

NEWW newsletter

5.1

January 2011



Pictured above: Official opening of the *Women Telling Nations* NEWW International Seminar and our COST Milestone conference on 11-13th November 2010 in Madrid: Suzan van Dijk (Chair of COST Action *Women Writers In History*), Dámaso López (Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Complutense University) and Amelia Sanz (Organiser).

NEWW project news

In November the Conference *Women Telling Nations* was held at Complutense University, Madrid, organized by Amelia Sanz (French Studies, UCM) with the collaboration of Miriam Llamas (German Studies, UCM) and Begoña Regueiro (Spanish Studies, UCM).

The conference was very successful. As Maarit Leskelä-Kärki (Turku, Finland) comments: “Like other COST meetings, it was very intense and loaded. It is always especially interesting to hear the presentations concerning countries whose literature I know little about. Similarities between the small countries are quite striking, but also the differences which are due to the different historical contexts such as, for instance, the different start date of the feminist movement. Of course the programme was very tight and there were so many presentations that the load of information was quite heavy.

The organization of the conference was excellent, and Madrid was a wonderful city to visit, especially with that kind of weather”.

COST: Milestone 2

With fast steps, we are approaching our next Working Groups meeting, which will take place in *Belgrade* (14-16 April, an MC meeting being planned for April 13 in the afternoon). It is organized by Biljana Dojcinovic, in collaboration with other members of the Serbian team of COST Action IS0901, and the Faculty of Philology of Belgrade University. The program will be announced soon; the hotel and venue are already decided. The Serbian team is delighted to be your hosts soon.

In this meeting we will continue the presentations and discussions of the first year, from which we have tried to draw some conclusions (see the “Milestone 1 document” in

COST Action site). At the same time we will prepare the November conference (Milestone 2). In the same way as the Turku meeting was in fact a preliminary meeting preparing the Madrid conference, this Belgrade meeting will prepare the November conference (which will take place in Chawton) as an (internal) brainstorming session to the presentation of results. The last day will be open to external, non-COST participants, under the title: *International Female Networks*.

New Serbian project

The research project *Knjiženstvo – theory and history of women's writing in Serbian until 1915* was approved in January 2011 by the Serbian Ministry of Science for the period 2011-2015. A team of 15 women researchers (most of them Serbian, but also Polish) will work on the history of Serbian women's writing.

The project's title *Knjiženstvo* is an old and not much known word for "literature" in Serbian, chosen because it sounds as a combination of the words for "book" (knjiga) and "femaleness" (ženskost, ženstvo). The project emphasizes theoretical and historical issues such as: the applicability of feminist theoretical models on the research of literature; the history of literature as oral history; the reception and influences of women's writing.

For more information, see [NEWW site](#).

Database news

In order to familiarize colleagues with working in the online database for stocking and analyzing their own research material, and having the benefit of data already present in it, so-called "Training Schools" are organized: these are typical COST Action features.

After the first very successful COST-WWIH Training School (held in October 2010 in The Hague), a second Training School will be organized in May. The applications were received and the proposals were discussed in the MC core group meeting. Applicants will be informed as soon as the time and venue are decided. The participants from all over Europe will gather again together to learn and share their

experience from different research fields and with the different sources they are using.

NEWW website

The NEWW site has a new feature since some months: the page entitled [Authors about authorship](#). As the authors whom we are studying have also *themselves* commented on their authorship, their relation to their readers and their places in literary history, we decided to start 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](#)!

4th NEWW November meeting

As announced in the *NEWWletter* of October 2010, the theme chosen for the NEWW November meeting – *Narration, gender, irony* – had not attracted PhDstudents of Huizinga Institute (Doctoral School in Cultural History who co-organizes this annual event) for whom these meetings are primarily organized. We decided to cancel the meeting in the form as announced.

The subject as such remains of course relevant for our research. Therefore, with a small group of colleagues, including planned speakers [Madeleine Jeay](#) (McMaster University Hamilton, Canada) and [Daniel Maher](#) (University of Calgary, Canada), but also [Els Naaijkens](#), [Astrid Kulsdom](#) and [Suzan van Dijk](#) we have discussed the possibility of carrying out a collective research on this subject. Interested people have come forward. They will be contacted soon, and will find some information in the [NEWW site](#).

Conferences

May 18-20 2011: the IABA (International Auto/Biography Association) organizes its annual conference entitled: "Trajectories of (Be)longing: Europe in Life-Writing". It will take place at Tallinn University, Tallinn, Estonia.

The conference will have a panel entitled

“Women’s biographical traditions across Europe”. NEWW members participating: Maarit Leskelä-Kärki and Katja Mihurko-Poniz.

During the 13th *International Enlightenment Congress*, which will take place in Graz (Austria) from July 25 to 29 2011, there will be a session co-organized by Catriona Seth entitled: *The Time of women’s memoirs*.

