

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 (July 2013)

Fifteen colleagues (the ten present committee members plus five invitees, including one former president) will present in five linked sessions at our workshop at the ICLA in Paris in 2013. This workshop, entitled "The Art of Not Thinking," will revisit the ancient antagonism between thinking and not-thinking, and attempt to uncover this conflict's role in theoretical interventions in literature today. The Committee will also hold its annual business meeting at the ICLA in Paris. See detailed workshop schedule below.

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 2011 Munich workshop, "Literary Theory and the Sciences," have been accepted for publication by the journal *Neohelicon*. Publication is expected in 2014.

Regarding the papers from the 2012 Richmond workshop, as well as those from Paris and other future workshops, we are in discussions with Manuela Gerlof at DeGruyter Press about the serial publication of our annual workshop proceedings. As we imagine it, this series would explore the theoretical and conceptual implications of twenty-first-century paradigms for the study and analysis of literature. Moreover, it would reflect our committee's global range of expertise, thereby producing cutting-edge theoretical investigations from a transnational perspective. We hope to have final word from DeGruyter on this by fall 2013.

5. 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.

6. Membership of the Committee (as of June 2013):

President: John Zilcosky (Canada) (first term: 2011-2014)

Secretary: Walid Hamarneh (USA) (first term: 2012-2015)

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

Galina Tihanov, Great Britain

Robert Stockhammer, Germany

7. Nominees in Paris (July 2013)

Two colleagues have been nominated for admission to the committee at the July Paris meeting:

- Michel Chaouli (Indiana University, USA)
- Istvan Csicsery-Ronan, Jr. (DePauw University, USA)

The nominees will present papers at our workshop. Based on this presentation and their published work, we will make a decision about their candidacy (at our business meeting following the workshop).

Respectfully submitted,

John Zilcosky (President)

Toronto, 20 June 2013

Encl.:

- 1) detailed schedule of 2012 workshop**

2) detailed schedule of 2013 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/*Animots* 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

**“THE ART OF NOT THINKING” stream (Literary Theory Research Committee)
(Paris 2013)**

437

Atelier / Workshop

Fri, Jul 19. 2013

09:00 - 10:30

Salle 201 (Equipped) S1: THE ART OF NOT THINKING (3/3)

Moderators: J. Zilcosky

Is Aesthetic Feeling a Kind of Thinking?

M. Chaouli

Unthinking Thought - Prolegomena to a Poetics of Knowledge

U. Kistner

Not Thinking as a Mode of Thinking

W. Hamarneh

438

Atelier / Workshop

Fri, Jul 19. 2013

11:00 - 12:30

Salle 201 (Equipped) S2: THE ART OF NOT THINKING (3/3)

Moderators: W. Hamarneh

The Interiorized Exteriority

V. Biti

Unthinking of You

C. Mihailescu

Thought Censorship under Totalitarianism: Precarious Relationship Between Thought and Voice In Mandelstam

T. Yokota-Murakami

439

Atelier / Workshop

Fri, Jul 19. 2013

13:30 - 15:00

Salle 201 (Equipped) S3: THE ART OF NOT THINKING (3/3)

Moderators: G. Tihanov

Rethinking Art through Sport; Or, “What Do Men Live by?”

P. Frassinelli

Von der Überlegung: Of Wrestling and (Not) Thinking

J. Zilcosky

The Detective as Not-Thinker

S. Willer

440

Atelier / Workshop

Fri, Jul 19. 2013

15:30 - 17:00

Salle 201 (Equipped) S4: THE ART OF NOT THINKING (3/3)

Moderators: S. Park

Tropes of Not-Thinking since Romanticism: From Evocations of Poetic Vision to Grotesquery

M. Juvan

Thinking and not-thinking in Horace' Ars poetica

P. Hajdu

La fiction comme art de la non pensée ?

F. Lavocat

441

Atelier / Workshop

Sat, Jul 20. 2013

09:00 - 10:30

Salle 201 (Equipped) S5: THE ART OF NOT THINKING (3/3)

Moderators: S. Willer

“Cages of No Thought: Challenges to Contemporary Zen Literature.”

I. Csicsery-ronay

Memory, the Unconscious and the Art of Not-Thinking

S. Park

The Body Thinks, but Does It Read Literature?

Y. Howell

BUSINESS MEETING OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON LITERARY THEORY:

Sat, Jul 20. 2013

11:00 – 12:30