



CENTRE FOR LITERARY &
INTERMEDIAL CROSSINGS
RESEARCH GROUP

CLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel – Faculty of Arts and Philosophy – Pleinlaan 2 – 1050 Brussel
<https://clic.research.vub.be>

Arvi Sepp (chair), Janine Hauthal (vice chair), Gry Ulstein (secretary)

This annual report highlights important member news, strategic milestones and other representational activities of CLIC, as well as initiatives and achievements realized with CLIC support. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions in 2024!

1. MEMBER NEWS

New members

CLIC welcomed **25 new members** in 2024, meaning that CLIC currently hosts more than 80 researchers. The new members include, in alphabetical order:

- 1) **Hayat Boutarbouche** joined VUB and CLIC in October 2024. She holds an MA degree in Linguistics and Literary Studies from VUB (2023), and her thesis received the Emile Lorand Prize for French Literary Studies. She was selected for CLIC's "Talent for Research" programme in 2022-2023 (research coaches: Elisabeth Bekers and David Gullentops). She is currently preparing a PhD research proposal on self-reflexive Francophone African literature under the supervision of Sara Buekens and Elisabeth Bekers.
- 2) **Sara Buekens** joined VUB and CLIC as assistant professor of French Literature in November 2024. She holds a PhD from Ghent University (2020) and was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Idaho by the Belgian American Educational Foundation (BAEF) in 2021-2022, after which she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at Ghent University, funded by the FWO. Her research focuses on representations of nature and ecological issues in African Francophone literature.
- 3) **Aya Chriaa** joined VUB and CLIC as a pedagogical assistant in October 2024 and is preparing a PhD research proposal. She holds an MA degree in English and Dutch Literary Studies and Linguistics from Ghent University. Her research focuses on cognitive approaches and looks at the role of the body in contemporary African American neo-slave narratives under the supervision of Elisabeth Bekers.
- 4) **Stéphanie Engola** is an MSCA Seal of Excellence FWO postdoctoral fellow who joined CLIC in November 2024. She holds a PhD from the University of Yaoundé, with a focus

on literary translation, after which she worked as an assistant professor of English/Postcolonial Literature at the University of Dakar (Senegal). Her research explores the reception of violence in literary translation, the transformations that occur in the reader's mind and affect their perception of cultures (mentor: Arvi Sepp).

- 5) **Carmijn Gerritsen** joined CLIC as a visiting research MA student based at Radboud University (Netherlands) from September 2024 to January 2025 (host: Elisabeth Bekers). Her research explores identity politics, cultural memory, and postcolonial issues in contemporary Black British literature ranging from fiction and poetry to theatre.
- 6) **Wenfei Gu** is a one-year PhD guest researcher who joined CLIC in September 2024. Funded by the China Scholarship Council (CSC), her research focuses on translation studies and paratext, and translators' self-narratives in particular, with a corpus of autobiographies, memoirs, and diaries. She wants to explore how self-accounts can broaden horizons to understand translators from the perspective of their whole life and subjective feelings (supervisor: Arvi Sepp).
- 7) **Maxime Honinx** joined CLIC as a PhD researcher on Eva Ulrike Pirker's [MERLIT project](#) (ERC-CoG) in October 2024. She received a BA degree in Education from UCLL Diepenbeek (2018) and completed the bridging programme in English Literary Studies and Linguistics at Universiteit Antwerpen (2019). She obtained her MA degree in English Literary Studies at Durham University, and taught English at a secondary school in Brussels before she joined CLIC. Her research project centres on meritocratic narratives in nineteenth-century female travelogues.
- 8) **Xavier Houtave** holds a BA and MA in English Linguistics and Literary Studies from the University of Antwerp (2024) and is currently enrolled in the interuniversity Advanced MA in Literary Studies (MAnaMA Literatuurwetenschappen). His main research interests include, but are not limited to, literature and music, modernism, early modern literature, and poetics. He joined CLIC as a research intern in December 2024, to work on radio drama under the supervision of Pim Verhulst.
- 9) **Yuqing Huang** joined CLIC as a CSC (China Scholarship Platform) visiting PhD researcher in Literary Studies from Sichuan University, China, under the supervision of Arvi Sepp.
- 10) **Kayra Maes** joined CLIC as a PhD researcher in November 2024. In 2023, she graduated from VUB with an MA in Linguistics and Literary Studies and received the Multilingual Master Prize for Best Thesis in Literary Studies. She holds a Flemish interuniversity Advanced MA in Literary Studies (MAnaMA Literatuurwetenschappen 2025) and received a VUB research fellowship (2024-2025) to apply for FWO funding for a PhD project on the representation of care in contemporary Black British children's literature (supervisors: Elisabeth Bekers and Vanessa Joosen (Antwerp University)). In 2022-2023, she was selected for CLIC's "Talent for Research" programme (research coach: Elisabeth Bekers).
- 11) **Thomas Mantzaris** is a visiting postdoctoral researcher and joined CLIC in 2024. He works on multimodal American fiction and has applied for a Marie Curie fellowship as well as an FWO Postdoctoral fellowship at VUB. Other research interests include artificial intelligence and literature.

