



CENTRE FOR LITERARY &  
INTERMEDIAL CROSSINGS  
RESEARCH GROUP

## CLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2019

This annual report highlights member news and representational activities, as well as initiatives and achievements realized with CLIC support. We thank everyone for their contributions in 2019!

### Member news

CLIC welcomed Prof. Dr. Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans as well as PhD students Stefan Clappaert, Marie Devlieger, Anthony Manu and Senne Schraeyen as new members in 2019. Having received a one-year-scholarship ('opvangmandaat') from the VUB, PhD candidate Anthony Manu develops a model for humor in 19<sup>th</sup>-century lyric texts (supervisor: Hans Vandevoorde). In November 2019, CLIC welcomed Chinese PhD candidate Yu Zhou at the VUB whose PhD research centres on Chinese writer Ai Qing and the influence of Emile Verhaeren on his work as well as on the reception of Verhaeren in China (supervisor: David Gullentops). Emilie Sitzia, associate professor at the University of Maastricht, also joined CLIC as affiliated member.

In 2019, elections for the new CLIC board (chair/vice-chair/secretary) were organized. On 03.10.2019, CLIC members elected the following board members: Janine Hauthal (Chair), Inge Arteel (Vice-Chair), Mathias Meert (Secretary). All new board positions are held for two years. CLIC thanks the previous board – Inge Arteel (Chair), David Gullentops (Vice-Chair), Mathias Meert (Secretary) – for their contributions and engagement.

On 03.10.2019, CLIC and LIST hosted a reception in honor of Prof. em. Dr. Johan Callens. CLIC expressed thanks for Johan's research and teaching, his many contributions to the research group and his activities in the FWO-panel CULT2.

Five PhD theses have been successfully defended by CLIC members in 2019:

- On 04.09.2019, PhD candidate Alyssa Verhees defended her PhD entitled "Kunst als ding en voorstelling: Kunstwerken in het oeuvre van Huub Beurskens en Stefan Hertmans." Supervisor: Hans Vandevoorde.
- On 06.09.2019, PhD candidate Janna Aerts defended her PhD entitled "'Hoe heb ik u noodig dezer dagen.' Brusselse schrijversdagboeken tijdens de Tweede Wereldoorlog." Supervisor: Hans Vandevoorde.

- On 04.10.2019, PhD candidate Olivier Couder defended his PhD entitled “Don’t Be Absurd: Absurdist Humour in Absurdist Literature from a Cognitive Perspective.” Joint PhD UGent and VUB; supervisors: Lars Bernaerts and Inge Arteel.
- On 21.11.2019, PhD candidate Thomas Thoelen defended his PhD entitled “DANCE FIRST. THINK AFTERWARDS. THINK AGAIN: ‘Techno-logical’ (Dis)Order in Samuel Beckett’s *Molloy* and *The Unnamable*”. Supervisor: Christophe Collard, co-supervisor: Douglas Atkinson.
- On 26.11.2019, PhD candidate Zheng Xing defended his PhD entitled “Unlocking the Secrets of Accelerating Times: On Paul Virilio’s Dromology Theory” (CSC Scholarship, Joint PhD Tongji University (China) and VUB; co-supervisor: Christophe Collard.

CLIC congratulates all five members and wishes them success in their future endeavors.

In January 2019, CLIC member Elisabeth Bekers revised and resubmitted an H2020-MSCA-ITN-2019 application for a total of 12 PhD fellowships (2 to be supervised at VUB) on “Imaginary Europes in Twentieth- and Twenty-First-Century Literature” (IMAGEEUROPES, no. 860389), which is coordinated by VUB. The proposal received an excellent score (93,4%; which amounts to a 4,6%-rise compared to 2018) but was narrowly not ranked.

In October 2019, Diana Castilleja was elected president of the “Asociación de Hispanistas del Benelux – AHBx” ([www.ahbx.eu](http://www.ahbx.eu)) from 2020 to 2024.

### Representation

From October to December 2019, CLIC welcomed poet Lisa Samuels (University of Auckland, Australia) as poet-in-residence. Lisa gave a poetry reading (see below), guest lectured in the MA seminar “Postcolonial Literatures in English” and participated in the CLIC day (see below). The residency was hosted by CLIC member Elisabeth Bekers, in collaboration with Hannah Van Hove.

In 2019, *JLIC – Journal for Literary and Intermedial Crossings* published two issues. The spring issue (3/2019) centres on “Life Course/Writing” (guest edited by Mathias Meert and Ann Peeters) and features contributions by CLIC members Diana Castilleja, Mathias Meert, Dirk Vanden Berghe and Marc van Zoggel. The autumn issue (4/2019) on “City Portraits/Stadsporetten” has been guest edited by CLIC members Daniel Acke, Elisabeth Bekers and Diana Castilleja and features contributions by CLIC members Diana Castilleja, Ronald Geerts, Janine Hauthal and Dirk Vanden Berghe as well as by Liesbeth François (KU Leuven), David Martens (KU Leuven – MDRN) and Alexandra Sanchez, Inge Lanslot and An Van Hecke (KU Leuven). It also features an artistic contribution by Peter Van Goethem (RITCS). Since May 2019, *JLIC* has a newly composed editorial team, consisting of CLIC members Janine Hauthal, Mathias Meert, Ann Peeters, Andrea Penso and Hannah Van Hove. CLIC thanks the previous board members – David Gullentops (managing editor), Christophe Collard and Thomas Thoelen (editorial assistant) – for their contributions and engagement.

In 2019, CLIC organized screening sessions for FWO applicants (Aspirant, Postdoc and Projects). Additionally, a 'coaching' session for potential PhD candidates was organized on 14.10.2019. In this session, potential PhD candidates who were interested in applying for FWO funding could discuss their future research topic with experienced literary scholars from CLIC and received advice on writing their respective research proposals.

