

Highlights



CLIC Welcomes Grant Writing Residents

Between August and December 2025, four grant writing residents at CLIC will develop postdoctoral fellowship applications for the Flemish Research Foundation (FWO) and/or the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), supported by the broad and diverse expertise available at CLIC. We are excited to welcome them as writing residents and look forward to seeing their projects take shape.

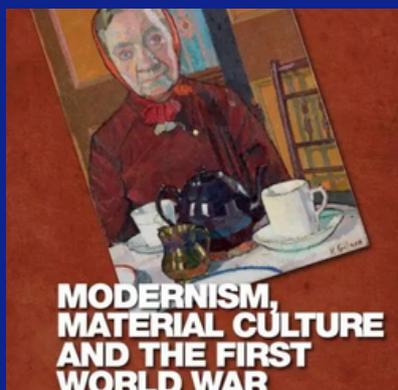
[read more](#)



CLIC Day 2025 Is Coming Soon!

This year's CLIC Day on Journalism and Literature will be held on 5 December 2025 at VUB's Campus Etterbeek. John S. Bak (Université de Lorraine) will give the keynote talk. View the programme and register online now.

[read more](#)



Cedric Van Dijck Awarded BCLA First Book Prize 2025

We are happy to announce that CLIC member [Cedric Van Dijck's](#) *Modernism, Material Culture and the First World War* (Edinburgh University Press) has won the BCLA (British Comparative Literature Association) First Book Prize 2025, which honours an outstanding first monograph in the field of comparative literature.

[read more](#)

Featured in this newsletter:

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call for papers!

New Members

Welcome to CLIC!



Maribeth Diggle

PhD Researcher

Project: *The Breath Art Project*



Rikus van Eeden

Postdoc

Project: *AFROPRESS*



Tessa van Wijk

PhD Researcher

Project: *AFROPRESS*



Isabella Villanova

Postdoc

Project: *AFROPEMOTIONS*

Anna-Lena Eick

Visiting Researcher Sept–Oct

Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz



Visiting Researcher

Talent for Research Students 2025–26

Each year, CLIC selects a few talented BA and MA students, who are individually coached by senior researchers within the framework of ongoing projects. In addition to this mentorship, students are integrated into the research group's activities through meetings and by contributing to events like the annual CLIC Day. They also participate in FWO screenings for doctoral candidates (CULT 2 panel) to gain insight into successful PhD applications and the feedback process. They can apply for travel bursaries to attend academic events abroad, receive funding to organize their own student conference, and more.

[read more](#)



Past PhD Defenses



Florian Deroo: *After the Senses: Landscape and Perception in Interwar Travel Writing*

12 June 2025

Claire Swyzen: *Interface, Database, Protocol: Text as Data in Postdramatic Mediaturgies*

8 October 2025



Upcoming PhD Defenses

- **10 November 2025: Jade Thomas (read more)** – supervisor: Janine Hauthal
Representing Blackness: Metatheater and Genre Remediation in 21st-Century African American Plays
- **19 November 2025: Mo Zhu** – supervisor: Janine Hauthal
Self-Translation and Nostalgia: A Case Study of Pai Hsien-Yung's Taipei 'People' and Ha Jin's 'A Good Fall'
- **21 November 2025: Alice Lacoue-Labarthe** – supervisors: Arvi Sepp & Christine Meyer (UPJV)
Poetik deutschsprachiger Exilnarrative im Kontext der 'Flüchtlingskrise'
- **12 December 2025: Qi Yuhan** – supervisors: Arvi Sepp & Philippe Humblé
The Rewriting and Narrative Reframing of Yan Fu's Translation of Thomas Huxley's 'Evolution and Ethics' in 'Tian Yan Lun'
- **15 December 2025: Brenda Bressan Thomé** – supervisors: Arvi Sepp & Marie-Hélène Catherine Torres (UFSC)
Translation Critique and the Reassessment of the Original: A Case Study

Awards



CLIC congratulates [Diana Castilleja](#) on the successful granting of the COST Action project *COS-MICs: Comics and Sciences through Multidisciplinary Investigation and Collaboration*, of which she is a member! The PI of this project is Virginie Giuliana (Université Clermont Auvergne).

Team Day and PhD Writing Retreat

On 28 August 2025, CLIC took a day off to explore the beautiful grounds of Gaasbeek Castle together. A week later, on 5–6 September, CLIC's junior researchers gathered in Ghent for a writing retreat that featured collective writing sessions, a workshop with Sarah Haas, a yoga session, and more.



