

**Report of  
the Coordinating Committee for  
the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL)  
2021/22  
For ICLA-meeting, Tbilisi, 23 July 2022  
By President Helga Mitterbauer**

**Information about CHLEL:** <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/>

**Information about publications, John Benjamins:** <https://www.benjamins.com/#catalog/books/chlel/volumes>

### **About CHLEL**

The main aim of the committee is to coordinate the publication of comparative, collaborative, and experimental literary histories. In the past year, we specified the profile of the series and have now divided it into four sub-series: a geographical, a period-oriented, a topic-oriented, and a problem-based sub-series. Projects in the first three series typically include 2-4 volumes, projects in the fourth sub-series have one volume focusing on a selected literary historiographical problem.

Criteria for acceptance of a project in one of our series is high level academic quality, a genuine new approach to a specific area of literary history, an international team of editors and contributors, and a comparative methodology. All volumes are published with John Benjamins.

We have an increased focus on literatures in European languages outside of Europe for instance in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, an increased focus on the interactions between literature in Europe and literature outside of Europe, and on understanding European literature in light of the consequences of globalization, migration, and transcultural influences. We also have a strong focus on the literary object, its historical materiality, its redefinition in the new digital era, its old and new media forms, and relations to other aesthetic art forms, as well as literature's relation to literary culture.

### **At the moment, we have ten ongoing projects:**

- *Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern Times Inside and Outside Europe: A Millennium Heritage*, ed. by Francesco Stella
- *Nordic Literatures*, ed. by Steven Sondrup and Mark B. Sandberg
- *Trans-Culture: Literature and Migration in Europe since the 1950s*, ed. by Fridrun Rinner, Myriam Geiser, Jeanne Glesener, Helga Mitterbauer, Franca Sinopoli, Sandra Vlasta
- *Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery*, ed. by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Madeleine Dobie
- *Toward a Comparative History of the Literary Draft in Europe*, ed. by Olga Beloborodova, Dirk van Hulle
- *A Comparative Intermedial History of Baroque*, ed. by Massimo Fusillo, Helga Mitterbauer

- *A Comparative History of Small and Minority Literatures in Europe*, ed. by Jeanne E. Glesener
- *Japonism and Post-Japonism in Literature: Nationally Coded Writing Beyond National Culture*, ed. by Ina Hein, Christine Ivanovic
- *Queer(ing) Literary Cultures? LGBTQ+ European Modern Literatures in Comparison*, ed. by Mateusz Chmurski, Clément Dessy
- *World Literature and the Anthropocene*, ed. by Florian Mussnug, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Jennifer Wenzel

### **Published volumes in 2022**

- *Landscapes of Realism. Rethinking Literary Realism in Comparative Perspectives*, vol. 2: *Pathways through Realism*, ed. by Svend Erik Larsen, Steen Bille Jørgensen, Margaret R. Higonnet; John Benjamins, <https://benjamins.com/catalog/chlel.xxxiii>

### **Volumes in peer-review process by CHLEL**

- *Latin Literatures in Medieval and Early Modern Times. Inside and Outside Europe. A Millennium Heritage*, ed. by Francesco Stella

### **We expect three manuscripts to be submitted for peer-review in 2022**

- *Nordic Literatures: A Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures*, vol. 2, ed. by Steven P. Sondrup, Mark Sandberg
- *Trans-Culture: Literature and Migration in Europe since the 1950s*, ed. by Fridrun Rinner et al.
- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery*, vol. 1, ed. by Madeleine Dobie (main editor), Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Karen-Margrethe Simonsen

### **New Projects**

At the business meeting 2021, three projects were proposed and accepted unanimously:

- *Japonism and Post-Japonism in Literature: Nationally Coded Writing Beyond National Culture*, ed. by Ina Hein, Christine Ivanovic, University of Vienna
- *Queer(ing) Literary Cultures? LGBTQ+ European Modern Literatures in Comparison*, ed. by Mateusz Chmurski, Clément Dessy
- *World Literature and the Anthropocene*, ed. by Florian Mussnug, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Jennifer Wenzel

### **Business meeting 2021 and Research seminar**

Due to Covid, the CHLEL business meeting 2021 and the conference, which usually are connected, needed to be organized separately. The business meeting (originally planned for spring) was organized on 28 October 2021 via Zoom. A symposium dedicated to the memory of Patrizia Lombardo (1950-2019) on *Emotions, Memory and Media in Comparative Literature* needed to be postponed several times and was held on Friday 27 May 2022 at King's College London in collaboration with

the University of Nottingham's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and the CHLEL committee. The main organizer was Dirk Götttsche, Nottingham University, who was the project director of the CHLEL project *Landscapes of Realism*.

### **Business meeting 2022**

The business meeting will take place in hybrid format on 28 July.

### **Election 2021**

In Fall of 2021, a new committee has been elected. In accordance with our bylaws, the *comité-de-tri* (Mark Sandberg, University of California Berkeley [chair], Margaret-Anne Hutton, University of St. Andrews, and Vivian Liska, University of Antwerp) held two rounds of voting. Ten members of the committee were re-elected, and six new members joined CHLEL:

- Mateusz Chmurski, Sorbonne Université
- Anne Fastrup, University of Copenhagen
- Ben Hutchinson, University of Kent
- Benedikts Kalnačs, University of Latvia
- Atinati Mamatsashvili, Ilia State University (Georgia)
- Gesine Müller, University of Cologne

With these new members, the CHLEL committee offers a wide range of expertise and can well support our projects.

### **Grants**

In 2021, we applied for extra funding from The General Assembly of UAI (Union académique internationale) and received a grant totaling 1,500 euros for the period 2022-2023 to be spent on language reviewing and copy-editing.

### **Financial support by the ICLA**

ICLA has previously supported all necessary language revisions of volumes published via CHLEL with 2000 euros per volume. We don't ask for this support from ICLA this year, but we hope to be able to turn to ICLA again in the future. Regarding the financial support that our projects received in the previous year, the question has arisen as to whether this money may be used towards securing open access for our publications. Benjamins offers open access for about 8,000 euros/volume, which is very difficult to obtain from the usual funding agencies. So far, the support by ICLA has been used for translations, proof-reading, copy-editing, and reviews.

## **MEMBERS OF CHLEL (2022-2024)**

### **OFFICERS**

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**Report on CHLEL respectfully submitted by Helga Mitterbauer, 27 June 2022**