

Annual report of the AILC/ICLA Research Committee on Literary Theory, 2025

1. Annual workshop.

The annual workshop of the Research Committee on Literary Theory was held at the University of Zurich on 31 January and 1 February 2025. The convenors were committee members Divya Dwivedi (IIT Dehli) and Davide Giuriato (U Zürich). The topic of the meeting was "Bestiaries of/in Literary Theory". Eighteen papers were presented in panels of three to four speakers over two days. The meeting was also attended by local participants. The programme is reproduced at the end of this report.

2. Business meeting. held 1 February 2023. As stated in the Minutes, two options were discussed for the 2026 meeting of the Committee : Ljubjana University (R. Benčin) and Tampere University (N Bekhta).

The Minutes of the 2025 Business Meeting follow :

ICLA Research Committee on Literary Theory Business meeting, 1 February 2025, University of Zurich Minutes

Note:

As there was no committee workshop and consequently no business meeting in 2024, this Zürich meeting is valid for 2024. Therefore, the members whose first terms lasted from 2021-2024 are up for re-election. This complication has led to an error in the listing of members concerned: The 1st terms of R. Benčin and M. Caracciolo in fact run from 2022-2025, so they would actually only be up for re-election at the regular 2025 business meeting (to be held later this year, see below, agenda item 5a). However, since they have been re-elected at the Zurich business meeting (see below, agenda item 7), this already counts for their 2nd terms (2026-2029).

As for the duration of membership, this has meanwhile shifted to a four-year cycle (originally caused by our irregular meetings during the coronavirus pandemic). In contrast, consider the three-year cycle stated in the by-laws and the rule decided at the 2019 Business Meeting: "Membership follows the academic year. It lasts for three academic years after election; e.g.: election 2017 → membership 2018-2020."

1. Attendance

Present: Robert J.C. Young (chairperson), Stefan Willer (secretary), Natalya Bekhta, Rok Benčin, Anne Duprat, Divya Dwivedi, Davide Giuriato, Xiaofan Amy Li, Ábel Tamás.

Proxies: Anne Duprat for Karin Kukkonen and Tiphaine Samoyault; Stefan Willer for Zaal Andronikashvili, Susanne Strätling and Marco Caracciolo; Robert J.C. Young for Maya

Issam Kesrouani.

Absent without proxies: Woosung Kang, Ivana Perica, Elisabeth Weber.

2. *Approval of the minutes of the 2023 Berlin meeting*

The minutes are approved.

3. *Matters arising from the minutes*

None.

4. *Reports of the chairperson (R. Young), the secretary (S. Willer), and the web manager (N. Bekhta)*

R. Young has communicated with the organizers of the ICLA Congress in Seoul about our participation and has kept the committee informed (see agenda item 5.a).

N. Bekhta invites everyone to provide her with information for the committee website. Temporary problems with the financing of the website by the ICLA have been resolved.

5. Next workshops

a) ICLA Congress in Seoul, 28 Juli – 1 August, 2025

At the Seoul congress, the committee will hold a workshop on “Literary Theory and Technology.” Proposals have been sent by M. Caracciolo, A. Duprat, D. Giuriato, K. Kukkonen, S. Strätling and S. Willer. Further proposals are announced by R. Benčin and D. Dwivedi. Since the deadline has been extended to 14 February, 2025, R. Young will send round a message inviting the rest of the committee to send proposals, stating that it will be possible to participate remotely.

A. Duprat suggests to write an abstract for the workshop after all individual proposals have been handed in. During the workshop, a business meeting will be held.

b) Workshops 2026 et seqq.

Offers to host workshops come from N. Bekhta (Tampere), R. Benčin (Ljubljana) and X.A. Li (London). All of them should check with their institutions about possibilities. Favored months are June/July.

R. Young recalls that organizers do not necessarily have to take care of hotel accommodation or conference dinners. A. Duprat offers co-financing via her own project funds. For future workshops, the organizers can (and should) invite external speakers (as was the case in the past). The ICLA has funds available for such invitations.

6. Publications

- “Theorizing Chance”: special issue of *Neohelicon* (51: 2024) has been published.
- “Decolonizing the Theory Canon”: special issue of *Parallax* (30: 2024) will be out soon.
- “Critique and Criticism”: contributions for *Arcadia* will soon be completed.
- For the current workshop, “Bestiaries of/in Literary Theory,” options are discussed, e.g. *Poetics Today* or *Angelaki*.
- A publication of the last two workshops, i.e. “Margins of Theory” (Tbilisi) and “Tropes of Theory” (Berlin), was not discussed.

General suggestion by R. Young: Workshops could be published on the website, filed under “Proceedings of the Committee.”

7. Review of current membership

Up for re-election: Z. Andronikashvili, R. Benčin, M. Caracciolo M.I. Kesrouani, K. Kukkonen, X.A. Li, I. Perica, T. Samoyault, S. Strätling, E. Weber. In an open vote, all named members are re-elected.

Outgoing: A. Duprat (but see agenda item 8), R. Young (who will become honorary president), D. Dwivedi, S. Willer.

R. Young suggests that outgoing members could become ‘friends of the committee’ and, if feasible, participate in further workshops.

8. Election of new chairperson and new secretary

R. Young nominates Anne Duprat as chairperson and Susanne Strätling as secretary. In a secret ballot, both candidates are elected.

For future elections, R. Young and A. Duprat suggest a procedure with nominations in advance.

9. *Discussion on new members*

As a final step in the work of the former committee management, R. Young and S. Willer will invite the current members by circular email to nominate new members. Special attention should be given to theoretical and regional diversity. A. Duprat (chairperson), S. Strätling (secretary) and D. Giuriato are appointed as new nomination commission. The proposals will be discussed at the business meeting in Seoul in July/August 2025.

10. *Any other business*

N. Bekhta suggests that information relevant for the web management should be accessible also to the chairperson and secretary. A Dropbox account will be created for this purpose.

Membership of the Literary Theory Committee of the ICLA (as of 1 February 2025)

President: Anne Duprat, France (1st term: 2025-2028)

Secretary: Susanne Strätling, Germany (1st term: 2025-2028)

Regular Members:

1. Zaal Andronikashvili, Georgia/Germany (2nd term: 2025-2028)
2. Natalya Bekhta, Ukraine/Finland (1st term: 2023-2026; web manager)
3. Rok Benčin, Slovenia (1st term: 2022-2025, 2nd term: 2026-2029)
4. Marco Caracciolo, Belgium (1st term: 2022-2025, 2nd term: 2026-2029)
5. Davide Giuriato, Switzerland (1st term: 2023-2026)
6. Woosung Kang, Korea (2nd term: 2023-2026)
7. Maya Issam Kesrouani, UAE (2nd term: 2025-2028)
8. Karin Kukkonen, Norway (2nd term: 2025-2028)
9. Xiaofan Amy Li, UK (2nd term: 2025-2028)
10. Ivana Perica, Germany (2nd term: 2025-2028)
11. Tiphaine Samoyault, France (2nd term: 2025-2028)
12. Ábel Tamás, Hungary (1st term: 2025-2028)
13. Elisabeth Weber, USA (2nd term: 2025-2028)

Honorary Presidents:

Robert J.C. Young, USA

Sowon Park, USA

John Zilcosky, Canada

Robert Stockhammer, Germany

Galin Tihanov, UK

Vladimir Biti, Austria

Djelal Kadir, USA

Ziva Ben-Porat, Israel