2 Updates CLIC Activities & Projects

Call for Papers

8th Biennial Conference of the International Society for Intermedial Studies (ISIS): "The Politics of Intermedial Connectivity"

27–29 May 2026, VUB

The 8th biennial conference of the International Society for Intermedial Studies seeks to advance critical discussions on politically engaged uses of intermediality, or on their political interpretation. The conference invites scholars to bring intermedial studies into dialogue with a broad range of disciplines, particularly those engaging with questions of power and identity, by exploring the politics of intermedial connectivity based on a broad understanding of media as technical and/or material communicative forms.

Keynote speakers are Mieke Bal (Universiteit van Amsterdam), Patrick Jagoda (University of Chicago), and Birgit Neumann (Heinrich–Heine–Universität Düsseldorf).

Submission Deadline: 15 December 2025

[read more](#)



14th Annual ESPRit Conference: "Periodicals and the World"

9–11 September 2026, KBR Brussels

The 14th ESPRit conference, held at the Royal Library in Belgium (KBR), will explore questions prompted by the concept of 'world'. Periodicals occupy a place in the world and construct their own specific world views. Across history, they have played a significant role in shaping and framing, as well as challenging and questioning, various conceptions of the world. Magazines and newspapers have always also been worlds unto themselves, governed by specific laws, traditions and visions. These internal dynamics evolved over time, influenced by forces both local and global. And while we group periodicals together—by topic, place or politics, among others—each publication's internal world is also quite unique.

Keynote speakers are Stefano Evangelista (University of Oxford), Barbara Mittler (Universität Heidelberg) and Chris Ouma (Duke University).

Submission Deadline: 7 January 2026

[read more](#)

2 Updates CLIC Activities & Projects

WOLEC



Fall Programme

The fall programme of the Study Group for Literature and Culture ('Werkgroep Literatuur en Cultuur' or WOLEC) is available! WOLEC supports young researchers by organizing accessible and small-scale presentation sessions, peer-coaching sessions for scientific writing and workshops in creative writing throughout the academic year.

Next lecture: Q&A with Caitlin Vandertop (University of Warwick), commissioning editor of *Postcolonial Text* and *Literature Compass* on **18 November**.

The CLIC team would also like to warmly thank Iana Nikitenko for her dedication and contributions to WOLEC!

click [here](#) for more info

Lorand Chair Intermediality



New Lorand Chair Intermediality

CLIC is delighted to welcome [Shuangyi Li](#) (University of Bristol) as the 2025–26 Lorand Chair Intermediality. In the spring, Shuangyi Li will deliver an inaugural lecture and take part in several CLIC activities and events. We are looking forward to his time with us.

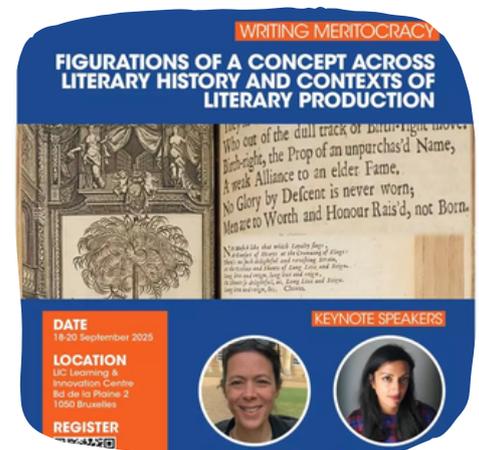
[read more](#)

MERLIT

This was the MERLIT Conference 2025

The MERLIT team organized the international conference "Writing Meritocracy: Figurations of a Concept Across Literary History and Contexts of Literary Production" from 18 to 20 September 2025, with keynote speakers Cathy Shrank (University of Sheffield) and Madhu Krishnan (University of Bristol).

[read more](#) (click [here](#) to read more about the Reading and Conversation with Alecia McKenzie on 20 September)



3 Past Events

A Two-Day Meet-the-Editor Event with Brent Hayes Edwards, Editor of *PMLA*

On **20 and 21 May**, CLIC had the pleasure of welcoming Brent Hayes Edwards, editor-in-chief of *PMLA* (*Publications of the Modern Language Association*), to the VUB for a series of events on editing, writing, and academic publishing.