- 12) **Tem Mirkazemiyan** joined CLIC in October 2024 and is preparing a PhD research proposal. She holds a BA in English Language and Literature from the University of Tehran (Iran), and an MA in Western Literature from KU Leuven, for which she received the VLUHR Master Mind Scholarship. Her research, under the supervision of Inge Arteel, focuses on translations of absurdist theatre in Iran, both in adaptations on the stage and translations on paper.
- 13) **Iga Nowicz** joined CLIC as an associated postdoctoral researcher in 2024. In 2018, she received her Joint-PhD in German Studies from King's College London and the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Iga has taught at universities in London, Berlin, Flensburg and Vienna and helped set up a Berlin-based mentoring programme for women and non-binary persons in academia. She is a trained editor and has worked as a journalist covering local issues on the Polish-German border. She has published academic and popular texts on German literature, language and film.
- 14) **Josephine Delali Ofei** joined CLIC as a PhD researcher on the [MERLIT project](#) in the summer of 2024 (supervisor: Eva Ulrike Pirker). She holds a BA and an MA in English from the University of Cape Coast in Ghana and an MA in Comparative Literature and Cross-Cultural Studies from the China University of Mining and Technology. Her PhD project centres on Afrofuturist mediascapes and is entitled "Superheroes from the Global South: Afrofuturist Writing and Meritocratic Thought".
- 15) **Tola Ositelu** is a PhD researcher and project manager of the [MERLIT project](#). Her research project under the supervision of Eva Ulrike Pirker centres on narratives of Afro-descendant women working in the national health services in the UK, with the working title "(Post-)migrant narratives of mobility and care: The 'Windrush' Generation and the NHS Experience in Society, Literature and Culture". She has a background in law and linguistics.
- 16) **Maria Pace Aquilina** joined CLIC as a postdoctoral researcher on the [MERLIT project](#) in January 2024 (supervisor: Eva Ulrike Pirker). She will be working on English Restoration drama, which explores how narratives of social rise, achievement and merit are negotiated and shaped on the late 17th- and early 18th-century stage.
- 17) **Suzanne Scafe** joined CLIC as a visiting professor and co-supervisor of the doctoral researchers on the [MERLIT project](#) in late 2023 and works, together with Eva Ulrike Pirker, on a project about mid-20th century Black artists and their navigation of the modernist imperative of progress in their intermedial cultural practices.
- 18) **Beau Serrus** joined CLIC as project manager in September 2024 and will be responsible for various administrative and communication tasks at CLIC, such as maintaining the website and supporting CLIC's social media presence. She holds a BA and MA in French and English Linguistics and Literary Studies from Ghent University (2023) and a Flemish interuniversity Advanced MA in Literary Studies (MAAnaMA Literatuurwetenschappen 2024).
- 19) **Ceydanur Temurok** joined CLIC as a PhD researcher on the [MERLIT project](#) in summer 2024. She holds a BA in English from Yeditepe University in Istanbul and an MA from the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and is carrying out doctoral research on postmigrant literature with the working title: "'Second-class' to 'second-generation'":

Negotiations of achievement in the postmigrant Bildungsroman” (supervisor: Eva Ulrike Pirker).

- 20) **Gry Ulstein** joined CLIC as postdoctoral research policy officer in September 2024 and will offer CLIC tailored support for improved research infrastructure, communication, and output. She has a background in academic administration and diplomacy from Utrecht University and Ghent University and holds a PhD in literary studies from Ghent University. Her dissertation (2021) explored the representation of climate change, ecological thought, and the nonhuman in contemporary Weird fiction.
- 21) **Zhijie Tang** is a joint PhD researcher at VUB and Guandong University of Foreign Studies (China), funded by the CSC (supervisors: Arvi Sepp and Philippe Humblé). Her research interests include lexicography and Critical Discourse Analysis, and her PhD project focuses on the construction of older adults’ identity in the lexicographic discourse from a CDA perspective.
- 22) **Ruben Vanden Berghe** joined CLIC as guest professor and pedagogical assistant in September 2024. He holds a PhD from Ghent University (2024) and has published articles on the literary imagination of the early internet in the 1990s and information overload in Dutch fiction, as well as on Dutch-language experimental literature, contemporary poetry, and digital literature.
- 23) **Eszter Vass** joined CLIC in October 2024 as a joint PhD researcher at VUB and the University of Konstanz (Germany). Her dissertation examines the intersection of trauma and self-reflexivity on the contemporary British stage, looking at the works of Ella Hickson, Travis Alabanza, Duncan Macmillan, Tim Crouch, and Jasmine Lee-Jones (supervisor: Janine Hauthal).
- 24) **Pim Verhulst** joined CLIC as a postdoctoral researcher in October 2024. He holds a PhD on the bilingual genesis of Samuel Beckett’s radio plays from the University of Antwerp, where he has also worked as a postdoctoral researcher and as a visiting professor of English Literature. He was previously a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Oxford and received an MSCA postdoctoral fellowship from the EU. He studies postwar fiction from the British Isles, with a focus on radio drama and intermedial exchanges between radio, film, television, poetry, prose and theatre, as well as other visual and acoustic art forms.
- 25) **Chiara Zampieri** is a postdoctoral researcher in Comparative Literature at KU Leuven and joined CLIC and VUB as a teaching assistant in Italian Literature and Linguistics in December 2024. She holds a PhD in Comparative Literature from KU Leuven and has been collaborating actively in various networks and research groups, including the PatrimoniaLitté research network and the RIMELL (*Recherches Interdisciplinaires sur la Muséographie et l’Exposition de la Littérature et du Livre*).

