

NEWW newsletter

3.4

October 2009



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, Marit Leskela, Paivi Lappalainen, Marie-Louise Coolahan (Photo: Biljana Dojcinovic).

NEWW project news

The big NEWW project news is of course [...]

In the next NEWWletter, planned for *October*, you will find a brief account of this meeting. For any news about the COST Action, see www.womenwriters.nl.

Executive Committee

[...] if any of you is interested in taking responsibilities, for example for editing this NEWWletter, she (he) will be very welcome.

The Executive Committee also decided that NEWW members would be asked to pay a small financial contribution for receiving the NEWWletter, for membership of the NEWW list and for having the possibility of acquiring a password for the database *WomenWriters*. This will also be discussed during the COST MC meeting. We will inform you in the next NEWWletter.

The Committee members (in particular Anke Gilleir and Alicia Montoya) also worked on the finalizing of the forthcoming NEWW volume *Women Writing Back / Writing Back Women*, scheduled for publication in 2010 by Brill, Leiden.

Upcoming events

Continuing the tradition which had been 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 that has been done in May 2009 by the third annual NEWW conference in Bochum, entitled *Theorizing Narrative Genre and Gender*.

Recent narratological research, especially into Anglophone literature, has demonstrated convincingly the fundamental significance of the category 'gender' in narrative texts, not only within the characterization of figures, but also as a factor affecting all communicative aspects of the narrative (cf. Vera Nünning/ Ansgar Nünning, *Erzähltextanalyse und Gender Studies*, p. 13). Summing up the results of this research, Ina Schabert notes that female writers have sought to define their own voices by reformulating male literary norms, which tend to objectify women. Female writers tell their own, different, story destabilising the narrative patterns established by male writers as they infringe the prescribed narratological grammar. (Ina Schabert, *Englische Literaturgeschichte. Eine neue Darstellung aus der Sicht der Geschlechterforschung*, p. 13).

Focusing on novels and stories by German-speaking women in the late 18th century and 19th century, a time when female authors contributed in great measure to the development and differentiation of the novel as a genre, the conference attempts to put this alliance between narratological and gender studies into practice by discussing the relationship between the historical and cultural location of women's writing and the narrative strategies employed by female authors. Colleagues are invited to offer papers (in German) on aspects such as: strategies of self-authorisation; the use of narrative perspective; the appropriation of certain narrative genres; the development of narrative practices in order to formulate a specific female representation of reality.

The organizers are keen to include contributions about current research projects from postgraduates at all stages of their research, from MA and PhD students to postdoctoral researchers, on the aspects listed above or related topics. Contributions should be 20 minutes long.

Please send 200-300 word abstracts, before 30 November, to the organizers:

Dr. Elisa Müller-Adams (madams@uni-trier.de),
Dr. Kerstin Wiedemann
(Kerstin.Wiedemann@univ-nancy2.fr)

NEWW discussion list

Our NEWW discussion list being fully operational, we invite you [...]

should you have a question or problem, please write to neww-owner@list.unige.ch.

To write to the list, please send a message to neww@list.unige.ch.

NEWW November meeting

In collaboration with Huizinga Institute (Amsterdam, Doctoral school in cultural history) and Huygens Institute (The Hague), NEWW will again organize in November a one-day workshop addressing in particular (but not exclusively) PhD-students, who are invited to present (parts of) their work.

This year the theme will be: *Quantitative methods in cultural history*. Keynote speaker will be: Franco Moretti (author of *Atlas of the European Novel, 1800-1900* (1998) and *Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for a Literary History* (2005)). He will present an introduction entitled: « Network Theory, Plot Analysis ». Other speakers: Madeleine Jeay (McMaster University) and Joris van Zundert (Huygens Institute The Hague).

You are invited to further distribute this announcement. Participants are asked to inscribe for participation in this workshop. Please, inform any student or colleague who may want to present a paper. More information on the [NEWW website](#).

Database news

The database *WomenWriters* at present (September 25, 2009) contains 18.584 records concerning the reception of women's literary works before 1900. During the COST Action

content and structure will be discussed, further developed, adapted, and tested.

All NEWW members continue to be invited to enter any of their own data that may be of interest to colleagues. Please contact Suzan van Dijk to obtain 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.