[read more](#)



Game Workshop Day: *Sankofa's Cosmic Adansikro* with Lisa Abena Osei

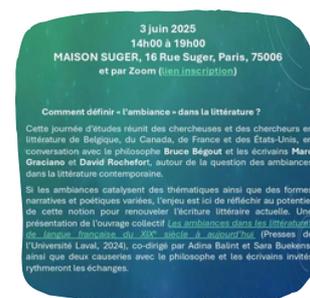
On **30 May**, the MERLIT Research Team organized a hands-on workshop featuring *Sankofa's Cosmic Adansikro*, an interactive, web-based game created by Elizabeth 'Lisa' Abena Osei (University of Maryland).

[read more](#)

Journée d'études: "Ambiances et littérature contemporaine – représentations, enjeux et défis climatiques"

The study day "Ambiances et littérature contemporaine: représentations, enjeux et défis climatiques" took place on **3 June 2025** at Maison Suger, Paris, focusing on the question "Comment définir « l'ambiance » dans la littérature?".

[read more](#)



VUB Arts and Humanities Fellows 2025

CLIC extends its heartfelt congratulations to Toon Van Mierlo, Program Curator at Passa Porta – International House of Literature, and Jo Angouri, Chair in Sociolinguistics and Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Warwick, on each being awarded a VUB Arts and Humanities Fellowship on **3 June 2025**. Representing CLIC, Eva Ulrike Pirker (for Toon Van Mierlo) and Ann Peeters (for Jo Angouri) served as proximas. We look forward to inspiring and fruitful collaborations with both fellows!

[read more](#)

Poetry Reading with Uhuru Phalafala

On **17 June**, Uhuru Phalafala read excerpts from *Mine Mine Mine*, a book that takes us deep into the history and legacy of South African mining and its multifaceted impact on the body of the land as much as the bodies of humans involved in, and subjected to, this exploitative practice.

[read more](#)



3 Past Events

Global Modernism Network Symposium 2025

The second symposium of the Global Modernism Network took place at VUB on **19 – 20 June**, under the title *Of Intermediality*. Extending the dialogue opened in Paris, where the network's inaugural meeting circled the theme *Of Precariousness*, this gathering turned its attention to the ways in which different media intersect and converse within literary spaces.

Framed by the EUTOPIA alliance, the symposium brought together scholars from across the globe: from VUB, Stellenbosch University, CY Cergy Paris, the University of Warwick, King's College, London, and Washington University in St. Louis, each approaching the question of intermediality through distinct regional, historical, and aesthetic lenses. Their aim was to show how literature enters into dialogue with other forms: music, radio, visual arts: prints, painting, sketches. What emerged was a network of connections, not only between media, but between geographies and histories, too.

Much of the discussion turned toward the legacies of colonialism and their interrelation with modernist form and authorship, how these legacies continue to shape what counts as world literature, and who is allowed to speak within it. Case studies ranged widely: from South Africa to the South Pacific, from the Black Atlantic to India and Japan. Running through them all was a shared attention to the way modernist aesthetics remain charged by questions of identity, representation, and knowledge-making – then and now. The symposium did not seek to flatten these complexities. Rather, it opened up space for them: for interconnection, contradiction, and layered inquiry. What began as a conversation about media widened into an exploration of power, place, identity, and perception, setting profound opportunities for future research in the World of Global Modernism.

Click [here](#) to read the full conference report (written by Ekaterina Morozova)



Colloque de 6 jours: "Jean Cocteau, le déniement des lettres et des arts"

The six-day symposium "Jean Cocteau, le déniement des lettres et des arts", took place from **4 to 10 August** 2025 at the Centre culturel international de Cerisy.

[read more](#)

CLIC Involved in Bozar Exhibition *When We See Us*

From **7 February until 10 August** 2025, Bozar hosted the exhibition *When We See Us*. Initiated by the Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC), VUB has joined as an academic partner, thereby contributing to the thematic depth of the exhibition through scholarly insights. As part of this partnership, the University Library offers a carefully curated selection of books at the exhibition's reading table, freely accessible to visitors. Several of these titles are also available in a dedicated reading area at the Central Library in Etterbeek.