Professors Emeriti

Three of CLIC’s professors retired in the course of 2024: **Ronald Geerts** (Professor of Film and Theatre Studies), **David Gullentops** (Professor of French Literature and Director of the interdisciplinary Emile Verhaeren Chair and the Emile Lorand Chair for French literature), and **Sonja Lavaert** (Professor of Philosophy and Language). CLIC warmly thanks them for their work and hopes they will keep in touch.

Awards and Appointments

In chronological order, the following awards and appointments were given to CLIC members:

- **Cedric Van Dijck** was appointed as a member of the Jonge Academie in February 2024.
- *The Edinburgh Companion to First World War Periodicals* (2023), edited by Marysa Demoor (U Gent) and CLIC members **Birgit Van Puymbroeck** and **Cedric Van Dijck**, was awarded the 2024 prize of the European Society for Periodical Research. The Companion brings together leading and emerging scholars from various fields to reassess the role and function of the periodical press during the so-called "Greater War".
- In January, **Diana Castilleja** was appointed as member of the editorial board of the journal *América: Cahiers du CRICCAL*, published since 1986 by the Paris 3 CRICCAL research centre issued by Sorbonne University.
- **Diana Castilleja** was reappointed as member of the editorial board of *AMOXCALLI: Journal of Theory and Criticism of Latin American Literature*, issued by Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla (BUAP) in Mexico, and of the editorial board of the journal *Alba de América*, published by California State University, Dominguez Hills.
- In September, **Janine Hauthal** was reappointed as member of the General Panel of the Vlaams Academisch Bibliografisch Bestand voor de Sociale en Humane Wetenschappen (VABB-SHW) and of the sub-panel "Literary Studies".
- On 5 December, **Janine Hauthal** was appointed as member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Centre for Intermediality Studies in Graz (CIMIG), University of Graz (Austria).
- On 13 December, **Beau Serrus** won the Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher Education (BAAHE) 2024 Thesis Award for the best MA Thesis, entitled "'Minute Puzzled Explorers': Children, Affect and Class in Katherine Mansfield's 'The Doll's House' and 'The Garden Party'".
- **Arvi Sepp** was elected as a member of The Network for European Philosophy and the Jewish Tradition on 8 December.
- On 30 December, **Arvi Sepp** was appointed as a board member of the Coordinating Committee for the Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages (CHLEL).

PhD Defences

Four CLIC PhD candidates successfully defended in 2024, in chronological order:

- **Carolien Van Nerom** defended her dissertation "Narrativity in Opera Music by Philip Glass" on 27 June (supervisors: Ann Peeters and Bart Bouckaert).
- **Stefan Clappaert** defended his dissertation "Claus kijkt: Creatieve kunstkritiek van een dichter 1947-1965" on 13 September (supervisor: Hans Vandevoorde).
- **Nils Wandels** defended his dissertation "The Transformation of the Field of Journalism: A Sociological Analysis of the Interrelatedness of Macro-societal Developments, the Socialization of Journalistic Doxa, and the Interpretation of Journalistic Nomos" on 17 September (supervisor: Jelle Mast).

- **Zhaleh Hosseini** defended her dissertation “The Literary Cartography of Tehran: A Geocritical Analysis of Urban Narratives in Azar Nafisi's Prose” on 8 November (supervisors: Arvi Sepp and Philippe Humblé).

“Talent voor Onderzoek” (“Talent for Research”)

CLIC participates 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. CLIC hosted two students in 2024:

- **Kim Liesa Wolgast** will work on a thesis entitled “Broadcast Biographies: Innovations in Genre and Medium, 1945–2020” with research coaches Inge Arteel and Birgit Van Puymbroeck.
- **Joba De Weerd** will work on a thesis entitled “The Censorship of World Literature in Translation in Authoritarian Regimes” with research coaches Arvi Sepp and Guillermo Sanz Gallego.

