

# NEWW newsletter

4.4

October 2010



Pictured above: participants of the International Symposium “Women’s Authorship and Literatures of Small Countries in the 19th Century” organized by Katja Mihurko on 22 and 23 September in Ljubljana Town Hall. The only male person in this picture is mayor of Ljubljana, Zoran Jankovic, who invited us to a short but warm welcome reception in his premises, telling us that Ljubljana is the cleanest, nicest and safest place in the world. We all very much agree with this and spent a wonderful time in beautiful and romantic heart of Ljubljana.

## NEWW project news

Much of the NEWW activities presented below could be realized thanks to the COST Action...

### COST: Milestone 1

With fast steps, we are approaching *Women Telling Nations* NEWW International Seminar and our COST Milestone conference on 11-13<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Madrid. The program is set, the flights and hotel rooms are hopefully booked. We are looking all very confident towards this conference, because a lot of work has been done during the last month and now we can present the outcomes for the first Milestone. See the [program](#).

## Ljubljana World Book Capital

The [International Symposium](#) “Women’s Authorship and Literatures of Small Countries in the 19th Century” was organized by Katja Mihurko on 22 and 23 September in Ljubljana Town Hall. As you already could see and read below the picture, the atmosphere was wonderful and the contributions were of high interest for all of us. Here some comments from participants:

### Viola Capkova, Finland

This colloquium was a wonderful opportunity to get together specialists on the issue and ponder over the questions of “smallness” of countries and literatures within the gender framework. It was fascinating to learn about so many important women authors from different places, to see the different patterns of influence and confluence, women writers’ respective places in the national canons, as well as their place in the respective feminist canons and the approaches feminist

literary scholarship adopted in various European countries. All that felt very inspiring within the context of the COST Action “Women Writers In History”. Thanks go to Katja Mihurko and all her collaborators for the excellent organization of the event.

#### Suzana Coha, Croatia

For me Ljubljana’s symposium “Women’s authorship in the Literatures of Small Countries in the 19-th Century” was unique for several reasons. Thanks to the impressive organization and interesting lectures, we had excellent and very stimulating working atmosphere. There were lectures about some icons of women’s literature and feminist criticism, but also about women writers who, in their domestic masculine cultures which were at the beginnings of their modern national identifications, were marginalized in double way – as participants of their “small” nations and as representatives of the “fair” (but not literary) sex. In my opinion, the project of the comparative and gender (or feminist) research of the international production, distribution and reception of women’s literature can bring many interesting results and throw completely new light on specific national literatures, their relations and on world literature in general.

#### Juliana Jovicic, Serbia

For me, this symposium offered the chance to hear so many interesting things about women writers from small countries, we usually don’t know much about, both from north and south Europe, and learning about women like L. Onerva or Sofia Casanova. I was really impressed to see Europe’s 19<sup>th</sup> century through the eyes and thoughts of these women who were marginalized not only as women, but also as women from small countries and literatures. I am pleased that a symposium with this subject was organized within our project because it gives space to women from non privileged and non dominant cultures from all parts of Europe.

### **4<sup>th</sup> NEWW November meeting**

Traditionally, the fourth [NEWW November Meeting](#) was planned in autumn, although not for November, but for 3 December 2010 in The

Hague. However, the theme – *Narration, gender, irony* – did not attract, apparently, the PhD-students for whom these meetings are primarily organized. We decided to cancel the meeting in the form as announced.

The subject as such remains very much relevant for our research. For this reason, the colleagues who had been invited as speakers, Madeleine Jeay (McMaster University Hamilton, Canada) and Daniel Maher (University of Calgary, Canada), who will be in Europe anyway, will come to The Hague in order to discuss the possibility of carrying out a collective research on this subject. In Ljubljana, for instance, there were also several colleagues researching women authors who made use of irony for their female narrators. See the [presentation](#) of this collective research.