[read more](#)



3 Past Events

International Workshop: "Generic Change and Novelistic Experiment in 21st-Century Narratives"

This workshop took place on **12 September** and centred on experiments with genre in contemporary literary fiction, aiming to trace formal, thematic, and functional developments of novelistic genres (organized as part of the FWO junior research project *Self-Reflexivity and Generic Change in 21st-Century Black British Women's Literature* ([Janine Hauthal](#) & [Katrijn Van den Bossche](#)) in collaboration with SEL - Centre for Experimental Literature (UGent/VUB)).



[read more](#)



25th Meeting of the Platform for Postcolonial Readings: "Postmigration Beyond National Borders"

On **9 October**, the workshop "Postmigration Beyond National Borders" took place in Brussels, with a keynote lecture by Azadeh Sharifi (UdK Berlin/LMU München).

[read more](#)

VUB Honorary Doctorate for Author and Nobel Prize Laureate J.M. Coetzee

On **13 October** 2025, VUB conferred an honorary doctorate upon South African–Australian writer and Nobel Prize laureate J.M. Coetzee at La Monnaie/De Munt in Brussels. With this recognition, VUB not only honors one of the most celebrated authors of our time, but also a writer who has consistently used literature in an exceptional way to question the world.

[read more](#)



THALIA-Workshop: "Children as Performers on Stage"

The THALIA-workshop "Children as Performers on Stage" took place on **16 October**, aiming to consider the historical development of the child on stage, issues of theatrical practice, as well as the ethical debates surrounding the presence of children in adult theatre.

[read more](#)



Guest Lecture by Caroline Kita: "The Echo Effect: Radio Drama's Intra- and Intermedial References"

This lecture took place on **20 October** as part of the FWO senior research project *Broadcast Biographies* ([Inge Arteel](#) & [Birgit Van Puymbroeck](#)).



Lecture by Mandisa Mbali: "Methods at An End? AIDS, Literary Ethnography and Multimodal History in South Africa"

On **28 October**, Mandisa Mbali (University of Cape Town) gave a lecture exploring literary and artistic responses to the AIDS epidemic in South Africa.

[read more](#)



4 Future Events

3 November – 5 December 2025, VUB

New Lorand Chair French Literature 2025–26

This year's 'Chaire Émile Lorand en littérature française' will be held by [Nicolas Bianchi](#) (Université Toulouse Jean-Jaurès), who will present a lecture series entitled "Lire Céline". Six lecture sessions are planned, beginning on 3 November 2025.

[read more](#)



13–14 November 2025, Usquare



Symposium: "Experimental, Exophonic, Ecstatic: Performative Writing and the Expanded Page"

Stemming from the project *Mapping Performative Writing and the Page as an Expanded Field (1966– the Present): Experimental, Exophonic and Ecstatic Literatures in Transcultural Anglophone Spheres*, this conference will focus on performative writing. Keynote speakers are Peggy Phelan (Stanford, US) and Nizan Shaked (California State University Long Beach, US).

[read more](#)

19 November 2025, VUB

Lecture by Alejandro Lámbarry (Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla): "El discurso oculto en El gesticulador de Rodolfo Usigli"

This lecture will take place from 14:00–16:00 in room D.2.16, Campus Etterbeek, and is part of the Master's course "Teatro hispánico". Admission is free but registration is required: diana.castilleja@vub.be.



24–27 November 2025, VUB

New Lorand Chair Italian Linguistics and Literature 2025–26

This year's 'Cattedra Emile Lorand di Linguistica e Letteratura italiana' will be held by Roberta Colombi (Università Roma Tre), who will present a lecture series entitled "Il romanzo e la storia. Dai modelli della tradizione alle strategie narrative contemporanee". Six lecture sessions are planned, from 24–27 November 2025.

[read more](#)



4 Future Events

27 November 2025, Kazerne Dossin

Lecture by Andrea Petó: "New forms of Holocaust distortions and what to do about them"

Drawing on the examples of the Chana Szenes statues, the Budapest ghetto memorial, and the Shoah Bunker, this lecture introduces three types of Holocaust distortion: the antiliberal transformative distortion, the "profit-driven" distortion and the practice of "performative contradiction".

[read more](#)



28 November 2025, Ilia State University and Online

International Workshop: "Jewishness in Georgian and European Literatures"

From a transnational and intermedial perspective, this workshop examines how artistic, literary, musical, and cinematic discourses have articulated and represented Jewishness in response to anti-Semitism under National Socialism and within Soviet Stalinism.

This workshop is organized by Atinati Mamatsashvili & [Arvi Sepp](#).