The companion website, *Women Writers' Networks* (www.womenwriters.nl), is presently being considered in order to be adapted, and be used in the near future more consistently as a publishing site. We will have the help of a trainee, Marie Boeuf, student of Alicia Montoya.

For the moment, the site principally furnishes information about participants. You might want to update or complete the information presently provided: please check it! And send additional information.

Information about members

[..]

Catriona Seth gave one of the keynote addresses at the International

- > Staël Symposium organised by Karyna Szmurlo and Tilli Boon Cuillé at Washington University Saint Louis.
- > At the conference on Constance de Salm, Muse de la Raison, in Toulouse, in September, she spoke on L'Épître aux Femmes, Textes et Contextes.
- > At the colloquium on Les Romancières 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

[..]

Recent articles by NEWW members

[...]

Recent lectures by NEWW members

In the annual conference [...]

Other announcements

CALL FOR PAPERS *Lectures de Mme de Maintenon (Reading Mme de Maintenon)*. Paris-Versailles, 11, 12, 13 March 2010.

A new edition of Mme de Maintenon's correspondence (first volume published September 2009) provides the occasion for this conference (in French), where the text of the letters will be studied, but also its (international) reception.

Proposals can be sent before 30 September to the organizers: Christine Mongenot (Christine.mongenot@free.fr) and Marie-Emmanuelle Plagnol (plagnol@univ-paris12.fr).

CALL FOR PAPERS *The Author-Translator in the European Literary Tradition*. Swansea University, 28 June – 1 July 2010.

The recent “creative turn” in translation studies has challenged notions of translation as a derivative and uncreative activity which is inferior to “original” writing. Commentators have drawn attention to the creative processes involved in the translation of texts, and suggested a rethinking of translation as a form of creative writing. Hence there is growing critical and theoretical interest in translations undertaken by literary authors. This conference focuses on acts of translation by creative writers.

Keynote speakers: Susan Bassnett, David Constantine, Lawrence Venuti.

Proposals are invited for individual papers (max. 20 minutes) or panels (of 3 speakers). The conference language is English. It is anticipated that selected papers from the conference will be published. Please send a 250-word abstract by 30 September 2009 to the organisers, Hilary Brown and Duncan Large (author-translator@swan.ac.uk). Further information at: <http://www.author-translator.net/>.

CALL FOR PAPERS *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]. XXIVe 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. Given the collaboration between SATOR and NEWW, it would be interesting to have NEWW members reflecting on specific narrative topoi, or taking them as starting points for analysis. Contributing in English or Portuguese is possible.

Please take contact with Madeleine Jeay (jeaymad@univmail.cis.mcmaster.ca) or Suzan van Dijk (S.vanDijk1@uu.nl).

More information at: www.satorbase.org.

CALL FOR PAPERS *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.

Proposals for a 20-minute paper (in English or French) can be sent to the organizer, Dr Jenny Mander (jsm15@cam.ac.uk).

CALL FOR PAPERS *German Women's Writing in its European Context, 1700-1900*. 25 and 26 November 2010, at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies, University of London

Proposals are invited for a two-day conference to be held at the Institute of Germanic & Romance Studies [IGRS], University of London, on 25 and 26 November 2010. The event is organized jointly by the German Section at Swansea University, the Department of Germanic Studies at the University of Sheffield and the IGRS.

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? The 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.

Keynote speakers: Norbert Bachleitner (Vienna), Magdalene Heuser (Osnabrück/Berlin), Susanne Kord (London).

20-minute papers are invited, for which abstracts (200-300 words) can be sent by 30 September 2009 to the co-ordinators :

Dr Hilary Brown (h.j.brown@swansea.ac.uk), Dr Caroline Bland (c.bland@sheffield.ac.uk).

It might be interesting to plan NEWW sessions in these conferences. Who feels like organizing them?

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.

BERICHT VAN CATRIONA VERWERKEN

Receiving the NEWWletter

If you wish to receive the NEWW newsletter, please send a message stating so to A.C.Montoya@rug.nl, and including your full contact information (university affiliation, address and e-mail address) and area of expertise (e.g. "Russia, 17th century").

Contacts

Project director: S.vanDijk1@uu.nl.

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

Discussion list: neww@unige.ch.

Newsletter editors: A.C.Montoya@rug.nl and
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