2. STRATEGIC MILESTONES

Scientific Advisory Board

CLIC appointed a Scientific Advisory Board as per its 2023 growth plan. The Board consists of 10 international scholars with a range of expertise that fits CLIC’s profile as a research group. The members will advise CLIC on matters related to strategic goals, policy, and communication in the coming years, and will be encouraged to contribute to various CLIC activities such as the annual screenings of external grant applications (FWO, ERC, MSCA, etc.). The first formal meeting with the Scientific Advisory Board will be held on 7 February 2025.

Last name	First name	Affiliation	Country
Alvarado Ruiz	Ramón	Universidad Autónoma de San Luis Potosí	Mexico
Balestrini	Nassim W.	Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz	Austria
Demeyer	Hans	University College London	UK
Fickers	Andreas	Université du Luxembourg	Luxembourg
Majsova	Natalia	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
Meyer	Christine	Université de Picardie	France
Minnaard	Liesbeth	Universiteit Leiden	The Netherlands
Ncube	Gibson	Stellenbosch University	South Africa
Rajewsky	Irina	Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz	Germany
Saemmer	Alexandra	Université Paris 8	France

Strategic appointments

As part of CLIC’s growth plan as a Large Research Group and the associated funding allocation from VUB, CLIC hired Gry Ulstein, Beau Serrus, and Pim Verhulst as, respectively, **research policy officer** (100% postdoc), **project manager** (50% predoc), and **postdoctoral researcher** (20% postdoc October 2024-February 2025; 75% postdoc as of March 2025). Together, the

three positions will support CLIC’s research output, infrastructure, growth, and internal and external communication in the coming three years.

Tasks of the research policy officer include building a more transparent and accessible research infrastructure for CLIC (e.g., process descriptions, SharePoint structure, data management, etc.), serving as CLIC’s Secretary in meetings, coordinating various CLIC activities (such as the CLIC screenings of FWO applications), and creating research “packages” for CLIC that will facilitate the research group’s output and can be expanded on and used after the 3-year appointment ends (e.g., an overview of external and internal funding opportunities, a tailored journal catalogue with strategic publishing opportunities, and an onboarding document for new CLIC members). Tasks of the project manager include assisting the research policy officer in coordinating and communicating CLIC activities and initiatives and managing CLIC’s communication and online presence by maintaining the website, social media channels, and designing CLIC’s newsletter—the last will be launched in January 2025 and sent out three to four times per year. Tasks of the 75% postdoctoral researcher include drafting an ERC Consolidator Grant application and contributing to CLIC’s Web of Science-article output as well as to grant application writing at CLIC (FWO projects and screenings) more broadly.

Research Data Management

In 2024, CLIC and all other Large Research Groups at VUB were asked to draft a Data Management Plan (rgDMP) that will serve as a policy document detailing the research group’s guidelines and good practices on how to set up individual DMPs and manage research materials during and after the end of a research project. The new rgDMP policy will be implemented in the course of 2025, and in addition to helping CLIC researchers with their individual data management, it promises to make CLIC’s research infrastructure generally more transparent and systematic. Gry Ulstein was appointed the Data Manager of CLIC and will coordinate and implement CLIC’s rgDMP as one of her tasks as research policy officer.

3. RESEARCH GRANTS AND REPRESENTATION

Research grants (in alphabetical order)

Stéphanie Engola was awarded a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Seal of Excellence grant from FWO, with **Arvi Sepp** as supervisor.

Kayra Maes was awarded an interim research fellowship (“opvangmandaat”) from VUB after scoring high with her FWO Aspirant application “For the Children Who Care: A Childist Analysis of Care in Contemporary Black British Children's Literature” and will resubmit her application for the 2025 call under the supervision of **Elisabeth Bekers**.

Cedric Van Dijck was awarded an ERC Starting Grant, to start in 2025. His 5-year project, entitled “[AFROPRESS](#) – Recovering Global Exchanges from Sub-Saharan Africa's Cultural and Political Magazines in the Age of Black Internationalism, 1918-68”, will examine the long-overlooked global ambitions of Sub-Saharan Africa's literary, cultural and political magazines in the period 1918-68.

Hannah Van Hove was awarded a 2-year FWO-Tournesol grant to start on 1 January 2024, entitled “Mapping Performative Writing and the Page as an Expanded Field (1966 to the present): Experimental, Exophonic and Ecstatic Literatures in Transcultural Anglophone Spheres”. Supervized by Hannah, Amanda Murphy (U Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Maria Gil Ulldemolins (U Hasselt), 2 PhD researchers from the U Gent (Tessel Veneboer) and U Côte d’Azur (Christopher Mole) explore how experimental, multilingual, and autotheoretical writing practices perform the self and/or language and, in doing so, broaden our understanding of what literature is or can be.