28 November 2025, Hoek 38

VAL Symposium 2025: "Gender Anxieties? (Re-)Assessments from a Literary and Cultural Studies Perspective"

Programme and registration are now live! Keynote speakers are Teagan Bradway (SUNY Cortland) and Hans Demeyer (University College London). An issue of *Cahier voor Literatuurwetenschap* (CLW) will be published following this conference.

[read more](#)



Save the Date: 1 December 2025

International Workshop on Graffiti Writing and War Experience

organized by [Arvi Sepp](#) and Nel de Mûelenaere, in cooperation with USHMM, Jennifer Putnam

4 Future Events

4 December 2025, VUB

Theory & Methodology Workshop: "Affordances of Visualising Data in Literary History Projects"

If you are interested in joining the workshops as a guest, please register for free via: merlit@vub.be. Texts to be discussed will be shared in due course.

[read more](#)



15 December 2025, VUB

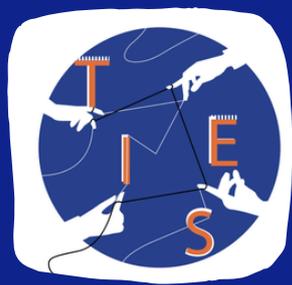
'Ties that Bind Us' Lecture:

"The Alchemy of the Museum: Kanal's Black Archives in Two Acts"

How can a museum deal with its colonial legacy? | In 2026, Brussels will open its very first museum of modern and contemporary art: Kanal-Centre Pompidou, housed in the monumental former Citroën garage along the canal. But this new chapter also carries a heavy colonial history. How can a museum deal with its colonial legacy? And how can images that once served as propaganda be reimagined as sources of creativity and strength? Sandrine Colard – expert in African art and photography, and curator of the opening exhibition – shares in this lecture how she, and museums in general, take on that challenge.

Save the Date: 31 March 2026 for the lecture "Art Effects: Sensory Education in Uncertain Times" by Premesh Lalu.

Stay up to date with the 'Ties that Bind Us' series on [this website](#).



29–30 January 2026, Hoek 38

International Conference: "Sounds of a Lifetime: Exploring Life Writing in Audio Media"

Building on the exciting new work being done in studies of life writing, auto/biography, literary studies, sound studies, and media studies, this conference seeks to explore the multifaceted realm of sonic life narratives, with a particular emphasis on their literary and artistic features, as well as listeners' individual and collective experiences. More specifically, it seeks to examine how audio life writing represents, mediates, and (re)constitutes lives; what aesthetic strategies are used and what effects they generate; how audio life narratives are received and remediated; as well as their inherent politics.

Keynote speakers are Julia Lajta-Novak (University of Vienna), Matthew Rubery (Queen Mary University of London) and Jarmila Mildorf (University of Paderborn).

[read more](#)



New Publication: Volume 9 | Issue 1 | 2024 | Crossings – Concept, Discourse, Practice

This special issue is occasioned by the eponymous 12th annual CLIC day in November 2022 and was edited by guest editors [Janine Hauthal](#) and [Arvi Sepp](#) (VUB).

The contributors to this issue explore the conceptual transversality of intermedially and transculturally oriented studies of crossings across medial, spatial, and historical axes. The media and genres they discuss range from autofiction on social media ([Sæmmer](#)) and perceptions of literary translation through reader-generated social media posts ([Sanz Gallego](#)) to plurimedial theatre adaptations ([Lacoue-Labarthe](#)) and the embedding of visual art in literature ([Mamatsashvili](#)). While most contributions focus on 21st-century artworks, Manu's exploration of 19th-century Victorian whimsical satire provides an inspiring example of how historical depth and an appreciation of contemporary aesthetics can fruitfully converge in the study of generic crossings. The special issue concludes with two interviews that bring humanities scholarship and artistic practice into dialogue about crossings, focusing respectively on 21st-century street poetry by poets David Giannoni and Timotéo Sergoï ([Gusella](#)) and on the way cultural, geographical, and linguistic intersections have shaped Belgian British poet Patrick McGuinness as a 'writer of crossings' ([Rosenfeld](#)).