### **Database news**

The first COST Action IS0901 “Women Writers In History” Training School was organized from 11-16 October 2010 in The Hague, Netherlands. Participants from all over Europe gathered together to learn and share their experience from different research fields and with different sources to work on: Juan Gomis, Spain; Ursula Stohler, Switzerland/Czechia; Hendrik Schlieper, Germany; Magdalena Koch, Poland; Viola Capkova, Finland; Jasmine Westerlund, Finland; Marie Sorbo, Norway; Anne Birgitte Ronning, Norway; Juliana Jovicic, Serbia; Elisa Müller-Adams, Germany; Kerstin Wiedemann, France; Jelena Milinkovic, Serbia; Hege Hosoiien, Norway. As “Trainees”, they were “trained” by Astrid Kulsdom, Wolfgang Kaltenbrunner, Joris van Zundert, Ton van Kalmthout, Suzan van Dijk, Netherlands. Here are some comments from the participants:

#### Ursula Stohler, Switzerland/Czechia

I very much enjoyed this Training School. I now feel confident to use the database, it really isn’t that difficult, and I keep entering records regularly. I also very much enjoyed talking and discussing my research with the other participants, hearing what kind of research they are busy with, how they go about it and so on. Furthermore, it was good to meet participants

from various countries with various approaches to women's writing, East and West, North and South. Thank you very much for organizing this training school.

Marie N. Sørbo, Norway

It was very useful to have this Training School in the first year of the Cost Action, for at least three reasons. It served to make all participants familiar with the functions of the database; it gave us a long-awaited opportunity to enter our own research results into it, and it gave us a chance to discuss amendments of the database. Personally, I managed to get through large parts of my assembled list of Norwegian 19<sup>th</sup>-century translations of British women writers, plus enter some Norwegian authors as well. But there is also a fourth reason I found the Training School worthwhile: it is nice to meet other COST-researchers and work together for some days, sharing our common interest in female writing across periods and countries.

Juan Gomis, Spain

The Training School in The Hague was very useful for me in several ways. First, I managed to familiarize with the database, learning how to introduce the information (both the IT procedure and the format of the texts). Next, we discussed different issues concerning the using of the tool (data introduced, sources, languages, research). Finally, I talked with other colleagues about their respective areas of study and sources used, improving my knowledge about the whole project. So, the experience was really good and profitable (although I just stayed in The Hague for 3 days) and I recommend it highly to other colleagues.

Viola Capkova, Finland

The Training School in The Hague gave its participants a precious opportunity to familiarize truly with the *WomenWriters* database and, while entering the material connected to one's own research as well as to the COST Action activities (e.g. the WG1 miniprojects), to reflect on the way the database is conceived and functions. It was excellent to have help at hand, and to have the possibility to ask about any kind of difficulties one might encounter during entering the material. Also the presentations by the Trainers were very helpful and illustrative, putting our work in the *WomenWriters* database

in the wider context of working with databases and within digital humanities in general. The vivid discussions during the Training School helped to define issues (both of technical, practical, and of more theoretical character) on which the Action should concentrate further on. Many thanks to Suzan, her assistant Astrid and all the organizers!

Juliana Jovicic, Serbia

In the Training School in The Hague I got answers to many of my questions concerning entering of data and using and purpose of the database. It was much easier and faster to learn having experienced experts by my side, whom I could ask at spot about difficulties I had. I would like to thank Suzan and her assistant Astrid very much for their kind support. Now, it is much easier and faster for me to handle the database. Concerning Talvj's bio-bibliographical compilation, I now can concentrate on the essential information for me and my work, not loosing time in adding data that are not of immediate interest for my own research. This will help me concerning the second bio-bibliographical compilation from Heinrich Gross *German poetesses and writers* (Vienna, 1882), I am working on. Concerning my field of research about migrant, minority and diaspora women writers, translators and intercultural mediators, it is now easier for me to access data about these women from different European countries and to use the database for my research questions. Now I am confident that I can pass over my knowledge to other young researchers who want to collaborate.

## **NEWW website**

For a few months, the NEWW site has displayed a new feature: a page entitled "[Quoting 'our' authors](#)". As the authors we are studying *themselves* commented on 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 suggestions – to Juliana, Zsuzsanna or Suzan. (If in other languages than English, please add a translation).

Check also information about your own research on the [Participants page](#)!

## Conferences

“German Women’s Writing in its European Context, 1700–1900”: International conference at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies, University of London, Thursday 25 – Friday 26 November 2010. Keynote speakers: [Norbert Bachleitner](#) (Vienna), Magdalene Heuser (Osnabrück/Berlin), Susanne Kord (London).

