

ICLA COMMITTEE ON LITERARY THEORY, Annual Report, 2012:

1. Annual Workshop (2012)

In May 2012, the committee met in Richmond, Virginia, USA, hosted by the University of Richmond's Department of Modern Languages and Cultures as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)-funded "Larger than Languages" series. Entitled *Animals and Literary Theory*, this workshop gathered nine presentations (seven by members of the committee, two by eminent local guests; see the detailed schedule below). The workshop addressed a wide range of issues concerning the relation of the "animal" to theories of literature, including 1) how recent philosophical insights force us to re-read the mostly anthropomorphic understanding of the animal throughout literature; 2) how new scholarship on animal rights and ecogocentrism affects literary studies; and 3) how we can locate the differences between representations and conceptions of animals in various cultures and their literatures. The papers inspired extremely vivid and reflective discussions, furthering insights into how the animal, broadly considered, affects cultural production.

2. Workshop at ICLA meeting in Paris (2013)

The Committee has been allotted five seminars for its workshop at the ICLA in Paris in 2013, "The Art of Not Thinking." In this workshop, we will revisit the ancient antagonism between thinking and not-thinking, and attempt to uncover this conflict's role in theoretical interventions about literature today. The Committee will also hold its annual business meeting at the ICLA in Paris.

3. Future Workshops: Osaka, Japan (2014)

Following decisions reached at the business meeting in Richmond, the 2014 workshop will be located at the University of Osaka (Japan). The topic will be finalized in Paris in 2013.

4. Publications

Papers from the 2008 Ljubljana workshop, "Responding to Cosmopolitanism," have been published as a cluster in *Primerjalna književnost* ('Comparative Literature') vol. 32, no. 2 (2009). Articles from the following members were included in this volume: Ziva Ben-Porat, Vladimir Biti, Peter Hajdu, Marko Juvan, Ulrike Kistner, and Takayuki Yokota-Murakami.

Papers from the 2009 Sydney workshop, "The Aestheticisation of Emotion," are in the process of being compiled into a volume. Papers from the 2011 Munich workshop, "Literary Theory and the Sciences," are presently being prepared to be sent to the journal *Neohelicon* for review.

5. New President

Robert Stockhammer's first term of office as President expired in 2011. At the 2012 Munich meeting, John Zilcosky was nominated and elected unanimously to replace him as President; John Zilcosky's term began on April 1, 2012.

6. Election of a New Secretary

Ulrike Kistner's second term as Secretary expired in 2012. At the 2012 Richmond meeting, Walid Hamarneh was nominated and elected unanimously to replace her for a three-year term, beginning in 2012.

7. Membership of the Committee (as of May 2012, following decisions made at the business meeting in Richmond):

President: John Zilcosky (Canada)

Secretary: Ulrike Kistner (South Africa) finished her term and is now replaced by Walid Hamarneh (USA), for a three-year term

Regular Members:

Pier Paolo Frassinelli, South Africa

Peter Hajdu, Hungary

Yvonne H. Howell, USA

Marko Juvan, Slovenia

Françoise Lavocat, France

Sowon S. Park, UK

Stefan Willer, Germany

Takayuki Yokota-Murakami, Japan

Honorary Presidents:

Elrud Ibsch, The Netherlands

Ziva Ben-Porat, Israel

Djelal Kadir, USA

Vladimir Biti, Austria

Galin Tihanov, Great Britain

Robert Stockhammer, Germany

Respectfully submitted,

John Zilcosky (President)

Toronto, 27 August 2012

Encl.: 1) detailed schedule of 2012 workshop

2012 Workshop:**Animals and Literary Theory (Univ. of Richmond; Richmond, Virginia, USA)****Friday May 18:**Welcoming Remarks: **Walid Hamarneh and Yvonne Howell (Univ. of Richmond)****Session One: 9:30-12:00: Chair: Yvonne Howell****Reingard Nethersol (Univ. of Richmond)**Trace and Erasure: Animals/*Animmots* in Derrida and Agamben**Gary Shapiro (Univ. of Richmond)***Ecce Homo/Ecce Animot*: Animal Nietzsche (or Human, All Too Human)**Lunch: 12:00-1:00****Session Two: 1:00-3:00: Chair: John Neubauer (Universiteit van Amsterdam)****Sowon Park (Oxford Univ.)**

Cosmopolitan Animals: “Who Are These People?”: Anthropomorphism, Dehumanization and the Question of the Other.

Calin Mihailescu (Univ. of Western Ontario)

The Barking Lot

Coffee Break: 3:00-3:15**Session Three: 3:15-5:15: Chair: John Zilcosky (Univ. of Toronto)****John Neubauer (Universiteit van Amsterdam)**

Aping, Mimesis, and Empathy: Frans de Waal on Our Moral Heritage from Animals

Stefan Willer (Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung, Berlin)

Animal Futurologies

Dinner: 7:00**Saturday May 19:****Session Four: 9:00-12:00: Chair: Calin Mihailescu (Univ. of Western Ontario)****Takayuki Yokota-Murakami (Osaka Univ.)**

From “Tiryagyoni “ through “Animal” to “Ferus”: A Critique of Western Religious/Metaphysical Thinking with L. Tolstoy, V. Rozanov, and F. Kafka.

Walid Hamarneh (Univ. of Richmond)

From Bidpai to Hayy ibn Yaqzan

Yvonne Howell (Univ. of Richmond)

A Dog’s Heart: From Bulgakov to Belyaev’s Foxes

Concluding Discussion