



**Report of
the Coordinating Committee for
the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL)
2023/24**

**For ICLA-meeting, online, September 2024
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. The profile of the series has been specified 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 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:

- *Nordic Literatures*, ed. by Steven Sondrup and Mark B. Sandberg
- *Literature and Migration in Europe since the 1950s*, ed. by Fridrun Rinner, Myriam Geiser, Jeanne Glesener, Helga Mitterbauer, Franca Sinopoli, Sandra Vlasta
- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery – The Atlantic World and Beyond*, ed. by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Madeleine Dobie (volume 3)
- *A Comparative Intermedial History of the Baroque*, ed. by Massimo Fusillo, Helga Mitterbauer, Birgit Neumann, and Alessandro Metlica
- *A Comparative History of Small and Minority Literatures in Europe*, ed. by Jeanne E. Glesener, Benedikts Kalnačs, and Marko Juvan
- *Japonism and Post-Japonism in Literature: Nationally Coded Writing Beyond National Culture*, ed. by Ina Hein and Christine Frank

- *Queer(ing) Literary Cultures? LGBTQ+ European Modern Literatures in Comparison*, ed. by Mateusz Chmurski, Clément Dessy
- *World Literature and the Anthropocene*, ed. by Florian Mussgnug, Mads Rosendahl Thomsen, Ursula K. Heise
- *Revisiting the Countryside in Literary History*, ed. by Anne Fastrup
- *Jewishness in European History*, ed. by Atinati Mamatsashvili

Volume published in June 2024

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

Volumes in production (to be published by the end of 2024/in early 2025)

- *Toward a Comparative History of the Literary Draft in Europe*, ed. by Olga Beloborodova, Dirk van Hulle (expected in November 2024)
- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery – The Atlantic World and Beyond*, volume I: *Slavery, Literature and the Emotions*, ed. by Madeleine Dobie, Mads-Anders Baggesgaard & Karen-Margrethe Simonsen (expected in December 2024)
- *A Comparative Literary History of Modern Slavery – The Atlantic World and Beyond*, volume II: *Slavery, Memory and Literature*, ed. by Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Madeleine Dobie, Mads-Anders Baggesgaard

We expect two manuscripts to be submitted for peer-review in 2024

- *Nordic Literatures: A Comparative History of Nordic Literary Cultures*, vol. 2, ed. by Steven P. Sondrup, Mark Sandberg
- *Literature and Migration in Europe since the 1950s*, ed. by Fridrun Rinner et al.

New Projects

During 2024's meeting, the CHLEL committee accepted two new projects:

- *Revisiting the Countryside in Literary History*, ed. by Anne Fastrup
- *Jewishness in European History*, ed. by Atinati Mamatsashvili

Business meeting 2024

The business took place in hybrid format on 1 June 2024 at the University of Copenhagen, preceded by the conference "Revisiting the Countryside in Literary History", organised on 31 May 2024 (see programme in attachment).

In addition to the usual points, the CHLEL committee made a ground-breaking decision during its business meeting in Copenhagen: By unanimous decision, all CHLEL volumes will be published **open access** in the future. Negotiations with the publisher are still ongoing, but I hope to be able to provide more concrete information at the ICLA Executive Meeting.

There is a further change with regard to the **final peer review procedure**: following increasing difficulties in finding suitable reviewers for the CHLEL volumes (most of the experts in the field are contributing to our volumes!), the committee has agreed that in future, instead of two external and one internal reviewer, the volumes will be reviewed by only one external and one internal reviewer; a third (external) reviewer will only be commissioned if the reviews differ. This procedure seems justified to

us due to the accompanying annual review process of the projects by the CHLEL committee.

Election 2024

The term of office of the current CHLEL Committee ends on 31 December 2024. The elections of the new committee will take place in Fall 2024. A *comité de tri* consisting of former president Karen-Margrethe Simonsen as chair and the outgoing members Massimo Fusillo (secretary) and Birgit Neumann has been appointed to organise the upcoming CHLEL election. Voting will take place during the three weeks between 10 and 30 October 2024.

On 1 January 2025, the newly elected committee will take office after approval by the ICLA board.

Financial support by the ICLA

ICLA has previously supported all necessary language revisions of volumes published via CHLEL with 2000 euros per volume. We would like ask again for a support by the ICLA of **2000 euros** for the project *A Comparative Intermedial History of Baroque* to be used for translations, proof-reading, copy-editing, reviews, or as a contribution to the costs of open access offered by Benjamins.

Since many years, our website (<https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/projects/chlel/about-chlel/>) is hosted by the University of Antwerp. Our accounts are also located there, both of which are managed in an exemplary manner by Jan Morrens. We are requesting **750 euros** from ICLA for him, which would be a small token of appreciation for the work he has done over the past three years.

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