Bremen. The network FrideL, Frauen in der Literaturwissenschaft, is organizing a workshop on the historiography of women’s literature. Suzan van Dijk will present the NEWW project there, and other speakers will present similar initiatives. For details, see <http://www.fridelev.de/>.

September 21, The Hague. We will mark the closure of the present digitizing project (2004-2007), which concentrated on the reception of women’s writings in the Netherlands, with a workshop open to all. In the workshop, a number of colleagues will tell about their experiences with the project, and we will discuss the relevance of this way of creating inventories, in particular in view of having students working on

the material. Before the conference, on September 20, there will be an opportunity for invited colleagues, as well as any interested NEWW members, to discuss the use of the database in a more closed setting. NEWW members are invited to join the meeting. For more details and a full (although still provisional) programme, see on the NEWW site: <https://www.surfgroepen.nl/sites/NEWW-CMG> (Shared documents).

November 22, Utrecht. NEWW will organize the first of its yearly “November meetings”, in collaboration with the Huizinga Institute / Interuniversity Dutch Doctoral School in Cultural History. NEWW members are invited to join the meeting. For more details and programme, see on the NEWW site: <https://www.surfgroepen.nl/sites/NEWW-CMG> (Shared documents).

December 6-7, Groningen. Workshop of the “Peripheral autonomy-project” funded by NWO (Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research): *The Development of Literary Fields and the Influence of Foreign Literature from the late 19th Century until 1950* (300 word abstracts to be submitted before September 15 to the organizers, Petra Broomans, Marta Ronne and Daan Vandenhaute, conference site: www.rug.nl/grssh/peripheralautonomy.)

CALLS FOR PARTICIPATION. We would like to be present with NEWW delegations, consisting of a panel of 3-5 members, at some of the following conferences. If you wish to participate in one of them, please contact Suzan van Dijk.

- November 8-9, 2007, Düsseldorf, *Übersetzen im Vormärz*, on translations from/to German, 18th-19th century (proposal deadline: July 31, for call for papers, see: <http://www.duesseldorf.de/heineinstitut>)
- December 6-9, 2007, Vienna, KCTOS, section “European Identities, European Realities” (proposal deadline: August 31, for call for papers, see:

http://www.inst.at/kctos/sektionen_n-s/parry.htm)

- January 17-19, 2008, Amsterdam, *Free access to history*, on public representations of the past, 18th-19th centuries (proposal deadline passed, but participation as part of a NEWW delegation still possible, call for papers: <http://cf.hum.uva.nl/~huizinga/nieuws/FreeAccess.htm>)
- March 27-30, 2008, Portland (Oregon), ASECS (American Association for Eighteenth Century Studies). NEWW will be organizing a roundtable, "Toward a transnational and relational history of women's writing" (proposal deadline: September 1, for call for papers, see: <http://asecs.press.jhu.edu/2008CFP.htm>)
- May 9-11, 2008, Leeds. Women in French conference. The full call for papers is listed below, under "Other announcements".
- July 8-10, 2008, Aberdeen. *The novel and its borders*, on novels crossing borders, 18th-21st centuries (proposal deadline: 31 December, call for papers : <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/novelconference/>)
- July 21-23, 2008, London. *Evidence of reading, reading the evidence*, on the history of reading, 15th-20th centuries (proposal deadline: 31 January, 2008, for the full call for papers, see: <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/2008/RED/index.htm>)

Database news

The database *WomenWriters* at present (July 2007) contains 17,060 notices concerning the reception of women's literary works before 1900; of these, 12,518 concern the Dutch reception. The database in its present form can be consulted at: www.databasewomenwriters.nl.

On the companion website, *Women Writers' Networks* (www.womenwriters.nl), it is now possible to access some classifications and preliminary results (see "Dutch sources"). Shortly, comments on (types of) sources selected will also be made available here. We will be

asking NEWW members to draw up lists of (types of) sources to be selected when proceeding to inventories of reception in their country or field of specialty. These will be used in our upcoming research plan, for which we will need estimates of the volume of data required.

Teaching

At the University of Freiburg, Rotraud von Kulesa is teaching an MA course on 18th-century women translators in France.

