

MINUTES OF THE ICLA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Seoul, 31 July 2025, 16:30-17:30

Agenda

Chair: Professor Lucia Boldrini, AILC/ICLA President 2022-25

1. Brief report on the activities of the AILC/ICLA 2022-25, and ongoing work (Lucia Boldrini)

President Lucia Boldrini opened the meeting by thanking the organizers of the Congress, Professor Youngmin Kim and his team, for their time and efforts in preparing this event, as well as, for their generous support, Dongguk University and its President Professor Jae-woong Yun, KEASTWEST and its President Professor Youn-Gil Jeong; the Mayor of Goyang Special City Mr Dong-Hwan Lee; and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

Lucia Boldrini then presented some of the achievements of the 2022–2025 mandate. A new website will soon be launched, including an interactive space for member associations as well as individual members. In addition, the ICLA will soon have a new system that will improve the way members can communicate by email with the Association, and the Association with them.

For the second time (the 2022 Tbilisi Congress being the first), the election for ICLA officers took place electronically, and all members received an invitation to vote via email. ICLA currently has nearly 5,000 members, 30% of whom are students. There has been significant growth in interest in the NextGen stream of panels, in Participation Grants, and in events dedicated to early career scholars (ECRs). Support for member associations has also increased, and there is greater awareness of groups of scholars active outside national associations who require the organization's support.

Thanks to the efforts of the Research and Development Committee, led by Matthew Reynolds, ICLA now has 14 active research committees (either Standing or time-limited). This year, the ICLA Annual Lecture will be inaugurated. At the ICLA's scholarly journal *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research*, Dr. Alice Duhan (Gothenburg University) will replace Marc Maufort as Chief Editor. Professor Maufort will continue to assist the new editor for a year to ensure a smooth transition after his ten-year tenure at RL. Marc Maufort was thanked warmly for his sterling work with the journal over the past 10 years.

Lucia Boldrini reminded the audience that all officers serve the ICLA on a voluntary basis and thanked them for their hard work. She invited contributions to the newsletter in order to increase the visibility of research activities and events organized by ICLA members – and invited everyone to read the newsletter when it is published, to find out about ICLA as well as members' news, grants, prizes, publications, events, invitations to collaborate on research projects, and more.

Last but not least, the President thanked the administrator, Anca Mihalache, for her valuable assistance with communication and organizational matters over the past two years.

2. Brief report on the financial situation of the AILC/ICLA (Yuriko Yamanaka)

On behalf of the three treasurers, Yuriko Yamanaka presented the situation of the AILC/ICLA accounts (Asia-Pacific; the Americas; and Europe, Africa, and the Middle East).

The main expenses were related to the publication of *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research*, the subvention to the Congress organization, the cost of the Administrator, the activities of Research Committees, such as CHLEL (the Coordinating Committee for the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages Series), for publications and events; the website and the mailing system MailerLite, the Balakian Prize and the Grants such as First Book Subvention and Participation Grants; the electronic elections.

The accounts of the Asia-Pacific section, as of June 13, show a healthy balance of USD \$102,807.53 (in USD and JPY).

As of June 5, 2025, the balance in the American account, hosted at Louisiana State University, stood at USD \$54,059.75. With some additional funds expected before the Congress, the total balance will amount to USD \$57,559.75.

The current financial situation of Europe, Africa, and the Middle East can be summarized as follows: Current account: €13,374.89, Savings account: €15,674.61.

All in all, AILC/ICLA's accounts are in a healthy position, totaling over USD \$180,000.

3. Brief report on support for Early Career Scholars (Oana Fotache and Emanuelle Santos)

Oana Fotache (Chair of the Participation Grants Committee) reported on the committee's activities. Following the Executive Committee meeting held in Delhi, where an increased budget of USD \$3,000 was approved for registration fee waivers, travel support, and accommodation, the PG Committee issued a call for applications. The competition was extremely selective, with 348 applicants from 34 countries vying for only 15 grants (thanks to an additional donation of USD \$1,000). The key criteria considered in the evaluation process included: academic and financial standing as evidenced in the CV and motivation letter, any special circumstances described by the applicants, and the country of origin or institutional affiliation.

The PG Committee also undertook the implementation of the ICLA Matching Grants program for the organization of early-career events by Member Associations. This initiative, launched by the ICLA President, is designed to support research-focused events for students and early-career researchers. A total of USD \$2,500 will be allocated annually, allowing for up to 10 grants of a maximum of USD \$250 each, to be disbursed in two rounds per year (typically in October and March), matched by the National Associations.

Emanuelle Santos (Chair of the ECARE Committee) announced the initiatives undertaken by the committee to support early-career researchers, such as the NextGen stream of panels (particularly numerous this year), the First Book Subvention, the Best Translation Prize, and the Best Graduate Paper Prize.