Representation

CLIC welcomed **Dominique Ninanne** (University of Oviedo, Spain) as the 2024/2025 *Chaire Émile Lorand en littérature française*. Six lectures with a focus on ecological engagement in Francophone French literature are planned in February 2025, and the contact person at CLIC is **Sara Buekens**.

CLIC welcomed **José Rovira Collado** (University of Alicante, Spain) as the 2024/2025 *Cátedra Émile Lorand: lingüística española y estudios literarios*. Five lecture sessions with a focus on graphic narratives are planned from 31 March to 4 April 2025, and the contact person at CLIC is **Diana Castilleja**.

CLIC’s membership in the university-wide research centres **BIRMM** (Brussels Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Migration and Minorities) and **BCUS** (Brussels Centre for Urban Studies) was continued in 2024, after both centres received central funding from VUB as Large Research Groups (LRGs) to continue and expand their work. CLIC will actively look for opportunities to collaborate with colleagues from other disciplines and research groups involved in the centres.

In 2023-24, CLIC welcomed **Patrick McGuinness** as writer-in-residence. McGuinness is Professor of Comparative Literature (University of Oxford) and a prize-winning author who was awarded the Prix Léo Beeckman, or *Espiègle du rayonnement des Lettres belges* by the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles in 2023 (hosted by **Elisabeth Bekers** and **Michael Rosenfeld**).

CLIC member **Elisabeth Bekers** acted as Proxima for VUB Fellow 2024 **Célestina Jorge Vindes**, founder of *Pépité Blues*, a bookstore with a cultural mission to place literature in dialogue with other art forms, taking Africa and its diasporas as the starting point for a dialogue with the world.

4. CLIC LORAND CHAIR INTERMEDIALITY 2023/2024

In 2023/2024, **Bénédicte Ledent** (Université de Liège) accepted the invitation to serve as Lorand Chair Intermediality, which is annually hosted by CLIC and financed by the Lorand legacy of VUB. As part of the programme of the Lorand Chair Intermediality, Prof. Ledent

- held an inaugural lecture on 26 March 2024, 5:30 pm, at Muntpunt, entitled “The Lineage of Madness in Caribbean Literature.” The lecture was part of the VUB WeKonekt.week and was also integrated in the BA3 course taught by **Birgit Van Puymbroeck** and **Alison Luyten** and in the MA course taught by **Elisabeth Bekers**.

- led a collaborative initiative between CLIC and the research group **CEREP** (Centre d’Enseignement et de Recherche en Etudes Postcoloniales) at Université de Liège, resulting in two productive research days on 19 June 2024 (ULiège) and on 20 January 2025 (VUB)—laying the foundation for future collaboration.
- was the main respondent during a radio workshop on “Audio Drama: Between Theory and Practice” on Monday 21 October 2024, including a short doctoral school lecture organized by **Inge Arteel** and **Birgit Van Pumbroeck**. **Lise Van Acker**, **Iana Nikitenko**, and Manon Hautart (U Namur) presented their research during the workshop next to various audio artists who talked about the practice of making audio drama.
- introduced a public listening event of a radio play by Caryl Philips on James Baldwin, in collaboration with Passa Porta, on Monday 21 October 2024 at Passa Porta, followed by a panel discussion led by **Tola Ositelu**.
- co-directed a discussion seminar on Caryl Phillips’s radio play *A Kind of Home: James Baldwin in Paris* on 28 October 2024, as part of **Elisabeth Bekers**’s MA course on Postcolonial Literature in English.

Anca Parvulescu (Washington University at St Louis) accepted CLIC’s invitation as Lorand Chair Intermediality in 2024/2025.

5. CLIC-SUPPORTED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS

CLIC funded and/or supported 23 conferences, colloquia and other activities (in chronological order):

- 7-8 February: “Crossing the Borders: Spanish and Other Languages and Literatures in Contact”, international conference organized by **Diana Castilleja** at VUB.
- 14 February: “The Cycle across Genres and Media”, a workshop at Ghent University, organized by the research groups SEL and **CLIC** (Lars Bernaerts and **Janine Hauthal**), discussed the ways in which the cycle works as a narrative form in different genres and media, such as short stories, microfiction, film, and theatre.
- 12 March: “Future Narratives: inclusie in grote en kleine verhalen”, study day organized by **Roland Geerts** and supported by Onderzoeksgroep Schrijven – RITCS, Culturele Studies KU Leuven, and CLIC.
- 18-21 March: The VUB Faculty of Linguistics and Humanities welcomed Gianluigi Simonetti as Cattedra Emile Lorand di linguistica e letteratura italiana for a series of lectures in collaboration with Istituto Italiano di Cultura di Bruxelles, organized by **Dirk Vanden Berghe**.
- 24-26 April: The international conference “Recentring Form(s) in and of the Margins: The Politics of Self-Reflexivity” took place at Kaaistudio’s in Brussels, co-organized by **Jade Thomas**, **Katrijn Van den Bossche**, **Janine Hauthal**, **Elisabeth Bekers** and Pieter Vermeulen (KU Leuven).
- 7-8 June: “Lived Experiences”, International PhD Conference, organized, and with presentations, by **Tara Brusselaers**, **Alice Königstetter**, **Anthony Manu**, **Iana Nikitenko** and **Sofie Vandepitte** as well as additional presentations by CLIC members **Luomei Cui**, **Lise Van Acker** and **Yanrong Wang**.

