



CENTRE FOR LITERARY &  
INTERMEDIAL CROSSINGS  
RESEARCH GROUP

## CLIC ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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 2020!

### Member news

PhD candidate Charlotte Gagné-Dumais (Université de Montréal) visited the VUB in winter 2020. Her PhD project is entitled “Pour une théorie intermédiaire du jeu d’acteur”.

On 27 May 2020, Catherine Thomas (supervisors: David Gullentops and Stéphane Hirschi, joint PhD VUB – Université Polytechnique Hauts-de-France, Valenciennes) has successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled “Jacques Brel et Serge Gainsbourg: Étude intermédiaire de l’oeuvre de deux auteurs-compositeurs-interprètes devenus réalisateurs”.

On 8 July 2020, Sarah Defrise (supervisors: David Gullentops and Jan Michiels, Doctorate in the Arts VUB – Koninklijk Conservatorium Brussel) successfully defended her doctoral dissertation entitled “Les Mélodies pour voix et piano de Joseph Jongen: Réflexions musicologiques et interprétatives sur un répertoire inédit ou méconnu”.

CLIC congratulates Catherine and Sarah and wishes them all the best for their future endeavors.

CSC-bursal Yu Zhou (University of Chongqing) visited the VUB from november 2019 till october 2020. His PhD project is entitled “Emile Verhaeren et la Chine”.

Daniel Acke has retired (‘Emeritaat’) as of 01 October 2020. CLIC thanks him for his various contributions to CLIC’s research activities, in particular the co-organisation of the French year at the VUB (2018-19), the co-organisation with Elisabeth Bekers and Diana Castilleja of the CLIC day on ‘City Portraits’ (2017), which resulted in a *JLIC* special issue published in 2019, and his co-editorship (with Elisabeth Bekers) of the volume *Brussel schrijven / Écrire Bruxelles* (2016).

Philippe Humblé also retired on 01 October 2020. During the academic year 2020-2021, Philippe will still be linked to the faculty LW.

Colleagues Christophe Collard and Stefania Ricciardi are no longer appointed at the VUB since 01 October 2020. CLIC thanks Christophe Collard for his engagement for the research group. From 2012 till 2016, Christophe was CLIC secretary and, together with other colleagues, he founded the journal *JLIC* on whose editorial team he served until 2019. Together with Inge

Arteel and Lars Bernaerts, Christophe organized the very first CLIC day on “Intermediality” in 2012. With Janine Hauthal and Lesley Penné, Christophe also organized the 2016 CLIC day “Spaces of Entanglement – Negotiating European Crossroads”, which resulted in a *JLIC* special issue published in 2018.

5 new colleagues joined CLIC in 2020:

- Birgit Van Puymbroeck has joined VUB as Assistant Professor of Literature in English and Research Methodology (80%, tenure track). She also holds an FWO postdoctoral research fellowship at Ghent University (20%). Birgit works on various aspects of late 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Anglophone and Francophone literature and culture, with an emphasis on modernism, transnational relations and media (especially periodicals and radio). She is the co-founder of the research group “20cc” at Ghent University as well as a member of the interdisciplinary 'Writing 1900' network, the editorial board of *DiGeSt: Journal of Diversity and Gender Studies* and the Young Academy of Flanders.
- Irina Stanova is the new MUMA assistant and works towards a PhD project on “The Construction of Transcultural Space in W. S. Maugham’s Works and Film Adaptations” under the supervision of Ann Peeters.
- Jade Thomas is a teaching assistant (20/40%) for English literature at LIST and is developing a PhD project on “Performing Blackness in American Metatheater by 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Playwrights of Color” under the supervision of Janine Hauthal.
- PhD student Wei Yang also joined CLIC and is working towards a PhD on Chinese Danmei subculture under the supervision of Inge Arteel.
- CLIC also welcomed PhD student Nizar Milhem who has received a scholarship from the Arab American University-Palestine in Jenin for his PhD project on “The Politics and Poetics of Space in the Works of Darwish and Kanafani” (supervisor: Janine Hauthal).

As of October 2020, Janine Hauthal is Professor of Intermedial Studies (100% BOF-ZAP, tenure track, 2020-2024). Andrea Penso obtained a 10% R&D ZAP mandate.

