

LITERARY THEORY, Annual Report, 2015

1. Annual Workshop (2015)

Peter Hajdu hosted the 2015 annual workshop in Pécs, Hungary in May 21-23. The title of the workshop was 'Realities of Fiction; Fictions of Reality'. Six committee members, five nominated candidates, one guest lecturer and four local colleagues presented papers on this topic (see the second addendum to this report). The Committee also held its annual business meeting in Pécs.

2. Future Meeting: Vienna (21-27 July 2016)

Next year's workshop will be held within the umbrella of the ICLA congress in Vienna. The theme is 'Prismatic Translation' and the call for papers appears as Addendum I.

3. Publications

15 papers from the 2014 workshop *Literature and Policing* held at the University of Osaka, Japan (7-8 April 2014) are currently being edited by Takayuki Yokota-Murakami and Calin Mihailescu, to be turned into a book. The first round of peer-reviewing is over and the contributors are in the process of revising their manuscripts.

9 selected papers from the 2015 workshop will appear in a special issue of *Neohelicon* in June 2015. The editors are Yvonne Howell and Francoise Lavocat.

4. Membership of the Committee (as of 25 May 2014):

The Committee members present in Pécs discussed and voted on the candidacy of the five nominated colleagues who presented papers at the Pécs meeting. Out of the 5 candidates, the committee elected 4.

They are: Jernej Habjan, Eva Horn, Monika Schmitz-Emans and Robert Young.

Their election brings up the number of our membership to 12. We are aiming to continue to elect new members till we reach the maximum size of 20. The list of the members as of 25 May 2014 is as follows:

President: Sowon S Park (UK) (first term: 2014-2017)

Secretary: Walid Hamarneh (USA) (second term: 2015-2018)

Regular Members:

Michel Chaouli, USA
Jernej Habjan, Slovenia
Eva Horn, Austria
Yvonne H. Howell, USA
Françoise Lavocat, France
Kyohei Norimatsu, Japan
Matthew Reynolds, UK
Monika Schmitz-Emans, Germany
Stefan Willer, Germany
Robert Young, USA

Honorary Presidents:

Elrud Ibsch, The Netherlands
Ziva Ben-Porat, Israel
Djelal Kadir, USA
Vladimir Biti, Austria
Galin Tihanov, Great Britain
Robert Stockhammer, Germany
John Zilcosky, Canada

5. Matters Arising

The necessity of a working website for the Committee on Literary Theory was raised. The committee would like to construct a website with a link to the ICLA website.

6. Special Guest Speaker

The committee would like to express gratitude to the Executive Council for supporting the costs of inviting a special guest lecturer. Our first speaker, Richard Walsh, made an excellent contribution and helped establish the keynote for the workshop. His paper will form a part of the special issue next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sowon S Park (President),
Oxford, 25 May 2015

ADDENDUM I: CFP FOR THE 2016 VIENNA MEETING

Prismatic Translation

Translation can be seen as producing a text in one language that will count as equivalent to a text in another. It can also be seen as a release of multiple signifying possibilities, an opening of the source text to Language in all its plurality. The first view is underpinned by the regime of European standard languages which can be lined up in bilingual dictionaries, by the technology of the printed book, and by the need for regulated communication in political and legal contexts. The second view attaches to contexts where several spoken languages share the same written characters (as in the Chinese scriptworld), to circumstances where language is not standardised (eg minority & dialectal communities & oral cultures), to the fluidity of electronic text, and to literature, especially poetry and theatrical performance. The first view sees translation as a channel; the second as a prism.

The prismatic view of translation has yet to be fully theorised. For instance, a historical and intercultural glimpse at translation practices reveals a highly varied relationship between 'original' and 'copy' that demands further examination. Papers of the 2016 committee meeting could study the pragmatic requirements of translations (e.g., the function of dominant languages, the precarious prestige of specialized vernaculars, shifts in audiences, the situated behavior of authors), their concrete realization in the individual transformation of documents (i.e., in multilingual groups of texts consisting of originals and translations), and their impact on the history of language and literature.

This approach would develop the line taken in the key recent intervention in the study of translations, the Cassin et al *Vocabulaire européen des philosophies: Dictionnaire des intraduisibles*, itself translated as *Dictionary of Untranslatables: A Philosophical Lexicon*. Despite its catchy subtitle or title, the volume in fact tends to deconstruct the binary translatable / untranslatable, revealing instead what Benjamin called "Übersetzung bis zu einem gewissen Grade" ('the translatable to some degree'). Such degrees of translation require standard ideas such as 'equivalence', 'fidelity', and the binary of 'foreignizing' and 'domesticating' to be rethought. Attention to non-European languages and translation traditions is likely to be crucial to this endeavour.

Hamarneh, Park, Reynolds, Willer.

ADDENDUM II: THE REALITIES OF FICTION – FICTIONS OF REALITY

Workshop of the ICLA Research Committee for Literary Theory, May 21-23, Pécs

Section I

Sándor Hites (*Hungarian Academy of Sciences*): Fiction as Risk and Pleasure: Money and the Nineteenth-century Novel

Yvonne Howell (*University of Richmond*): Ego-realism in Czech and Russian *Samizdat* Writers (1960s–80s)

Section II

Monika Schmitz-Emans (*Ruhr-Universität Bochum*): Lexicographic Writing in Literature: Playing with the Distinction between “Reality” and “Fiction”

Jernej Habjan (*Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts/IFK University of Art and Design Linz*): Novel Fiction, Newspaper Reality

László Sári (*University of Pécs*): The Referential Quality of Form in Raymond Carver's Fiction

Session III

Françoise Lavocat (*Université Paris III*): Fact and Fiction: For a Border

Sowon Park (*University of Oxford*): Based on a True Story

Robert Young (*New York University*): The Fiction of Fiction

Session IV

Péter Hajdu (*Hungarian Academy of Sciences/University of Pécs*): How to Create the Past

Eva Horn (*Universität Wien*): “Aids to the Imagination.” Scenarios as a Cultural Technique

Zoltán Z. Varga (*Hungarian Academy of Sciences/University of Pécs*): Autobiographical Narratives and the Question of Factuality

Invited guest's lecture

Richard Walsh (*University of York*): The Fictive Reflex: A Fresh Look at Reflexiveness and Narrative Representation

Section V

János D. Mekis (*University of Pécs*): An Ageing Author: Late Writing, Coping with Ageing, Cultural Representation: The Sándor Márai Case

Kyohei Norimatsu (*Doshisha University*): The Reality of Falsehood: Leo Tolstoy's *The Cossacks* and the Romantic Fashion of the Caucasus in Russian Literature

Walid Hamerneh (*University of Richmond*): Reading Alexandria