For next year at Southampton University, Gillian Dow is planning an MA Unit that will focus on the reception of European women writers in Britain in the Romantic period.

Conferences and papers presented

In May, at the annual conference of the NASSCFL (North American Society for Seventeenth-Century French Literature), hosted by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Alicia Montoya presented a paper on the 1735 library catalogue of Maria Leti Le Clerc. She also participated in a round table session devoted to the poetry of Antoinette Deshoulières (1637-1694), currently being edited by Sophie Tonolo for the STFM (Société de textes français modernes).

In May, in Vadstena (Sweden), Suzan van Dijk presented a paper on "National differences in the perception of early women authors" at a conference entitled *Literature for Europe: European identities and European literature in a globalizing world*, organized by ESF (the European Science Foundation).

In June, at the American University of Paris, Suzan van Dijk presented the NEWW project at the fourth annual *Rencontres de la SIEFAR* study day, whose theme this year was "Projets collectifs et réseaux de recherche sur les femmes de l'Ancien Régime". Together with Séverine Genieys-Kirk (University of Edinburgh), she

demonstrated the usefulness of online collaboration by discussing the case of the influence of Joseph de La Porte on Anne Thicnesse both historiographers of French women writers.

Member profiles

In each newsletter, we would like a number of NEWW members to briefly present themselves and their research. Please send your brief profile (300 words maximum) for inclusion in one of the following newsletters to: A.C.Montoya@rug.nl.

Valérie Cossy is assistant professor of gender studies in the departments of French and English literature at the University of Lausanne. She is the author of *Jane Austen in Switzerland, A Study of the Early French Translations* (Geneva: Slatkine, 2006). She has published a number of articles on the issues of translation and cultural transfer in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, working on authors such as Rousseau, Richardson, Prévost, Isabelle de Charrière, William Godwin, Frances Burney, Maria Edgeworth or Germaine de Staël. Her research and teaching on gender rely on a comparative perspective and her current research is devoted to the Swiss contemporaries of Virginia Woolf. She belongs to the *Comité de rédaction* of *Nouvelles Questions Féministes* and to the editorial board of *the Belle de Zuylen Papers/ Cahiers Isabelle de Charrière*.

Gillian Dow was appointed to English at the University of Southampton as Chawton Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in 2005, and is partly based at Chawton House Library, an independent research library in Hampshire with a unique collection of works written by women, 1600-1830. Her research focuses on English and French women's writing in the period 1780-1830, with a particular emphasis on educational writings, literature for children and translations. Her edition of the late eighteenth-century translation of Stéphanie-Félicité de Genlis's 1782 *Adèle et Théodore* is published as *Adelaide and Theodore* (London: Pickering and Chatto, 2007)

and she is editing a collection of essays resulting from the conference held at Chawton House Library in 2006, entitled *Translators, Interpreters, Mediators: Women Writers 1700-1900* to be published by Peter Lang in late 2007. Along with Katherine Astbury (University of Warwick) and Hilary Brown (University of Wales, Swansea), she is currently co-organising the second of the NEWW conferences, to be held at Chawton in May 2008, "Readers, writers, salonnières: Female networks in Europe before 1900". This conference will investigate the extent to which women writers from different countries were aware of each other and each other's work. The call for papers will be issued shortly.

Aurore Evain is completing her dissertation on women dramatists in France, from the Renaissance to the French Revolution, at the Institut d'Études Théâtrales de la Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III). Her research focuses on women and theatre during the Ancien Régime and on the question of gender in performance history. After having published a book on the first professional actresses in Europe (*L'apparition des actrices professionnelles en Europe*, Paris, L'Harmattan, 2001), she is now editing, together with Perry Gethner and Henriette Goldwyn, a five-volume anthology of plays by women dramatists during the Ancien Régime. As adjunct secretary of the SIEFAR (Société Internationale pour l'Études des Femmes de l'Ancien Régime) since 2003, she was also responsible for three years for the section on performance arts in the *Dictionnaire des femmes de l'ancienne France*, which can be consulted on line at the association's website (www.siefar.org).