In 2020/2021, CLIC will host for the first time the Lorand Chair Intermediality. CLIC members suggested several candidates and, by the majority, voted for Alexandra Saemmer, Professor of Information and Communication Science and co-director of the CEMTI laboratory at University of Paris 8, France, who accepted the invitation to visit CLIC from Feb to May 2021.

### **Representation and research grants**

Postdoctoral researchers Mathias Meert and Andrea Penso have both received an internal ‘opvangmandaat’ from R&D, starting October 2020.

Elisabeth Bekers got one of the faculty’s mini sabbaticals for preparing the resubmission of an International Training Network (ITN) application entitled “Imaginary Europes in Twentieth-

and Twenty-First-Century Literature”, for which VUB acts as host institution. In 2020, the application received a score of 94,5%, missing the cut-off point by a mere 0,5%.

Arvi Sepp has been awarded the prestigious Theodor-Frings prize by the Saxon Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Leipzig and the University of Leipzig. The prize honors Arvi’s achievements in the field of “interdisziplinäre Germanistik” (interdisciplinary Germanic research).

Andrea Penso was awarded the 2020 *Onderzoeksprijs* by the *Werkgroep Italië Studies*, which annually awards a prize for the best scientific publication in the field of Italy Studies to a researcher working in the Dutch or Flemish academic world. Andrea won the award for his monograph *Un libero di Pindo abitator. Stile e linguaggio poetico del giovane Vincenzo Monti* (Roma: Aracne, 2018).

Jade Thomas won the 2020 BAAHE award for her MA thesis entitled “A Posthumanist Perspective on Cultural Industry Representations in Selected Plays by Sam Shepard”. This annual prize of the Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher Education (BAAHE) is awarded to the best master thesis alternatingly in the field of English literature, cultural studies, linguistics and translation studies.

The following CLIC researchers have obtained research grants by the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) in 2020:

- Anthony Manu has obtained an FWO PhD fellowship fundamental research with his project “Towards a Model for Humour in Nineteenth-Century Poetry – A Conceptual Study and an Analysis of a Growing Subjectivity”, which will be conducted under the supervision of Hans Vandevoorde.
- A second FWO PhD fellowship fundamental research went to associated CLIC member Senne Schraeyen for his project entitled “Sustainable yet forgotten. Rediscovering the contribution of the Belgian art networks to the second wave of environmentalism” (supervisors Katarzyna Ruchel-Stockmans and Inge Arteel). The third successful FWO PhD fellowship application that CLIC screened for the FWO CULT2 panel in 2020 is Tom Packet’s project “Allies in architecture? WWI and the Americanisation of Belgian Architecture (1914-1928)” (supervisor Pieter Martens; co-supervisor: Werner Adriaenssens).
- Janine Hauthal successfully applied for an FWO junior research project, entitled “Self-Reflexivity and Generic Change in 21st-Century Black British Women’s Literature”.
- Hans Vandevoorde, together with Christophe Verbruggen (UGent), obtained a FWO senior research grant with their project “The Road to Alexandria: The Sensations of Landscapes in European Travel Writing, 1919-1939”.
- The FWO also awarded funding to the inter-university consortium for digital humanities CLARIAH-VL in the framework of the 'International Research Infrastructure'

scheme. The VUB is part of the consortium led by Wouter Ryckbosch (HARP-HIST). Andrea Penso and other LIST colleagues are involved in the project.

- Based on an initiative by Arvi Sepp, CLIC is one of the collaborating partners of the FWO-funded Scientific Research Network (WOG) on “Literatures Without Borders. A Historical-Comparative Study of Premodern Literary Transnationalism”. In addition to Arvi, Elisabeth Bekers, Diana Castilleja, Janine Hauthal and Andrea Penso are associated researchers. The host institution of the WOG is UGent and the research group RELICS – Researchers of European Literary Identity, Cosmopolitanism and the Schools.

Inge Arteel and Janine Hauthal have been selected for the FWO Review College (2021-2023), i.e. a pool of potential members for FWO expert panels which can be called upon to temporarily replace ordinary panel members with a conflict of interest.

Since January 2020, Diana Castilleja represents Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg at the Red Europea de Asociaciones de Hispanistas (REAH) [European Network of Hispanist Associations].

