



CENTRE FOR LITERARY &
INTERMEDIAL CROSSINGS
RESEARCH GROUP

CLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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 2022!

Member news

12 new members (in alphabetical order) joined CLIC in 2022:

- 1) Tara Brusselaers holds a Multilingual MA in Linguistics and Literary Studies (MUMA, Dutch and English) from the VUB and an Advanced MA Literatuurwetenschappen (KU Leuven/U Antwerpen/U Gent/VUB). She works as a pedagogical assistant in the MUMA. Her research focuses on contemporary Black British (Women's) poetry, intermediality, multimodality and aesthetics.
- 2) Luomei Cui holds an MA in Applied Linguistics. Her academic interests lie in literary studies, corpus-based translation studies, critical discourse analysis and the application of narrative theory to translation. Her PhD studies (supervisor: Guillermo Sanz Gallego) are fully funded with a CSC scholarship.
- 3) Selle Denier graduated from the MUMA (Dutch and English) at VUB and is working as a pedagogical assistant for the Multilingual Bachelor in Linguistics and Literary Studies.
- 4) Muhammad Naseem holds a master's degree in English Literature from Government College University Faisalabad Pakistan and has joined CLIC as a PhD fellow on a grant from the University of Baltistan, Skardu and the Higher Education Commission, Pakistan. Under the supervision of Birgit Van Puymbroeck and Elisabeth Bekers, he investigates how Pakistaniness is constructed in diasporic Pakistani literature in English drawing on theoretical insights from Diaspora Studies, Migration Studies, and Postcolonial Studies.
- 5) Iana Nikitenko joined CLIC in December 2022 as a doctoral researcher working on the FWO-funded research project "Broadcast Biographies. Innovations in Genre and Medium (1945-2020)" (supervisors: Inge Arteel and Birgit Van Puymbroeck). Iana obtained an Erasmus Mundus MA in Children's Literature, Media and Culture from the universities of Glasgow, Aarhus, Tilburg and Wrocław.
- 6) Visiting professor Thomas Rommel received his doctorate and *Habilitation* in Literary Studies at U Tübingen and was Professor of Literature and coordinator of undergraduate

and graduate programs in the Humanities at Jacobs U Bremen. He held visiting positions at Northern Arizona U, Columbia U in New York, Joensuu U, Finland, and Freie Universität Berlin. He is the former Rector and Provost of Bard College Berlin, a Liberal Arts university, and served as Director of Programs at the American Academy in Berlin. His research interests include 18th-century thought, Romanticism, and Liberal Arts education.

- 7) Michael Rosenfeld obtained his PhD in Francophone literature at the Sorbonne Nouvelle and the Université Catholique de Louvain in 2020. He joined CLIC as FWO junior postdoctoral fellow with a project that analyses the transnational collaborative strategies of queer intellectuals between 1885 and 1910 in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.
- 8) Gert Valentijn graduated in Romance Languages at VUB in 2006 and currently works as a French and Spanish lecturer at the U Gent and the Arteveldehogeschool. He is working towards a PhD (under the supervision of David Gullentops and Daniel Acke) about the influence of short form poetry and haiku on non-religious mysticism in contemporary French poetry.
- 9) Cedric Van Dijck studied English Literature in Leuven, Edinburgh, and Ghent, where he also obtained his PhD. His FWO senior postdoctoral fellowship explores the material artefacts of the bureaucratic state in the modernist novel about Sub-Saharan Africa (1884-1966).
- 10) Katrijn Vandebossche joined CLIC in June 2022 as doctoral researcher working on the FWO-funded research project “Self-Reflexivity and Generic Change in 21st-Century Black British Women’s Literature” (supervisors: Janine Hauthal and Elisabeth Bekers). Katrijn obtained an MA in German and English Literature and Linguistics from the University of Ghent in 2021.
- 11) Yanrong Wang obtained an MA in English Language and Literature in 2022 from Hainan University and joined CLIC September 2022. Her doctoral research is entitled “Towards Hybridization: Postcolonial and Diasporic Identities in Black Canadian Literature since the 1990s” (supervisor: Janine Hauthal) and fully funded with a CSC scholarship.
- 12) Yu Wang also joined CLIC as a PhD student in September 2022. She works on a PhD project about affective spaces and divided memories in transitional European and Chinese cities under the supervision of Guillermo Sanz Gallego (funded by the CSC).
- 13) Yuxin Yan obtained an MA in Fine Art in June 2022 and works as a CSC fellow under the supervision of Sabine Hillen (CLIC) and Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans (VISU). Her PhD project analyzes the predicament and limitations of Chinese cultural minorities’ musical films and addresses the research gap between Chinese and Western musical film studies.