- 21 June: As part of the activities organized in the context of the 2023/2024 Lorand Chair Intermediality, the postcolonial research centre_CEREP welcomed CLIC members at Université de Liège for a research exchange visit. In the morning session, members of both CEREP and CLIC presented their research, while the afternoon was devoted to exploring possible research synergies between the two research centres (organized by **Elisabeth Bekers** and **Bénédicte Ledent**).
- 24 June: A guest lecture by Kwame Anthony Appiah (NYU) opened a new series of lectures entitled “Ties that Bind Us: Transcultural Perspectives on Social Forms”. Organized by **Eva Ulrike Pirker**, Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans and Benoît Henriët (both members of the “HARP” VUB department), the series aims to address the urgent need for advocating the value of an open society equipped to accommodate diversity in a changing world.
- 4, 9, and 25 September; 10 October: book launches for **Hans Vandevoorde**’s monograph *Stil verzet: De oorlogsjaren van August Vermeylen, 1939-1945* at Boekentoren and KANTL in Gent, Letterenhuis in Antwerpen, and Cegesoma in Brussels, respectively.
- 20 September: Symposium “Translation and Resistance”, co-organized by **Arvi Sepp** at UGent, in cooperation with the research groups TRACE (UGent) and CLIV (UGent/VUB)
- 26 September: book launch for **David Gullentops**’s monograph *Jean Cocteau et L’Intermédialité* at Centre Pompidou in Paris.
- 3-5 October: “Complicities in the Second World War: Literature of Occupation, Collaboration, and Impure Resistance”, international conference at Monasterium Poortackere in Ghent, co-organized by **Arvi Sepp**.
- 9 October: “Jacques Derrida Ja/Nee – Oui/Non”, study day on Derrida at VUB, organized by **David Gullentops**.
- 18 October: “Mapping Performative Writing and the Page as Expanded Field”, seminar at the University of Hasselt in the framework of the FWO-Tournesol project “Mapping Performative Writing and the Page as an Expanded Field (1966-the present): Experimental, Exophonic and Ecstatic Literatures in Transcultural Anglophone Spheres”, co-headed by **Hannah Van Hove**.
- 15 November: 24th meeting of the Platform for Postcolonial Readings, held at Vrije Universiteit Brussel and organized by Platform coordinator **Elisabeth Bekers** and guest organizer **Alice Königstetter**. This year’s theme was “Hybridity and Other Innovative Forms in Literature from the Arab World: A Twenty-First-Century Perspective”.
- 29 November: “Literature and Materiality”, VAL Symposium 2025. The VAL symposium is organized annually by the Literary Studies Departments of KU Leuven, VUB, U Gent and UAntwerpen in a rotating schedule and financially supported by the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR). This year’s symposium took place at KU Leuven, and CLIC members **Tara Brusselaers**, **Carmijn Gerritsen**, **Pim Verhulst**, and **Chiara Zampieri** presented their work.
- 3 December: “Reflections on Russian and German Literary Exile”, international Conference co-organized by **Arvi Sepp** and Bruno Barretto Gomide (USP) and FAPESP/LinCAR at VUB.

