

# NEWW newsletter

4.1

February 2010



Pictured above: first meeting of the Management Committee of COST Action IS0901 at the COST Office in Brussels, 2 October 2009. Starting left: Hendrick Schlieper, Katja Mihurko, Maarit Leskela, Päivi Lappalainen, Marie Louise Coolahan (Photo: Biljana Dojcinovic).

## NEWW project news

The last NEWWletter (3.3, September 2009) announced as “the big project news” the upcoming start of the COST Action IS0901 entitled “Women Writers In History”! The Action has indeed started – with a considerable amount of activities which were also responsible for the delay in sending this NEWWletter. Announced for October, it has suffered from there being too many things to prepare, discuss, send to each other. From now on, we will resume regular sending of this NEWWs to all NEWW members, be they already participating in the COST Action, or become involved later on. All of them are most probably interested to know what is going on, thanks to this COST financing.

As for the meetings, we have had up to now: on October 1 and 2 most of the members of the COST Management Committee met in Brussels

(at the COST Office), in order to launch the action and discuss organisational questions.

On 20 November we again met, as a larger group, in The Hague (Huygens Institute) for a Workshop closing the NEWW period and opening COST activities; the 21 we had our first Working Groups meeting. As it is in the WG that the actual work is being done, the content of the collaboration was on the agenda.

Since these meetings discussions are going on between members of the MC and those of the Working Groups: preparing Minutes of the meetings and starting to think about possible contributions, leading via the preliminary Working Groups meeting 24-25 May in Turku (Finland) to the first “Milestone” to be presented in November 2010 in Madrid.

The MC core-group (Chair, Vice-Chair and WG-leaders) also met in Lisbon, roughly planning the first year, ways of communicating

etc. By all this energy deployed and enthusiasm, we were really confident and much inspired. These were very promising days!

## **NEWWsletter**

I may add right now this urgent question: would some of the NEWW members be willing to contribute to editing (4 x each year) this NEWWsletter – in order to avoid further delays? Zsuzsanna Varga already proposed to help... but it would be nice if more people participated! The NEWWsletter is an important networking tool. Thinking about its forms and uses, making it both convivial and informative could be an interesting way to get more actively involved in the network.

## **Starting COST, continuing NEWW**

The COST Action that will be carried out from October 2009 until October 2013 will allow the NEWW network to realize a certain number of its projects. Created thanks to financing by NWO (Dutch Organisation for Scientific Research) cooperating with the Universities of Geneva, Lausanne, Southampton, Warwick and Bochum, NEWW will continue to function as an open network of scholars «committed to documenting facts of reception and cultural transfer that shed light on the position of women in the literary field[s] before 1900» (as formulated in the NEWW mission statement). COST will provide this network with a more solid structure and allow it to function on a much larger scale, while also focusing on more precise objectives. These objectives, formulated in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the COST Action, can be found online in the COST official site, to be accessed *via* the NEWW website [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl), and downloadable [here](#).

The larger scale is visible in particular in the number of countries joining the Action: seventeen European countries and three others (Canada, USA and Australia). The number of participants per country is different. In the Management Committee each country is represented by no more than two members (one

vote per country). The Working Groups, where the “Milestones” are prepared, tend to be also quite heterogeneous.

It is important to note that, although it will not always be financially feasible to include all NEWW members as Action participants, NEWW members are considered as the “natural audience” for any of the Action conferences (taking place in Autumn). Some NEWW members can also be invited as experts to join the Working Groups meetings (taking place in Spring). NEWW will remain the “place” from where other grant (national or international) proposals will be initiated and submitted.

NEWW members will be informed of the progress of the Action through the COST site ([www.costwvih.net](http://www.costwvih.net)), the electronic list and the newsletter. They are welcome to get in touch with the Chair or Vice-chair if they would like to express specific interest in any of the activities or propose a contributions. Of course, they should also feel free to make more extensive use of the electronic list ([neww@unige.ch](mailto:neww@unige.ch)) to post announcements or inquiries or to start discussions.

## **COST Action site**

The COST Action site has become available very quickly, thanks to Ben Brandenburg: at the address [www.costwvih.net](http://www.costwvih.net). Use it for your information and in case you might think about joining the Action.

## **3<sup>rd</sup> NEWW November meeting**

As usual since November 2007, NEWW organized a NEWW November meeting in collaboration with Huizinga Institute (Amsterdam, Doctoral school in cultural history). This time Huygens Institute (The Hague) also participated in this event, which took place in its rooms.

