

**REPORT OF THE WWIH WG MEETING HELD AT THE RESEARCH
WORKSHOP**

**‘CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN NORTH, SOUTH, WEST AND EAST:
MAPPING THE DIGITAL FUTURES OF EUROPEAN WOMEN WRITERS
BEFORE 1900’**

Organized by Séverine Genieys-Kirk at the University of Edinburgh, School of Literatures,
Languages and Cultures



28 June 2018

Discussion was held among the WG members who took part in the event, presenting their research the previous day at the research seminar (see the Programme of the event).

Present:

Séverine Genieys-Kirk, Suzan van Dijk, Marie Nedregotten Sørbo, Anne-Birgitte Rønning, Viola Parente-Čapková, Carme Font, Kerstin Wiedemann, Magdalena Ożarska, Isabel Lousada, Laura Kirkley, Janouk de Groot, Victoria McIntyre, María Eugenia Perojo Arronte, Emma Dunne

At the beginning of the meeting, Séverine announced a possibility of cooperation that might be of interest for some members of our WG: the initiative has come from Elinor Shaffer (Fellow of the British Academy, Comparative Literature series of *Legenda*, and editor of *Reception of British and Irish Authors in Europe*, a book series published by Continuum Books). She is looking for contributors

- for a volume on the reception of the Brontë sisters
- for a volume on Thomas More's Utopia (proposed Jorge Bastos da Silva), with a focus on female utopias/ dystopias.

Her email address is rbae2011@gmail.com

1. Discussions about the report of the Internal Working Group Meeting held in conjunction with the DARIAH-EU Annual Event in Paris, May 22–24 (*sent to all WG members on 5 June*)

The draft of the Paris Meeting report was discussed in detail by the present WG Members. Suzan van Dijk reminded WG members about the VRE entry – everybody should announce problems encountered during working with the VRE. Suzan also explained the issue concerning the ownership of the VRE and the importance of creating the Board of the DARIAH WWIH Working Group, the formation of which was based on the discussion at the Berlin Annual DARIAH Event in 2017 and developed at the Paris Meeting in May 2018.

Interconnectivity: Suzan reported that unfortunately, Amelia could not go to Mexico and could not meet Suzan Brown – the issue of interconnectability will have to be discussed later.

2. Possibilities of financing the work in the VRE

The important work done by Janouk de Groot (preparing the Dutch part of the VRE for being archived) and Jasmine Westerlund (entering and curating data) has been paid by DANS (an archiving Academy Institute in the Netherlands) and DARIAH-EU respectively, The DANS Project should be finished by November. Jasmine finished her contribution paid by DARIAH-EU and has sent her report. By that, we concluded our first DARIAH year. Suzan would like to apply for other DARIAH grant in November.

3. Agenda for 2018-2019:

The Dutch Academy (KNAW) grant for a meeting/conference in Amsterdam has not been granted, so the next meeting would be the Annual Event DARIAH-EU in Warsaw: Report of Openness Experiences, May 15–17, 2019.

As announced in the Paris Meeting Report, the Gothenburg Intimacy Workshop had to be postponed (tba).

4. **Wikipedia collaboration experience and other collaboration**

Suzan reported about her good experience from collaborating with Wikipedia in The Netherlands (Wikipedia gender gap activities) – students have been also contributing, writing Wikipedia pages.

The citizen scientist issue is fairly developed in the Netherlands, too: National science agenda involves non-scientists in research and has been developing various ways to involve people in research activities. Cultural institutes (cf. Séverine’s and others’ cooperation with French Institute) are good partners for collaboration, too. It is also necessary to establish cooperation with schools (cf. the Slovenian case, as we saw in Ljubljana in 2014) – many of us have former students who teach at secondary schools and can introduce gender issues in literary history in their teaching, etc.



5. **Future project proposals:**

The substantial part of the meeting was dedicated to discussion about future project proposals. Marie Nedregotten Sørbo reported about the important activities of the subgroup (Marie, Ruth Abbott, Petra Broomans, Carme Font Paz, Séverine Genieys-Kirk and Magdalena Ożarska), established at the Berlin meeting and dealing with future project proposals. The tasks of the group have been looking for potential calls and considering their relevance for our WG. Concerning the HORIZON 2020 calls, Marie selected 'Societal Challenges 6, Transformations 8 and 11', namely the Calls No. 8 and 11.

Especially the Research Call No. 8, selected in spring (“The Societal Value of Culture and the Impact of Cultural Policies in Europe”

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/transformations-08-2019.html>) looked promising and has been selected also by The Netherlands experts consulted. However, a sore point of this call seems to be that the

expected impact includes statistics, so that the output would include data and tools for politicians in order to plan how to make society better nowadays. We would have to find partners like EUROSTAT, in order to meet these demands. As Anne Birgitte Rønning pointed out, to such calls, the ideal would be a social sciences project in which women writers in history might be one, highly interesting, but still minor subproject. Call No. 11 concerns social cohesion and migrant culture and comprises the element of innovation.

Marie emphasized that everybody interested in participating in the future project proposals should check the calls and see what call could be potentially good for us. The calls are multidisciplinary and there would be a need to form various consortia of several universities. However, not all participants should be from humanities, which, at present, appears also as a problem. The only option for us to apply for a HORIZON project is to be “the cultural part” of a project with social scientists, statisticians, etc., who would be important partners, ensuring the “social impact part”.

There are and will be, of course, also other kinds of project calls: HORIZON EUROPE will replace HORIZON 2020. There is also a new HERA Call, which is to be checked – HERA is good for consortia. Also COST Actions are to be checked (e. g. Katja Mihurko Poniž is involved in the COST Action ‘Distant Reading for European Literary History’ (http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA16204; http://2018.dhbenelux.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2018/05/Kestemont_Distant-Reading_DHBenelux2018.pdf). Anne Birgitte mentioned that another possibility would be women in archives; a COST Action concerning gender in Digital Humanities, open also to historians of all sorts, as there are several individual DH projects on women in history (for instance one in Oslo mapping the circulation of St Birgitta texts).

Laura Kirkley suggested to apply for a COST Action for collaboration between our group and computer scientists. Newcastle might be willing to be a part of it; it would support LK to create a doctoral programme with participation of humanist students and computer scientists. Anne Birgitte emphasized the importance of having the element of educating new scholars, involving doctoral schools/programmes. Suzan suggested similar projects for other countries, with developers to be invited to work for short periods (STSMs). Laura Kirkley brought up advantages of establishing contacts with gaming industry, in order to create visualisations more easily. Suzan reminded everybody, that it would be good to meet in winter, in order to plan everything in more detail. Laura had to leave the meeting earlier, and the discussions about cooperation between her project and WWIH/VRE are to be continued.

The (very competitive) ERC grants are a great starting grant for young post doc scholars; there are also consolidator & advanced grants. The advantage of the ERC grants is that they are (unlike the HORIZON grants) research focused; the only criterion is excellency. They are definitely worth looking at, though they are either for

individuals, or just small groups of researchers. At present, there are some ERC Projects about women writers, namely the consolidation grant by Marie-Louise Coolahan: "The Reception and Circulation of Early Modern's Women's Writing, 1550–1700": https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/185595_en.html); and the project "WeChangEd", about women editors and women's editing activities. Also Calls in Digital Humanities can be considered.