- 5 December: “That I Should Report on These Things”, reading and discussion with German Jewish author Esther Dischereit at VUB, co-organized by **Eva Ulrike Pirker**, Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans and Benoît Henriët. Dischereit read from her new book *Ein Haufen Dollarscheine* (2024) and engaged in a discussion with **Arvi Sepp** and **Eva Ulrike Pirker** about uncomfortable truths that linger in official sites of documentation, in family archives and, in the memory of individuals that can be at odds with dominant narratives about the past. The event was part of the ‘Ties that Bind Us’ Lecture Series.
- 6 December: “Multilingualism and Literature” at VUB, jointly organized by **Ann Peeters**, **Eva Ulrike Pirker**, **Arvi Sepp**, **Ceydanur Temurok** and **Cedric van Dijck**. Bringing together scholars from different disciplines such as cultural studies, intermediality studies, translation studies, and comparative literature, the **14th Annual Study Day of CLIC** offered a new engagement with multilingualism as a theoretical concept, analytical category, textual practice and lived experience in the study of literature. The day was a great success, with between 60 and 80 participants attending the conference. CLIC members who presented their work included **Guillermo Sanz Gallego**, **Maria Pace Aquilina** and **Iga Nowicz**. In the evening, CLIC members attended the “Soft Aperó” by Globe Aroma VZW, an artistic work and meeting place in Brussels, with which CLIC would like to collaborate in the future.
- 12-13 December: “Diasporic Poetics and Performance”, interdisciplinary conference co-organized by **Mathias Meert** and **Arvi Sepp**, with Christine Meyer, Bastien Goursaud and **Alice Lacoue-Labarthe** from CERCLL (Centre d’Études des Relations et Contacts Linguistiques et Littéraires) at Université de Picardie Jules Verne in Amiens, France.
- 12-13 December: “The Joyce of Translation”, the first conference of the James Joyce Translation Centre (JJTC), co-organized by **Guillermo Sanz Gallego** at VUB and UAntwerp.
- 13 December: “(Trans)Portable: English in the World” at Hoek 38, annual conference of the Belgium Association of Anglicists in Higher Education (BAAHE), co-organized by **Eva Ulrike Pirker**, Julie Deconinck and several colleagues of the English department working in linguistics, literary studies and translation studies. CLIC members **Carmijn Gerritsen**, **Maxime Honinx**, **Beau Serrus**, **Ceydanur Temurok** and **Yanrong Wang** presented their research.
- 16 December: Lecture by Dutch author Donald Niedekker on “schrijverschap en gedaanteverwisseling” at VUB, organized by **Hans Vandevoorde**.

6. PUBLICATIONS

In 2024 CLIC researchers registered in total 92 entries under “research output” in the [VUB Research Portal](#) (including articles, reviews, edited volumes, monographs, PhD dissertations, and reports).

Notable publications (in alphabetical order):

- **Inge Arteel** translated Nobel Laureate Elfriede Jelinek’s novel *Angabe der Person* (2022) to Dutch: *Persoonsgegevens*. In an interview with CLIC chair **Arvi Sepp** published on [the VUB website](#), Arteel elaborates on the challenges she faced in the translation process and on what the future of literary translation may look like.

- Together with Alexandra Strohmaier, **Inge Arteel** edited a handbook on the German author Friederike Mayröcker (1924-2021): *Mayröcker-Handbuch: Leben – Werk – Wirkung*, published by J.B. Metzler. This is the first reference work on the literature of this leading Austrian author whose enormous productivity has led to a vast oeuvre in experimental and lyrical prose, poetry and radio plays. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-662-69435-0.
- **Diana Castilleja** and Eugenia Helena Houvenaghel co-edited a special issue of *America sin Nombre*, no. 30 (2024): “Mapear el yo: autoconstrucción y espacio en autoras judeo-latinoamericanas”. doi.org/10.14198/AMESN.25938
- **Diana Castilleja**, Gonzalo Francisco Sánchez, Cristal Huerdo and Marta Bofill co-edited an interdisciplinary volume on the varieties of Spanish (2024): *Variedades del español: aproximaciones desde la sociolingüística, la pragmática, la traducción y la interpretación*. Series: Foro Hispánico, Volume: 74, BRILL.
- **David Gullentops’** monograph, *Jean Cocteau et l’intermédialité*, was published by Editions de l’Université de Bruxelles.
- **Janine Hauthal** and Anna-Leena Toivanen (University of Eastern Finland) co-edited *European Peripheries in Postcolonial Literatures* (Routledge), a collection of papers originally published in the *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*.
- **Thomas Mantzaris’s** monograph *Multimodal Poetics in Contemporary Fiction: Design and Experimentation in North and Central American Text* was published by Palgrave Macmillan. doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-68873-7.
- **Iga Nowicz’s** monograph *Interrupted Stories: Multilingualism in Post-Yugoslav Literature in Germany and Austria* was published by Peter Lang. The proposal for this book was the winner of the 2018 Women in German Studies Book Prize.
- **Michael Rosenfeld** and Clive Thompson collected and co-edited the 291 letters of Paul and Félix Bourget, Georges Hérelle, Adrien Juvigny and Maurice in *Correspondance croisée 1869-1873*, published by the University Foundation.
- The monograph *Stil verzet: De oorlogsjaren van August Vermeylen, 1939-1945* by Hans **Vandevoorde** was published by Lannoo.
- **Carolien Van Nerom, Ann Peeters** and Bart Bouckaert published the co-edited volume *Music and its Narrative Potential*, published by Brill. The book is available in Open Access, e-book ISBN: 978-3-8467-6772-6. It includes contributions by CLIC members **Carolien Van Nerom** and **Jade Thomas**.
- **Dirk Vanden Berghe** and Sabina Gola published the co-edited bilingual volume *Voyages et voyageurs en Italie au XIXe siècle – Viaggi e viaggiatori in Italia nell’Ottocento* (Il seculo lungo, Peter Lang). doi.org/10.3726/b21244.
- **Pim Verhulst** and Andrea Smith, co-edited a special issue of *Journal of Adaptation in Film & Performance* on “Radio Adaptations” (vol. 17). **Pim Verhulst** and **Inge Arteel** contributed articles to the special issue. doi.org/10.1386/jafp_00113_2.