This year the theme was: *Quantitative methods in cultural history*. Texts or abstracts of most speakers (Madeleine Jeay, Charles van den Heuvel, Henk Wals and Franco Moretti) are still visible in the [NEWW website](#).

We plan to organize again next year in November this one-day workshop in The Hague, addressing in particular (but not exclusively) PhD-students, who are invited to present (parts of) their work. The theme will be: the use of irony, in particular by narrators – male or female.

## Database news

During the last months, the database *WomenWriters* has also been moved to the server of Huygens Institute, adopting at the same time a new lay-out, thanks, again, to Ben Brandenburg. It will be, shortly, accessible at the former address, but is now to be found at <http://neww.huygens.knaw.nl>. Passwords distributed for the previous version remain of course valuable. New passwords to be asked Suzan van Dijk.

Our intention has been to create a (still) greater user friendliness, so that there will be less and less obstacles between yourself and this tool which is supposed to be important for all those working on the reception of women's writing. Do not forget to use the Instructions, which are to be downloaded from the Action site. In case of difficulties, please send a message.

## National groups

In the COST collaboration, and within the NEWW network, there are also national groups starting to meet and prepare common projects. This is happening now in Portugal, Finland, Norway and the Netherlands.

## NEWW website, info about members

In the website *Women Writers' Networks* ([www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl)), names of many new NEWW members (COST participants) have been entered. In several cases the information provided per individual is still somewhat meager. You might want to update or complete the information presently provided: please check it! And send additional information.

## Conferences

The Turku Working Groups meeting will be held just before "Cultural Histories: Close Readings, Critical Syntheses", the Annual Conference of International Society for Cultural History (ISCH2010), 26–30 May 2010. You are warmly welcome to participate in this Conference, taking place immediately after the COST Working Groups meeting (24-26 May). The first full conference day, the 27th May, has a session "Literary Women before 1900" that is organized by COST Action (by Viola Parente-Capková), and now calls for papers.

Dead line for abstracts of 250-300 words is 1st March 2010. To submit an abstract to session "Literary Women before 1900" go to conference page <http://isch2010.utu.fi/index.php>, link "Sessions and papers", from there to on-line paper proposal form. Use it by filling in the information required. In the form a session key will be asked. For our session "Literary Women before 1900", it is CLRZP.

Organizers: Kirsi Tuohela ([kirsi.tuohela@utu.fi](mailto:kirsi.tuohela@utu.fi)) and Viola Parente-Čapková ([viocap@utu.fi](mailto:viocap@utu.fi)).

All NEWW members are invited to consider attending/contributing to a *Symposium on Early Modern Women*, hosted at Oxford Brookes University, London on 19 June 2010. We are looking for papers that consider women's literature in translation and thus the international dissemination/reception and ultimately cross-fertilization of women's literature in the early modern period (which for this purpose goes up to 1750). If any of you have a project that would fit, do please send a proposal to Dr Eleanor Lowe: ([eleanor.lowe@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:eleanor.lowe@brookes.ac.uk)).

Continuing the tradition created within the NEWW network, Kerstin Wiedemann and Elise Mueller-Adams organize an international conference next spring. It is entitled: *Routes out of marginalization: Gender and narrative practice in novels by German-speaking women, 1780-1914*, and will be held *not* in May, but on

24-25 June 2010, at the University of Nancy (France).

The Conference is organized by the *Centre d'études germaniques interculturelles de Lorraine* (CEGIL), University of Nancy 2, and the *Centrum für Postcolonial und Gender Studies* (Cepog), University of Trier. Focusing on the German female novel, this conference aims to continue the research presented in May 2009 in the third annual NEWW conference in Bochum, entitled *Theorizing Narrative Genre and Gender* (see also NEWW's letter 3.3).

All those who would like to attend the conference are invited to contact the organizers:  
Dr. Elisa Müller-Adams ([madams@uni-trier.de](mailto:madams@uni-trier.de)),  
Dr. Kerstin Wiedemann  
([Kerstin.Wiedemann@univ-nancy2.fr](mailto:Kerstin.Wiedemann@univ-nancy2.fr)).

*Topique(s) du public et du privé dans l'espace de l'écriture romanesque européenne (du Moyen-Âge à la fin du XVIIIe siècle)* [Public and private in the European novel from the Middle Ages up to 1800]. XXIV<sup>e</sup> Colloque International SATOR (Société de l'Analyse de la Topique Romanesque avant 1800). 28-30 June 2010, University of Coimbra, organizer : Marta Teixeira Anacleto.