On 20 May 2022, Daniel Acke was awarded the ‘Insignes dans l’Ordre des Palmes Académique’ by the French embassy in Belgium. The award is granted to academic scholars who seek to strengthen the bonds and cooperation links between Belgium and France.

Ann Peeters acts as the Chair of VLIR-UOS in the academic year 2022/2023.

Inge Arteel has been called up as a member of the FWO CULT2 panel for the evaluation of junior and senior fundamental research projects as of 2023.

In 2022, the research centers of the department of Linguistics and Literary Studies (LIST) underwent a crucial restructuring from 4 smaller research groups (BIAL, BIJU, CLIC, CLIN) to 2 + 1 research groups. The Brussels Institute for Applied Linguistics (BIAL) was suspended, and colleagues in literary translation joined CLIC (while research in linguistics was clustered in the newly named Brussels Centre for Linguistic Studies (BCLS), formerly the Centre for Linguistics (CLIN)). This restructuring followed the logic of the FWO panels CULT1 and CULT2 (where translation studies does not have its own panel) and aimed at achieving synergies between literary studies and literary translation studies for successful funding applications. In the context of this re-organization, 6 senior BIAL colleagues specialized in research on literary translation joined CLIC: Geert Crauwels, Guillermo Sanz Gallego, Sabine Hillen, Sonja Lavaert, Arvi Sepp and Ine Van linthout. Several colleagues were already affiliated with CLIC. The existing [CLIC website](#) was adapted to reflect the new composition and focus of the enlarged research group.

On 13 July, the candidacy of Janine Hauthal (Chair) and Arvi Sepp (Vice-Chair), whose expertise in literary and intermedial studies and literary translation studies, respectively, reflects the new clustering of research within CLIC, was unanimously approved by the CLIC members. The current CLIC secretary Mathias Meert was re-elected.

On 23 December 2022, CLIC member Wei Yang defended her doctoral thesis entitled “The Politics of Pleasure: Danmei and the Quiet Gender Revolution of Chinese Women” (supervisor: Inge Arteel).

Representation and research grants

The EUTOPIA Connected Research Community Research Incubator “Photography and Dissent” was launched in 2022. It promotes scientific exchange on recent photographic research and has been established by VUB-CLIC, Cy Cergy Paris U and Nova U Lisbon. Members include Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans (VISU/VUB), Hannah Van Hove (CLIC/VUB), Sanne Sinnige (VISU/VUB), Camille Rouquet (Cy Cergy Paris) and Susana Martins (Nova U Lisbon).

Postdoctoral researcher Hannah Van Hove received an internal ‘opvangmandaat’ from R&D, starting on 1 October 2022 (until 30 September 2024).

On 20 October, Gys-Walt van Egdom (U Utrecht), the Emile Verhaeren Chair 2022-2023, gave an inaugural lecture on literary translation, which was organized by David Gullentops and supported by CLIC.

The 12th CLIC Day took place on 14 November 2022. The annual study day focused on “Crossings: Concept, Discourse, Practice” and was organized by Janine Hauthal, Arvi Sepp and Claire Swyzen. The CLIC Day featured keynote lectures by Nassim Balestrini (U Graz, Lorand Chair Intermediality 2021-22) and Alexandra Saemmer (Paris 8, Lorand Chair Intermediality 2020-21) as well as (solo, duo and trio) contributions by Anthony Manu, Jelle Mast (BIJU – Brussels Institute for Journalism Studies), Mathias Meert, Andrea Penso, Guillermo Sanz Gallego, Irina Stanova, Jade Thomas, Maria Gil Ulldemolins (UHasselt), Hannah Van Hove, Dirk Vanden Berghe and Sofie Vandepitte. The symposium also featured a round table on “Theatre and/as Translation” with Nadine Malfait (literary translator), Gerardo Salinas (city dramaturge KVS) and Frank Verduyck (TG Stan).

The following CLIC researchers have obtained research grants by the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) in 2022:

- Michael Rosenfeld successfully applied for an FWO junior research fellowship, entitled “Daring to Speak Love’s Name: Collaborative Strategies of Queer Intellectuals in Belgium, France and the Netherlands between 1885 and 1910” (mentors: David Gullentops and Birgit Van Puymbroeck).
- A senior FWO postdoctoral fellowship was awarded to Cedric Van Dijck for his project “Paperwork: Modernism and Bureaucracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1884-1966” (mentor: Birgit Van Puymbroeck).