JLIC – Journal of Literary and Intermedial Crossings (ISSN: 2506-8709)

2024 was a year of change for the *Journal for Literary and Intermedial Crossings*, the VABB-SHW-listed journal edited by CLIC members **Janine Hauthal**, **Mathias Meert**, **Ann Peeters**, **Michael Rosenfeld** and **Hannah Van Hove**. A new cover design and new layout was applied to current and previous issues. *JLIC* thanks editorial assistants **Tara Brusselaers**, **Rachele Gusella** and **Katrijn Van den Bossche** for the design. *JLIC* also thanks Michael Rosenfeld who left the editorial board at the end of 2024 and has since welcomed **Marcela Scibiorska** as editor and **Beau Serrus** as editorial assistant. *JLIC* also welcomed a new intern: **Çağla Gülşen** will be with *JLIC* until June and has finished updating all old *JLIC* issues.

In 2024, the editorial board also carried out a policy change. As before, *JLIC* will publish two issues a year: One that regroups submissions following an “Open Call,” and a second one that includes a selection of papers delivered at CLIC’s annual symposium. For 2024, these are:

- Issue 9.1: “Crossings: Concept, Discourse, Practice”, guest-edited by Janine Hauthal and Arvi Sepp (in preparation)
- Issue 9.2: Open issue, edited by Ann Peeters, Janine Hauthal, Mathias Meert, and Michael Rosenfeld (in preparation)

All articles published in *JLIC* go through a two-stage peer-review process and are published in open access on the website of the journal: www.jlic.be.

In addition to the yearly Call for Papers, which can be found in the Open Calls section on the website, *JLIC* now also has a running Open Call. Contributions that respond to the running Open Call may be sent in year-round and can be published in the varia-section accompanying the special issues from now on.

7. WOLEC

In 2024, the CLIC Study Group for Literature and Culture by and for PhD students (WOLEC), directed by **Iana Nikitenko** and **Lise Van Acker**, organized no fewer than 14 activities, in chronological order:

- 13 February: **Eleonore Grave** (VUB) gave a talk on “Posthuman Futures Landscapes: Reading Octavia E. Butler’s Pioneering Science Fiction through the Future’s Complex Temporality”
- 27 February: **Alice Königstetter** (Universität Wien/VUB) gave a lecture entitled “Female Bodies in Neopatriarchal Spaces. Voices and Silences in Women’s Fiction from Kuwait”
- 14 March: **Tara Brusselaers** (VUB) gave a lecture on “Putting Silence into Words: Multimodal Representations of Deafness in the Poetry of Raymond Antrobus”
- 25 March: **WOLEC** Peer Coaching Session on scientific writing
- 23 April: **Mantra Mukim** (Marie Curie Postdoctoral Fellow (EUTOPIA-SIF)/UMR Héritages, CYU Paris) presented his research on “Trouble in the Archive: Muktibodh’s Long Poems and Risky Modernism”

- 23 May: **Brenda Bressan Thomé** (UFSC-Brazil/VUB) gave a talk on “19th-century women's travel writings in translation”
- 11 June: **Martin Schauss** (University of Edinburgh) gave a lecture entitled “Intermedial Ecologies: The Resources and Energy of Eco-poetics” and also lead a workshop on “Multimodal Eco-poetics & Creative-Critical Reading Practices”
- 20 June: **Lise Van Acker** (VUB) gave a lecture on “Theatre of the Extended Mind: Cognition in Contemporary Audio Drama”
- 25 June: **Theresah Patrine Ennin** (University of Cape Coast, Ghana) gave a lecture entitled “The Life and Dea(r)th of Ghanaian Popular Fiction”
- 15 October: **Iana Nikitenko** (VUB) presented her research on “Youth Culture and Identity in Post-War German Radio Plays”
- 5 November: **Pablo Gasparini** (Universidade de São Paulo) gave a lecture on “Listening to Heterolingualism in Latin America: Hearing Scenes of the Acoustically Dissonant”
- 13 November: **Birgit Neumann** (Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf) gave a lecture entitled “Negotiating the Digital in Contemporary Anglophone Novels – ‘Cure’ and ‘Poison’ for Black Collectivities?”
- 19 November: **WOLEC** Peer Coaching Session on scientific writing
- 10 December: **Charlotte Manzella** (Universität Hamburg) presented her research on “Temporalities in Contemporary British Climate-Change Theatre”