Ileana Mihaila is a lecturer at the French department at the University of Bucarest. She wrote her doctoral dissertation in comparative literature, on the relations between magic and the arts during the 16th-18th centuries. She is a researcher at the Institute for history and literary theory at the Rumanian Academy, where she has worked for twenty years (together with Ana-Maria Brezuleanu, Viorica Niscov, Michaela Schiopu and Cornelia Stefanescu) on the

Bibliographie des relations de la littérature roumaine avec les littératures étrangères (1919-1944), 8 volumes already published (1997-2006), volumes 9 and 10 in press, a fundamental work for studying the reception of foreign authors, male and female, in Rumanian culture. She has herself drawn on data provided by this publication in her work on the reception of George Sand (published in *G. Sand lue à l'étranger*, ed. S. van Dijk, 1995). She has published extensively on George Sand, and has also written entries on a number of women authors and critics for the *Dictionnaire général de la littérature roumaine* (vols. I-V, Bucarest, 2004-2006, vols. VI-VII in press) and for the *Dictionnaire des écrivains français* (Iassy, in press).

In 1998, Ton van Kalmthout obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Amsterdam for his dissertation entitled *Muzentempels, Multidisciplinaire kunstkringen in Nederland tussen 1880 en 1914 (Temples of the Muses. Multi-disciplinary art clubs in the Netherlands from 1880 to 1914)*. In 2005, he was appointed senior researcher at the Huygens Institute in The Hague. His main field of interest is the genesis and development of the literary repertoire. Ton van Kalmthout has been an editor of the cultural history journal *De Negentiende Eeuw (The Nineteenth Century)* since 1992, and the *Tijdschrift voor Nederlandse Taal- en Letterkunde (Journal of Dutch Language and Literature)* since 2006.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Broomans, Petra, "Women Translators and Intermediaries and the Image of Ibsen in Europe around 1900", in Randi Langen Moen (ed.), *Emigrant Literature and Emigrated Authors. The Nordic Countries in a World Perspective*. Volume II, Rimini, Panozzo Editore, 2007.

Mihaila, Ileana, "L'héritage musical du XVIIIe siècle dans *Consuelo*", in *George Sand et les arts, Actes du colloque organisé au Château d'Ars (septembre 2006)*, ed. M. Caors,

Clermond-Ferrand, Presses Universitaires Blaise Pascal, 2006, pp. 153-164.

Van Kalmthout, Ton, "The Most Universal, Beautiful and Enthralling, The Teaching of Comparative Literature in the Netherlands, ca. 1880-1940", in T.J. Broos et al. (eds.), *The Low Countries - Crossroads of Cultures*, Münster: Nodus Publikationen, 2006, pp. 217-229.

Edited volumes by NEWW members

Evain, Aurore (ed., with P. Gethner and H. Goldwyn), *Théâtre de femmes de l'Ancien Régime*. Vol. 1. *XVIIe siècle*, Saint-Étienne, Publications de l'Université, 2006.

Other announcements

CALL FOR ARTICLES: *Women in French Studies*, the refereed journal of Women in French (WIF), seeks submissions from scholars. This international journal publishes articles in both English and French on any aspect of women in French-speaking literature or cultures. Scholars, men and women, who work in these areas, may submit articles (3 anonymous copies) for consideration to Catherine R. Montfort, WIFS Studies Executive Director, Dept. Modern Languages and Literatures, Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA 95053, USA [cmontfort@scu.edu]. WIF Website <http://www.ipfw.edu/ilcs/WIF>.

CALL FOR PAPERS: 10th Biennial *Women in French* Conference, Hinsley Hall, Leeds, 9-11 May 2008, conference theme: "Le parcours/Trajectories". The aim of this conference will be to examine French and Francophone women's trajectories – the courses or paths they choose and take. The notion of 'trajectory' implies deliberate movement from one 'place' to another. What is the point of departure, and how is the goal or destination defined or imagined? How are women's trajectories defined by their environment, their geographical situation or their historical moment? How do women represent their trajectories in literature or culture? How

free are women to choose, define and change their own trajectories? How are their trajectories received or represented by others? What are the relationships between such 'journeys' and female identity? Topics for panels could include: travel writing; autobiography and autobiographical fictions; ageing – the *parcours* of a life; education; novels of apprenticeship; changes of direction, turning points; ambition; political commitments; trajectories of social policy and their effects on women; trajectories of feminism; trajectories of women and ethnicity ; reception and recognition of women's cultural production; French women's political development. Short proposals in English or French (c. 500 words) should be submitted to Angela Kimyongür (a.m.kimyongur@hull.ac.uk) and Angela Kershaw (a.m.kershaw@aston.ac.uk) by 1 September 2007. The organisers hope to publish selected papers. Papers for the conference may be in English or French, however any publication resulting from the conference will be in English.