The theme of the 2010 annual conference of SATOR is particularly relevant for NEWW members. At the same time there is collaboration between SATOR and NEWW at the technological level. If you want to attend the conference, please take contact with:

Madeleine Jeay  
([jeaymad@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca](mailto:jeaymad@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca)) or:  
Suzan van Dijk  
([suzan.van.dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl](mailto:suzan.van.dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl)).  
More information at: [www.satorbase.org](http://www.satorbase.org).

*Raynal's Histoire des deux Indes : colonial writing, cultural exchange and social networks in the age of the Enlightenment*. Newnham College Cambridge, 1-3 July 2010

This international, three-day conference will focus on the twin concepts of exchange and networks, understood from textual, cultural and social perspectives. It seeks to explore Raynal's *Histoire* within the multiple circuits of communication that simultaneously shape the

colonial world, its modes of sociability and its literature.

If you want to attend the conference, please take contact with the organizer, Dr Jenny Mander ([jsm15@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jsm15@cam.ac.uk)).

## Members' activities

Catriona Seth gave one of the keynote addresses at the International Germaine de Staël Symposium organised by Karyna Szmurlo and Tilli Boon Cuillé at Washington University Saint Louis.

At the conference on « La Muse de la Raison », Constance de Salm, in Toulouse, in September, she spoke on « L'Épître aux Femmes, Textes et Contextes ».

At the colloquium on La tradition des romans de femmes XVIIIe/XIXe siècles, held in Grenoble, and convened by Catherine Mariette-Clot and Damien Zanone, her paper dealt with « 366 jours de la vie de femmes auteurs: les romancières de l'an VIII ».

## Recent books by NEWW members

Monique Moser-Verrey, Lucie Desjardins, Chantal Turbide (eds.), *Le corps romanesque. Images et usages topiques sous l'Ancien Régime*. Québec, Presses de l'Université Laval, 2009.

## Recent articles by NEWW members

Kerstin Wiedemann, "Déborder les frontières du réel : E.T.A. Hoffmann et le théâtre de Nohant de George Sand", in Alain Muzelle (dir.), *Romantisme et frontière*. Nancy, CEGIL, 2009, 87-98 (Collection *Le texte et l'idée*).

## Call for papers

2010, 11-12 November: *Women telling nations*, NEWW international conference, University Complutense (Madrid-Spain). Org. Amelia Sanz, Begoña Reguero, M. José Calvo.

Traditionally and even nowadays, the Academy has conceived literatures in terms of nations, in the frame of printed books culture and canon. But in the 21th century it is time to ask how we can think cultures *beyond the nation*.

The creation of a national identity has been a main issue from 1492 until the Revolutionary times and the establishment of the Nations as States. The Academy has paid attention to men's actions in this direction, but what are women doing while the national identities are appearing, from 16th to 19th centuries? In which way are women, as readers and writers, contributing or rejecting to build these imaginary communities? What forms of identification are being developed based on an imagined singularity?

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

During this conference the COST Working Groups of "Women Writers in History" will also present their first "Milestone": quantitative approaches to women's writing.

## A film on Christine de Pizan

In Bologna a new film directed by Stefania Sandrelli, has been launched, on 3 December 2009, about the life of Cristina da Pizzano (Christine de Pizan), one of the first women to earn a living from writing: in the XIVth century – now considered Italian by Italians, French by French. See [http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/wcm/ERMES/notizie/news/2009/dic/evento\\_celebrazioni\\_pizzano.htm](http://www.regione.emilia-romagna.it/wcm/ERMES/notizie/news/2009/dic/evento_celebrazioni_pizzano.htm).

## Question

Juliana Jovicic, recent NEWW member from Serbia prepares her magister thesis about women writers/translators in Germany, Austria and Serbia in the 19th century – in particular, to begin with, Therese Albertine von Jakob-Robinson and Mina Karadzic who were pioneers in that field, but also women mediating between cultures and literatures, especially in the field of German – Slavic relationships.

She would be interested to get into contact with colleagues working on these questions.

## Book offer

We can still offer NEWW members the volume *Writing the History of Women's Writing. Toward an International Approach*, edited by Suzan van Dijk, Lia van Gemert and Sheila Ottway (Amsterdam 2001) at a special 50% discount, for 25 euros. Please contact Suzan van Dijk if you wish to order a copy.

## Receiving the NEWW'sletter

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

NEWW network manager:

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

Discussion list: [neww@unige.ch](mailto:neww@unige.ch).

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