For the 2025 First Book Subvention Prize, the Committee is still processing the applications; the prize will be announced by the end of the calendar year. The Best Translation Prize is awarded only in the year of the AILC/ICLA Congress, and there were no submissions in 2025.

There are plans to initiate a mentoring scheme for ECRs and to organize an intermediate online event for early-career scholars between congresses, following the Princeton Conference in 2021 (“Global Publishing and the Making of Literary Worlds”).

Emanuelle Santos encouraged participants to read the newsletter and help disseminate ICLA initiatives and events among their national associations.

4. Announcement of the winner of the Best Graduate Paper Prize 2025 (Emanuelle Santos)

The Best Graduate Paper Prize is awarded to a paper presented in the NextGen stream of the Congress. Winners receive a cash prize of USD \$250 and have their paper published in the Association’s journal, *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research*.

This year marks the first time the prize has been awarded, and there are two winners, each receiving a \$125 prize. The winners are: **Felicia Cucuta** (Harvard University), for her paper “*Care and Kinship: Staging the More-than-Human in Canadian and Greenlandic Theatre*”, and **Song Huang** (University of Virginia), for her presentation “*From Jinjiang to the Global Stage: Reimagining Chuānyuè (Time Travel) as a Bridge Between Cultures, Genres, and Times*”.

5. Location of the XXV International AILC/ICLA Congress 2028 (Lucia Boldrini)

The EC analyzed three strong proposals for hosting the 2028 Congress: from the Universities of Rome, Glasgow, and Birmingham. The EC selected the University of Glasgow’s bid.

6. Results of the Online Vote and Elections (Liedeke Plate)

Liedeke Plate, Chair of the Election Committee, presented the results of the election process, as follows:

a. Ratification of Chairs of AILC/ICLA Standing Research Committees

The following committee chairs have been ratified:

Florian Mussgnug – CHLEL

E. V. Ramakrishnan– The ICLA Standing Research Committee on South Asian Literatures and Cultures

Stefan Buchenberger– Comics Studies and Graphic Narrative

Tegan Zimmerman – The Comparative Gender Studies Research Committee

Haun Saussy – Comparative History of East Asian Literatures

Anne Duprat – The Research Committee on Literary Theory

He Chengzhou – Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies

Youngmin Kim – Translation Studies

Lobna Ismail – Research Committee on Arabic Comparative Literature

Kitty Millet – Religion, Ethics and Literature

b. Amendments to the AILC/ICLA Statutes

The four amendments to the statutes proposed by the EC have been ratified.

c. Elected Officers and members of the Executive Council of the AILC/ICLA, 2025-2028

The following officers have been elected (with approx. 21% of the entire membership expressing their online vote):

PRESIDENT

Ipshita Chanda (English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, India)

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Anne Duprat (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, France)

Noriko Hiraishi (University of Tsukuba, Japan)

Helga Mitterbauer (Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium)

Haun Saussy (University of Chicago, USA)

SECRETARIES

Oana Fotache (University of Bucharest, Romania)

Zoé Schweitzer (Université Jean-Monnet, St Étienne, France)

TREASURERS

Europe-Africa-Middle East: Alexandra Lopes (UCP, Portugal)

Asia-Pacific: Yuriko Yamanaka (National Museum of Ethnology, Japan)

Americas: Gundela Hachmann (Louisiana State University, USA)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Megumi Arai (University of Tokyo, Japan)

Alexander Beecroft (University of South Carolina, USA)

Raul Calzoni (Università degli Studi di Bergamo)

Laura Cernat (KU Leuven, Belgium)

Sung-Won Cho (Seoul Women's University)

Adriana Crolla (Universidad Nacional del Litoral, Argentina)

Lobna Ismail (Cairo University)

Maria Esther Maciel (U of Minas Gerais, Brazil)

Kitty Millet (San Francisco State University, USA)

Irma Ratiani (Tbilisi State University, Georgia)

Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford, UK)

Godwin Siundu (University of Nairobi, Kenya)

Fatiha Taib (Mohammed V University, Morocco)

Clotilde Thouret (Paris-Nanterre University)

Makoto Tokumori (University of Tokyo)

Rita Wilson (Monash University, Australia)

Ying Xiong (Shanghai Normal University, China)

Hui Zhang (Peking University)

Haun Saussy announced that Lucia Boldrini has become honorary president of the ICLA and warmly thanked her on behalf of the EC for all her efforts and dynamic leadership during the past three years.

7. AOB and Questions

Lucia Boldrini thanked the organizers of the Congress and her colleagues in the EC.

Ipshita Chanda delivered her first speech as President of the AILC/ICLA. She thanked the general assembly members for their presence and the association's officers. She emphasized ICLA's ideals of inclusivity, dialogue, and exchange between peoples and cultures, which are especially valuable in the current global context, and pointed to the commitment of the discipline and the association to "listening to other voices, to others' voices."

A participant from the audience thanked the association's executive council.

The general assembly was closed.