How European was German women’s writing of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries? What opportunities did women writers have to participate in cross-cultural interchange? How did they react to developments outside their own borders in their writing? This conference aims to open up new perspectives on German women’s writing of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by exploring how it engages with the cosmopolitanism which was so characteristic of much of this era. The speakers (a.o. NEWW members Elisa Müller-Adams and Kerstin Wiedemann) will shed new light on writers such as Sophie von La Roche, Charlotte von Stein, Annette von Droste-Hülshoff, Dorothea Tieck, Ida Hahn-Hahn and Marie von Ebner-Eschenbach. Between them they will uncover hitherto neglected aspects of European cultural mediation.

Convenors: Dr Caroline Bland (Sheffield) and Dr Hilary Brown (Swansea). To register or for more information, please contact Jane Lewin ([Jane.Lewin@sas.ac.uk](mailto:Jane.Lewin@sas.ac.uk)) or see <http://w01.igrscms.wf.ulcc.ac.uk/index.php?id=495>.

## Members’ activities

[Henriette Partzsch](#), [Rotraud von Kulesa](#) and [Ursula Jung](#) participated in the conference *Strategien von Autorschaft in der Romania*, organized by Claudia Gronemann and Tanja Schwann at Mannheim University, 24-26 Juni 2010. They noted that their NEWW/COST contributions led to similar questions and

illuminated each other mutually, and not only because they discussed similar periods. However, the usual gap between different approaches was noticeable to some extent, which can lead to an accumulation of case studies without the possibility of relating them to a bigger picture.

[Vanda Anastácio](#) gave a lecture at the cycle of lectures on *La peinture des passions de la Renaissance aux Lumières* at the Université Paul Valéry, Montpellier, on the 18th of March 2010 with the title « Passion de l’esprit et maladie du corps féminin: lecture et hystérie dans la correspondance de la Marquise d’Alorna (1750-1839)».

She also participated in *The Author-Translator in the European Literary Tradition Conference*, which took place at the University of Swansea between the 28<sup>th</sup> of June and the 1st of July 2010 with the paper: «Authorship and Self-Legitimacy in the Translation of the Psalter by the Marquise of Alorna (1750-1839)».

[Inês de Ornellas e Castro](#) participated in *The Author-Translator in the European Literary Tradition Conference*, which took place at the University of Swansea between the 28<sup>th</sup> of June and the 1st of July 2010 with the paper: «Translating Latin: a Strategy to Become an Author among Female Writers in Portugal (1500-1800)» see the program at [www.author-translator.net](http://www.author-translator.net)

[Zsuzsanna Varga](#) participated at the conference of the International Comparative Literature Association in Seoul, Korea, August 15-21, 2010 with a paper on the work of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20th century Hungarian women writers,

## Member profiles

[Kukku Melkas](#), post-doctoral researcher, specializing in Finnish literature, 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century, Feminist and Cultural Studies.

Current research: “Maids in Finnish Literature – a Sign of Crisis and Negotiation of a New Social Order” deals with Finnish literature and political history (1890–1950) and feminist

nationalism theories (aspects on gender and class).

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki, post-doctoral researcher, Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, Department of Cultural History.

I am a cultural historian and at the moment working as a Post Doctoral Researcher at the new Turku Institute for Advanced Studies between March 2009 – February 2012. I am based at the Department of Cultural History at the University of Turku. I have also been appointed as post-doctoral researcher of the Department of Cultural History for 2010-2015. My research interests include the history of women's writing in all its forms, biographical research and women's biographical traditions, women's religiousness, and the methodological questions concerning historical research and different auto/biographical sources.

I finished my PhD on the cultural history of women's writing in Autumn 2006 with my dissertation *The Krohn sisters: Lives in Writing (Kirjoittajan maailmassa. Krohnin sisaret ja kirjallinen elämä*, published in Finland by Finnish Literature Society). Since my dissertation I have worked on several research projects. Between 2006-2008, I worked as a post-doctoral researcher in a multidisciplinary research project "Imagined people. Finnish self-image in turmoil", which dealt with the political and cultural changes in Finland during the general strike in 1905 and after. In this project I analysed women writers' fictional and autobiographical writings on sexuality, and the project has published its results in a joint publication (*Läpikulkuihmisiä. Neuvotteluja kansalaisuudesta ja sivistyksestä 1900-luvun alun Suomessa*, 2009).