### **CLIC-supported conferences, seminars and publications**

On 5 June 2020, the PHILIXTE study day on “Écrire une ville, habiter une ville. Représentations spatiales des persécutions en Europe occupée (1940-1944)” took place digitally. The study day was supported by CLIC and organized by Arvi Sepp (VUB/CLIC), Laurence Brogniez (Université libre de Bruxelles) en Atinati Mamatsashvili (Université libre de Bruxelles/State University Ilia, Georgia). CLIC members Hans Vandevoorde and Annelies Augustyns took part and presented a paper at the study day.

On 3 & 4 December 2020, the international workshop “Pantomime from 1800 till Present: Genre – Aesthetics – Development”, supported by CLIC and the VUB-UGent research group THALIA, took place online. The workshop was organized by Mathias Meert and will be followed up by a special issue on the pantomime to be published in 2021 by *Orbis Litterarum*.

On 11 December 2020, the CLIC day on “Seriality” took place online. This edition was organized by Ronald Geerts, Rik D’hiet (RITCS, School of Arts) and Annelein Masschelein (KU Leuven). It featured contributions from Saddle Choua, Ruth Mellaerts, Irina Stanova, Lena Meyskens and Bart Nuyens as well as keynotes by Jason Mittel and Adil El Arbi. Ernest Mathijs from the University of British Columbia (Vancouver, Canada) acted as respondent.

CLIC financially supported the following publication: Sabina Gola, Dirk Vanden Berghe (eds.): *La cultura e la letteratura italiana dell'esilio nell'Ottocento: nuove indagini*, Bruxelles-Bern-Berlin-New York-Oxford-Wien, P.I.E. Peter Lang, 2020 (coll. "Il secolo lungo. Letteratura italiana (1796-1918)", n. 3), 208 pp.

## WOLEC

In 2020, CLIC Stefan Clappaert and Anthony Manu took over the organization of the WOLEC (Werkgroep over literatuur and cultuur) from Carolien Van Nerom and Zhuyun Song. CLIC thanks Carolien und Zhuyun for their engagement for the WOLEC.

On Stefan's initiative, WOLEC commissioned Lukas Verstraete to design a logo. The result can be seen under the following link: <https://clic.research.vub.be/en/activities/wolec>.

On 8 December 2020, Chiara Zampieri (KUL) gave an online WOLEC lecture on her doctoral research that is part of the research project "Literary Knowledge (1890-1950): Modernisms and the Sciences in Europe". Chiara's work explores the ways in which an increasingly specialized and archaeological knowledge of Etruscan culture affected not only Italian but also other Western European literatures in the modernist period.

## JLIC

In 2020, the editorial board created and launched a new Paddle website for *JLIC* – the *Journal for Literary and Intermedial Crossings* on the CLIC website. *JLIC* also still remains accessible via the old web address ([www.jlic.be](http://www.jlic.be)).

For the first time in 2020/2021, *JLIC* offered two internships in the context of the MUMA ('Stage intermedialiteit', 6 ECTS). In November 2020, two interns joined the *JLIC* editorial team and will provide editorial assistance: Parham Aledavood and Emre Ok.

*JLIC* also published two new issues in 2020:

- Open issue 5.1 features publications by Lisa Chinn, Marie Devlieger, Rachele Gusella/Ann Peeters/Andrea Penso, Sabine Hillen, Jeremy Lakoff and Wenjun Zhun as well as an introduction by editors Janine Hauthal, Mathias Meert, Ann Peeters, Andrea Penso and Hannah Van Hove. All articles were selected following an open call and went through a two-stage (internal and international) peer-review process.
- Special issue 5.2, edited by Elisabeth Bekers, Andrea Penso and Hannah Van Hove, is entitled *Robinson Crusoe's nalatenschap / Legacies of Robinson Crusoe* and includes articles by Daniel Acke, Anthony Manu, Mathias Meert, Andrea Penso, Emilie Sitzia, Zhuyun Song and Helena Van Praet as well as artistic contributions by Fouad Laroui, Hannah Van Hove and Lisa Samuels. The contributions to this special issue were first presented at the 2019 CLIC day "Robinson Crusoe Revisited", and all articles underwent a two-stage peer-review process.

All open access contributions are accessible via the website of the journal: [www.jlic.be](http://www.jlic.be).