Members’ activities

The “Finnish group” (Turku University) participated in a very interesting symposium “Feminist Literary Criticism – Historical and Transnational Perspectives”, organized by the School of Modern Languages and Translation Studies of the Tampere University and designed by their and our “teams” as a joint venture. The Symposium concentrated on more general questions of writing literary history of women’s writing from both national and transnational perspectives and some papers dealt specifically with Russian, Polish and Finnish writing by women. Päivi Lappalainen had one of the key note speeches (“Women’s Literary History and Finland”) and Viola Capkova used the opportunity to introduce our COST Action to the audience.

COST Action member Kirsty Hooper (University of Liverpool) gave a paper on “Raising Atlantis: the ‘Spain’s Women Intellectuals, 1890-2010’ database and the limitations of the archive”, in the Spanish Research Seminar series at the School of Modern Languages of the University of St Andrews (19 November 2010).

Maarit Leskelä-Kärki gave a paper on: “Women Biographers and the Uses of Source Material in Life-Writing”. She participated in the 21st International Congress of Historical Sciences, in a session “Biography and micro-history” (chaired by Giovanni Levi), Amsterdam 22-25.8.2010.

Member profiles

Piera Carroli is Senior Lecturer at the Italian Studies Program, School of Language Studies, Faculty of Arts, Australian National University (ANU). She completed her PhD in Applied Linguistics in 2005 at the Australian National University. The title of her thesis was *World in a text, words in context – Enhancing the role of literature in language learning*. In 1991 she completed a Master of Arts in Contemporary Italian Narrative at Flinders University, Adelaide. In 2000 she was awarded the Vice-Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. Recent publications are about 20th-century literature, but she is also working on earlier periods.

Ivana Zivancevis-Sekerus is Vice-Dean for International Relations and Science at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Novi Sad (Serbia) and holds her PhD in literature. She gives courses at the University of Novi Sad, Department of Serbian Literature, Department of Media Studies and Department of Gender Studies. She was guest professor at several Polish Universities (Slavic studies). She has taken part in several international projects, published several books and is the author of around seventy papers on various topics in the fields of the history of South-Slavic literatures and culture studies.

Carmen Beatrice Dutu is PhD Lecturer at the Faculty of Foreign Languages, *Dimitrie Cantemir* University in Bucharest since 2000. She taught lectures in English Renaissance Literature, Theory of Literature, Comparative Literature, English Practical Course. She specializes in 19th-century Romanian novels (translations, authorship; gendered identity). The title of her PhD thesis (forthcoming publication in 2011) is: *Masculine-feminine in the mid-19th-century Romanian novel. A gender approach*. She received a Doctoral Research grant in November 2009 from *ALETTA Institute for Women’s Studies*, Amsterdam.

Belle de Zuylen Prize awarding MA-thesis

The editorial Board of the *Cahiers Isabelle de Charrière / Belle de Zuylen Papers* reminds you of the “Belle de Zuylen Prize” awarding an MA-thesis written in French, English, or Dutch, focusing on Isabelle de Charrière and her work, OR: on one or several other female European writers of that same period (around 1800). See also the [NEWW-site](#).

Copies of the thesis to be sent to: Madeleine van Strien-Chardonneau (madeleinevanstrien@yahoo.fr) and to Suzan van Dijk (suzan.van.dijk@huygensinstituut.knaw.nl), who can also provide further information.

Recent books by NEWW members

Ursula Jung, *Autorinnen des spanischen Barock. Weibliche Autorschaft in weltlichen und religiösen Kontexten*. Heidelberg, 2010.

Recent articles by NEWW members

Hilary Brown, “Women Translators in the Sprachgesellschaften”, in *Daphnis: Zeitschrift für Mittlere Deutsche Literatur und Kultur der Frühen Neuzeit*, 38 (2009), 622-46 (NB published at the end of 2010: the journal is a year behind).

Calls for papers

A conference under the title *Displaced Women: Multilingual Narratives of Migration in Europe* will be organized by Dr. Lucia Aiello, Dr. Joy Charnley and Dr. Mariangela Palladino on 29 March 2012 at Glasgow Women’s Library in Glasgow.

This interdisciplinary conference will provide a forum for discussion of the issues facing women who have moved from one culture to another and have as a result adopted in their daily lives and for their creative work a language other than their ‘mother tongue’.

Themes to be covered include: Migrant women, Multilingual literature, Migration.

Abstracts in English of no more than 300 words should be sent by 29 April 2011 to Lucia Aiello (L.Aiello@sheffield.ac.uk), Joy Charnley (j.charnley@phonecoop.coop) and Mariangela Palladino (p.mariangela@googlemail.com). Proposals for thematic workshops are also welcome.

The Group “Women and Literature”, that belongs to the National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Language and Linguistics (ANPOLL) and the University of Brasilia, organize the XIVth National Seminar / Vth International Seminar entitled *Women and Literature*. It will take place 4-6 August 2011 at the University of Brasilia. The theme is “Word and Power – Literary Representations”. Proposals for papers can be sent until 8 March 2011. For further information, see: <http://www.telunb.com.br/mulhereliteratura>.

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.

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