PhD researchers Jade Thomas won an FWO grant for a short research visit abroad to conduct archival research at Theatre on Film and Tape Archive (TOFT) in New York City (USA) in March 2022.

CLIC and BIJU researchers (Inge Arteel, Janine Hauthal, Jelle Mast, Arvi Sepp) successfully applied for the VUB TechTransfer call “Networking opportunity for researchers from the Social Sciences, Humanities & the Arts” on behalf of the research groups. First talks focusing on the research group’s joint research interests in cultural transfer and translation took place in July 2022.

In the framework of the iCon-MICs COST-Action “Investigation on comics and graphic novels from the Iberian Cultural Area” (2020-2024), of which Diana Castilleja is a member, the “Cultural Legacy of Iberian and Latin American Comics Training School” took place in Newcastle from 7 to 9 September (co-organised a.o. by Diana Castilleja).

Mathias Meert and Arvi Sepp’s application for an FWO-Tournesol mobility project on “Memories, Discourses and Representations of Exile in German-Language Literature” (2023-2024) with the Université de Picardie Amiens (France) was approved by the FWO. The mobility project will allow the exchange of researchers and the organization of joint activities between Brussels and Amiens.

“Talent voor Onderzoek”

In 2022, CLIC participated, for the second time, in the faculty-wide “Talent voor Onderzoek”-programme which offers students the opportunity to take part in research activities under the supervision of experienced coaches. 2 students – Hayat Boutarbouche and Jana De Wolf – successfully applied and are supervised by coaches Elisabeth Bekers and Janine Hauthal.

CLIC-Lorand Chair Intermediality 2021/22

In 2021/2022, CLIC again hosted the Lorand Chair the Lorand Chair Intermediality which is financed by the Lorand legacy of the VUB. Andreas Fickers, professor for contemporary and digital history at the University of Luxembourg and founding director of the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C²DH), accepted the invitation to visit CLIC in March 2022. As part of his guest professorship, Prof. Fickers worked on the digital comic series “Making Europe” (www.makingeurope.eu/comics), a project which seeks to explore innovative ways of transforming a six volumes book series on European history of technology into a transmedia storytelling experience. As part of the Lorand Chair programme, Andreas Fickers:

- held an inaugural lecture which took place in collaboration with and at the Brussels Comics Art Museum on Monday, 28 March 2022 and was entitled “Unflattering European History through Transmedia Storytelling: The Making Europe Digital Comics Series”.
- acted as a respondent during the workshop on “Radio and Cultural Memory” which took place at VUB on 25 March 2022 and was organized by Inge Arteel and Birgit Van Puymbroeck, with the support of the Doctoral School of Humanities.
- invited all members of CLIC for an excursion and team building activity on 17/06 to the Belval campus of the University of Luxembourg. CLIC members were introduced to the “Minett Ralley”, an app developed by Prof. Fickers’ research group C²DH (Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History). CLIC members also explored the industrial heritage on the Belval Campus, visited the Luxembourg Learning Centre of the university library and attended presentations offered by members of the team “Remixing Industrial Pasts”.

Prof. Nassim Balestrini, full professor of American Studies and Intermediality at the University of Graz and head of its Centre for Intermediality Studies (CIMIG) accepted CLIC’s invitation as “Lorand Chair of Intermediality Studies” for 2022-2023.

CLIC-supported conferences, seminars and publications

CLIC funded and/or supported the following conferences, colloquia and other activities:

- from 26-28/01, the first international congress “Redes y Rutas”, which was organized by Diana Castilleja (VUB) in collaboration with the FNRS, the Université Saint-Louis, Eugenia

Houvenaghel (U Utrecht) and Carmen Alfonso (U Oviedo); the conference was also funded by the Spanish Embassy and the Spanish Council of Science and Education;