CALL FOR ARTICLES : Susan Carlile (English Department, California State University, Long Beach) announces that she is seeking a few additional essays in an edited collection, entitled *British Women Novelists of the 1750s*, forthcoming from Lehigh University Press. Essays should be between 4,000-6,000 words and in MLA style. Submission deadline September 30, 2007. Contact scarlile@csulb.edu.

CALL FOR ARTICLES : We invite essays on "Global Jane Austen" for a special edition of *Persuasions On-Line*. Austen, who never traveled outside England, has nonetheless wielded enormous literary and cultural influence across the globe. Austen societies can be found on at least five continents, and her novels have been the inspiration for films set in India as well as California. In addition, novelists in many languages have attempted to translate or transpose aspects of her plots, themes, and techniques into entirely different settings. What is the secret of her global appeal? What are the limits of translation across cultures? We invite 2,000-2,500-word essays on any aspect of Austen's international influence, including the

translation of her novels across culture, medium, and genre. Send 200-word abstracts to Inger Sigrun Brodey (brodey@email.unc.edu) or Susan Allen Ford (sford@deltastate.edu) by July 15, 2007. Completed essays will be due September 1, 2007.

CALL FOR ARTICLES. *Beautiful Objects: Women Writers and the Artifacts of Celebrity*.

The editors seek essays for a proposed collection on women's commodification and celebrity prior to WWII. We have already had preliminary conversations with a publisher who has expressed interest in the volume. What does it mean to be a woman celebrity? What happens when a woman achieves both literary and personal fame? In what ways does a woman writer become commodified, and how are those commodities publicized and marketed? Are women writers commodified differently than men of the same period? Topics include, but are not limited to, the following: portraiture (or other ways by which a woman writer's image is circulated); collectable objects: ceramics; display pieces; fairing boxes; plates; clocks, etc.; ephemera, including collections of ephemera in albums (greeting cards; playing cards; cigarette and other collectable cards; calendars, etc.); books (books by others that play upon the fame of the author: memoirs, collections of correspondence, etc; books by the authors themselves marketed or reinvented so as to capitalize on celebrity; exhibition, auction, or sale catalogs); attributions and pseudo-authorship; published gossip; association or presentation copies of the author's work; locations and events (writer's birthplaces; tombs; funerals; anniversaries; performances); associations and naming (clubs or reading groups named after famous woman writer; objects named after famous writers: horses, ships); musical settings, songbooks, etc.

The editors invite papers from a range of theoretical frameworks or approaches, including but not limited to material or popular culture, visual or print culture, etc. 500-word abstracts (or full papers) due by September 1, 2007 to both editors: Maura Ives (m-ives@tamu.edu), and Ann R. Hawkins (ann.hawkins@ttu.edu). Please

send attachments as .doc or .rtf files, or paste the abstract into the body of an email.

Other publications of interest

Loster-Schneider, Gudrun and Pailer, Gaby
Lexikon deutschsprachiger Epik und Dramatik von Autorinnen (1730-1900), Tübingen, Francke Verlag, 2006, is now available online:
<http://www.werklexikonautorinnen.de/>

Stedman, Gesa and Zimmermann, Margarete (eds.), *Höfe — Salons — Akademien. Kulturtransfer und Gender im Europa der Frühen Neuzeit*, Hildesheim, Georg Olms, 2007.

Contacts

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

Project websites: <http://www.womenwriters.nl>
(general website, currently under reconstruction),
<http://www.databasewomenwriters.nl> (database),
<https://www.surfgroepen.nl/sites/NEWW-CMG>
(internal project website, accessible only with a password)
<https://www.surfgroepen.nl/sites/Econf>
(discussion site: eventually try to participate)

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