In 2008 started another research project led by historians and entitled "Written nation. Gender, history-writing and national identity in Finland during 19th and 20th centuries". In this project Tyyni Tuulio's biographical texts from the 1960s are particularly in focus. The joint volume of this project will be published in 2011. I am also the chair woman of Aino Kallas Society, established in September 2006.

My recent publications in English include articles:

"The public and private worlds of writing". *They Do Things Differently There: Essays on Cultural History*. Eds. Bruce Johnson and Harri Kiiskinen. Forthcoming in Jan 2011. Together with Ritva Hapuli.

"Songs of comfort and lamentation. Autobiographical connections in the texts of ageing Aino Kallas". *Aino Kallas – negotiating with modernity*. Eds. Leena Kurvet-Käosaar and Lea Rojola. Studia Fennica-series. SKS, forthcoming in 2010.

"Narrating life-stories in-between the fictional and the autobiographical". *Qualitative Research*, special issue edited by Liz Stanley. 2008/8, p. 325-332.

Nadezhda Alexandrova, PhD, is an assistant-professor at the faculty of Slavic Studies at Sofia University, Bulgaria. Her interest and publications concern mainly representations of women's voices in public space and 19-century literary texts and descriptions of affective relationships and fantasized topoi in migrant narratives. Dr. Alexandrova is a member of the Gender Studies Center at Sofia University and of the Bulgarian Association of University Women. She has been a fellow researcher in a number of international research projects concerning gender history, migration and marriage. Recently she has taught a course in the European Master Program in Women's and Gender History MA program "MATILA", entitled "Tales of Love: Affective Relationships in the Literature of Southeastern Europe".

Suzana Coha (Zagreb, 1978) graduated in Croatian Language and Literature and Comparative Literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb (2001). She defended her doctoral dissertation about the first Croatian literary periodical *Danica (Poetics and Politics of Gaj's Danica*, 2009) at the same faculty. Since 2002 she has been employed as a research assistant on the scientific research project "Croatian literary periodicals". Since 2002, she has worked as assistant lecturer on the Chair for Modern Croatian Literature at the Department of Croatian Language and Literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb.

She got several scholarships (Ljubljana 2004; Graz 2006). She has published scholarly papers on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Croatian literature in various Croatian and international literary periodicals and conference readers. She also has written reviews of recent literary and critical production. She is interested in Croatian women writers and she has published several papers in this field (“Reversible Journey from the Surrealism until the Postmodernism. About the Literary Beginnings of Irena Vrkljan and the Specificities of her Poetry”, 2005; “From the Phenomenon until the Model. Anent Lasić's Zagorka”, 2008; “Construction and Representation of the Woman's Identity in Zagorka's *Woman's Magazine*”, 2009; “Zagorka Is in”, 2010).

### Call for papers

Proposal for a session in the 13<sup>th</sup> International Enlightenment Congress, which will take place in Graz (Austria) from July 25 to 29 2011. One of the main subjects will be: “Time in the Age of Enlightenment: Situating the Present, Imagining the Future”. Catriona Seth invites colleagues to take part in a session about “Gender and Time”.

The 18th century witnessed a multiplication, in different linguistic areas and under very varied political régimes, of autobiographical texts written by women – women of letters like Mme de Genlis or Mme de Staël, women with political connections like Mme Roland, actresses like Mary Robinson or painters like Elisabeth Vigée-Lebrun, princesses like Isabella of Bourbon-Parma, the wife of the future emperor Joseph II, women of the popular classes like Victoire Monnard, nuns, travelers (like a large number of French émigré women) etc. Apart from the famous women whose names have just been mentioned, there are many others who are much less well known, indeed some who are all but forgotten. Their texts, in many forms and genres (journals, travel diaries, memoirs etc.), were often private documents, written with no intention of them being published. Some have remained unpublished, surviving in manuscript form in public or private archives. This session will consider references to time in such texts.

What do these women authors have to say about time and about their time? To what extent are there comments gendered? How do these different texts contribute to the construction of a specific female identity? What variations can be ascribed to language, religion, class etc.?

Interested colleagues are invited to contact: Catriona Seth, Professeur de littérature française du XVIIIe siècle. Université de Nancy II, [Catriona.Seth@univ-nancy2.fr](mailto:Catriona.Seth@univ-nancy2.fr).

### 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](mailto:Suzan.van.Dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl) 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](mailto:Suzan.van.Dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl).

### Contacts

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