[read more](#)

Crossings - Concept, Discourse, Practice
JLIC – Issue 9.1 (2024)



Journal for Literary &
Intermedial Crossings

Special issue edited by:

Janine Hauthal - Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Arvi Sepp - Vrije Universiteit Brussel

JLIC is the journal of the Centre for Literary and Intermedial Crossings (CLIC)
Vrije Universiteit Brussel



New Call for Articles for Special Issue “Postmigration Beyond National Borders”

Guest editors:

Anna-Lena Eick (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz) &
[Janine Hauthal](#) (VUB)

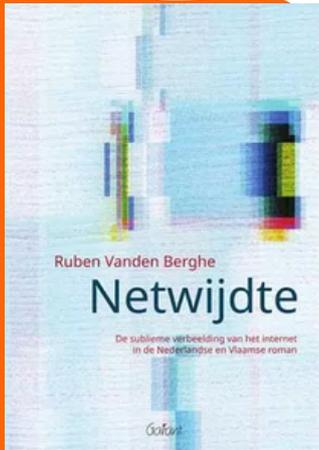
The *Journal for Literary and Intermedial Crossings* (ISSN 2506-8709; www.jlic.be) offers an open-access peer-reviewed online publication platform to researchers who wish to explore various ‘crossings’ concerning media, genres and/or spaces. Targeted squarely at investigating the ‘in-between,’ the journal seeks contributions from scholars broadly covering medial, literary, generic, spatial and cultural crossings that bridge a plurality of potential discourses, modalities, and methodologies. This special issue, titled “Postmigration Beyond National Borders”, aims to enhance the understanding of the postmigrant as analytical framework within literary and cultural studies. We invite contributions that explore how interdisciplinary dialogue across fields such as postcolonial studies, sociology, media and theatre studies can provide new conceptual insights into the analysis of contemporary artistic representations of belonging, identity and mobility within a postmigrant framework that transcends national borders and cultural contexts.

Please send an abstract of maximum 500 words (in English and, if applicable, also in the language of your article, i.e. Dutch, French or German) and a list of 5 keywords (in the same (two) language(s)) and a 100-word author bio (in English only) to Janine.Hauthal@vub.be and to aeick@uni-mainz.de by **1 December 2025**.

[read more](#)

6 Publications

Please note that the announcements are presented in the original languages of the publications.



Netwijdte. De sublieme verbeelding van het internet in de Nederlandse en Vlaamse roman
(Garant)

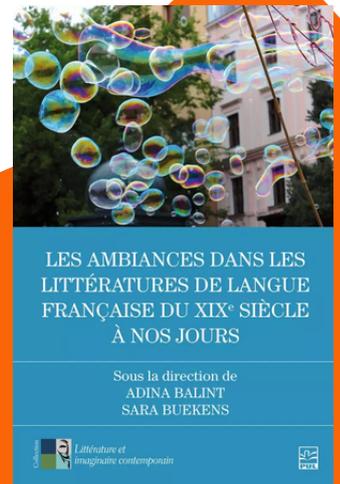
[Ruben Vanden Berghe](#)

[read more](#)

Les ambiances dans les littératures de langue française du XIXe siècle à nos jours
(Presses de l'Université Laval)

sous la direction de [Sara Buekens](#) (CLIC) et Adina Balint

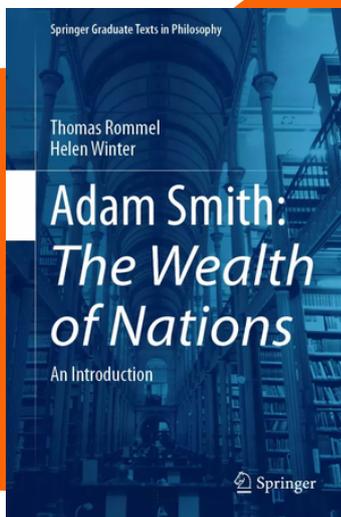
[read more](#)



Adam Smith: The Wealth of Nations. An Introduction
(Springer)

[Thomas Rommel](#) (CLIC) and Helen Winter

[read more](#)



Barge Life: On Jean Vigo's 'L'Atalante'
(Punctum Books)

[Florian Deroo](#)

[read more](#)



CLIC's Steering Team:

Chair: Janine Hauthal (Janine.Hauthal@VUB.be)

Vice Chair: Arvi Sepp (Arvi.Sepp@VUB.be)

Secretary: Gry Ulstein (Gry.Ulstein@VUB.be)

Project Manager: Beau Serrus (Beau.Frida.A.Serrus@VUB.be)

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