- on 25/3, the workshop “Radio and Cultural Memory” organized by Inge Arteel and Birgit Van Puymbroeck at the VUB, in collaboration with SEL and 20CC;
- from 4-5/5, the colloquium “Collaboration entre intellectuel·le·s queer 1880-1920” at the ULB, organized by Michael Rosenfeld and David Gullentops;
- from 15-16/09, the international conference “The Anti-Canon: Experimental Literature in English (1945-2000)” at the KVAB, organized by Hannah Van Hove and Tessel Venneboer (U Gent);
- from 22-24/09, the 8th Biennial AfroEuropeans Network Conference, “Intersectional Challenges in Afro-European Communities”, co-organized by Elisabeth Bekers and Janine Hauthal, in conjunction with the Africa Platform of Ghent University Association (GAP), the Brussels Centre for Urban Studies (BCUS), the European Network Against Racism (ENAR), the Brussels Interdisciplinary Research Centre for Migration and Minorities (BIRMM), the Research Centre Gender, Diversity and Intersectionality (RHEA) as well as numerous Belgian researchers and activists; the conference was also funded by FWO (3000€) and FNRS (3000€);
- on 23/09, the artistic performance “LEAD THE WAY” by Aminata Demba, accompanied by Hind Eljadid and Calya J, organised by Janine Hauthal and Jade Thomas;
- on 18/11, the international symposium “Studying the Senses” at U Gent, organized by Hans Vandevoorde and Florian Deroo;
- on 16/12, the study day “Jornada relecturas y reescrituras de Miguel Hernández” at the VUB, organized by Diana Castilleja and Guillermo Sanz Gallego;
- the publication of Lesley Penné’s PhD research *Land ohne Grenzen: Heimat und Erinnerungskultur im Werk von Hans Anderer, Freddy Derwahl und Leo Wintgens* (Waxmann, 2022).

WOLEC

In 2022, the CLIC Study Group for Literature and Culture by and for PhD students – WOLEC, directed by Stefan Clappaert, Anthony Manu and Jade Thomas, organized the following activities:

- On 27/01, Jade Thomas (VUB) gave a talk on “(Re)Staging/Playing Slavery in the 21st-Century: A Case Study of Jeremy O. Harris’s *Slave Play* (2018)”.
- On 24/02, Hannah Cornelus (UGent) presented her research on “Ecological Interconnectivity in Contemporary French Fiction”.
- On 23/03, Katrien Vanhamel (VUB) gave a lecture on “De Expo 58 in de kunstkritieken van Jan Walravens”.
- On 01/04, Senne Schraeyen (VUB) presented his research on “Roger Raveel: Providing a New Vision on the Complex Rural Landscape”.
- On 20/05, Hans Demeyer (UC London) taught a seminar on the contemporary novel and discussed the book *Affectieve crisis, literair herstel* (2021) that he co-wrote with Sven Vitse (U

Utrecht) with participants and young researchers. Different chapters were discussed by Stefan Clappaert (VUB), Helena Van Praet (UCLouvain), Florian De Roo (VUB/UGent), Dag Houdmont (ULB), Senne Schraeyen (VUB) and Hannah Cornelus (UGent).

- The sessions devoted to creative writing, which were organized by Anthony Manu, Stefan Clappaert and Hannah Van Hove and started in November 2021, were continued in 2022. In total, six sessions were organized over the course of the academic year. In the final three sessions, author Els Moors participated and provided the participants with feedback and tips. On 22/06, the concluding session took place and Branda Bikoko (VISU), Stefan Clappaert (CLIC), Anthony Manu (CLIC), Hannah Van Hove (CLIC) and Carolien Van Nerom (CLIC) presented their creative texts.
- On 18/10, Camille Dasseleer (UCLouvain) gave a lecture entitled “The speak is to thread and the thread weaves the world. The political potential of non-specific poetry”.
- On 03/11, Florian Deroo gave a talk on “A Howling wind that punched me in the chest: mountain sensations in the interwar travel writing of A. den Doollaard”.
- On 17/11, Giacomo Toffano (VUB) presented his research on “Conceptualizing hybrid-fiction in migration media content”.
- On 13/12, Timothy Sirjacobs (KULeuven) held a lecture on “De krachten bundelen (?): de ‘collection bilingue’ (1972-1982), uitgegeven bij La Renaissance de Livre als intra-Belgische vertaaltransfer in de vroege fasen van federalisering”.

JLIC

For the second time in 2021/2022, *JLIC – Journal for Literary and Intermedial Crossings*, edited by senior members of CLIC, offered two internships in the context of the MUMA. Two interns, Disona Bushaj and Cheren-Emanuela Capota, joined the JLIC editorial team and provided editorial assistance.

In 2022, JLIC published the following issue:

- Vol. 7.1: special issue “Depicting Destitution across Media”, edited by Nassim Balestrini and Katharina Fackler, with contributions by Linda and Michael Hutcheon, Emily Petermann, Margit Peterfy, Klaus and Susanne Rieser and Simone Knewitz.

All articles went through a two-stage peer-review process and have been published in open access on the website of the journal: www.jlic.be.