CLIC members Andrea Penso and Hannah Van Hove created a new website (<https://clic.research.vub.be/>) and, with Helena Van Praet, a new research poster for CLIC (corridor, 5<sup>th</sup> floor of building B).

Together with CLIC members Daniel Acke and Elisabeth Bekers and the organizing team of the French Year 2018-2019 at the VUB, CLIC co-hosted writer in residence Fouad Laroui who was the main guest in various seminars and literary events of the French Week 21.03.2019-25.03.2019.

With the logistic support of CLIC the interuniversity master programme *Master in de literatuurwetenschappen* organized its yearly closing debate at the VUB on 28.05.2019, moderated by Hans Vandevoorde, with Janine Hauthal.

In March and May 2019, CLIC members Dirk Vanden Berghe and Diana Castilleja hosted the Emile Lorand Chairs for Italian and Spanish Literature and welcomed at VUB Domenico Scarpa (Centro Internazionale di Studi Primo Levi, Turin) and Eugenia Helena Houvenaghel (Utrecht University) respectively .

On 18.11.2019, CLIC and MuMA co-hosted a guest lecture by Prof. Ulrike Garde, Associate Professor at the University of Sidney (Australia), on "Theatre and Multilingualism: 'Foreign' Languages and Accents on the Stage", within the frame of the Multilingual Master course "Multilingualism and Literature", led by CLIC members Ann Peeters and Andrea Penso, organized and chaired by Janine Hauthal.

CLIC member Hannah Van Hove hosted the event "Poetry in Performance: Jennifer K. Dick and Lisa Samuels" on 18.11.2019 at the VUB, in the new arts venue PILAR Box. Both poets performed new work and discussed literary experiments and performance alternatives.

CLIC participated in the annual VAL symposium, organized at KU Leuven on 22.11.2019. Carolien Van Nerom, Hannah Van Hove and Mathias Meert represented CLIC at the plenary methodological session on 'Studying Modernism'.

CLIC was represented at the Brussels Science Festival (*Wetenschapsfestival*) on 24.11.2019 by Elisabeth Bekers, who gave a workshop on the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Daniel Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe*.

The annual CLIC symposium took place on 29.11.2019 and revolved around the literary and intermedial legacies of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, commemorating the 300<sup>th</sup> birthday of the novel's publication (organizers: Elisabeth Bekers, Andrea Penso, Zhuyun Song, Hannah Van Hove). The 9th CLIC-day explored the many adaptations and legacies of *Robinson Crusoe* in the English, French, German and Italian language domains. It featured a keynote by writer

Faoud Laroui (University Amsterdam) and an artists' talk with poet-in-residence Lisa Samuels (University of Auckland), chaired by Hannah Van Hove, as well as lectures by Emilie Stitiza (University of Maastricht) and CLIC-members Daniel Acke, Andrea Penso, Zhuyun Song, Mathias Meert and Helena Van Praet.

On 10.12.2019, the theatre group "Los amigos de Talía" presented the play "Un paleta ¡con talento!" by Julio Mathias. The event was organized by CLIC-member Diana Castilleja, together with CLIN and Semper CVO.

### **CLIC-supported Conferences and Seminars**

CLIC supported the international congress on "Crossing the border between Spanish and English" (05.02.2019-06.02.2019, Het Pand, Gent) which was co-hosted by the research groups CROS, CLIC and CLIN and co-organised by CLIC member Diana Castilleja.

The international conference "Samuel Beckett and the Nonhuman" (07.-08.02.2019, VUB) was co-hosted by CLIC and the Centre for Manuscript Genetics (University of Antwerp) and organized by CLIC members Christophe Collard, Douglas Atkinson and Thomas Thoelen.

CLIC supported the international conference "Fictions of Europe: Imaginary Topographies and Transnational Identities" (28.-29.03.2019, Palace of the Academies, Brussels), which was co-hosted by VUB, UA and KU Leuven and organized by CLIC members Janine Hauthal, Elisabeth Bekers and Arvi Sepp as well as Bart Philipsen (KU Leuven).

On 14.06.2019, the "Primera Jornada de Traducción Literaria Español – Neerlandés" took place at the VUB. The study day on literary translations Spanish-Dutch was organized by CLIC members Arvi Sepp and Philipp Humblé.

On 09.09.2019, Janna Aerts, Arvi Sepp and Hans Vandevoorde organized the colloquium "Diary writing during war time. The journal as ritual act and material text" which took place at the Royal Library of Belgium, Brussels. This colloquium was part of the FWO-project 'Occupation diaries of literary authors in the Second World War' (VUB-UGent-Cegesoma).

On 05.-06.12.2019, CLIC-members Philippe Humblé, Arvi Sepp and Hans Vandevoorde organized the international conference "Het literaire werk van Kader Abdolah: poëtica en receptie" at the VUB (U-Residence).

### **WOLEC**

The graduate student platform WOLEC ("Werkgroep over Literatuur en Cultuur") is currently organized by Carolien Van Nerom and Zhuyun Song. It offers lunch lectures, in which speakers tackle a broad range of subjects and methodologies, and hosts a variety of modules, from reading sessions to lectures and discussions. In 2019, the programme included lectures by Rachele Gusella, Anthony Manu, Mathias Meert, Hannah Van Hove and Helena Van Praet (all VUB) as well as by Giovanni Pietro Vitali (University College Cork/Marie Curie Research Fellow). For more information on topics and speakers and an overview of earlier events, see: <https://clic.research.vub.be/en/activities/wolec>.