

Research Committee on Hybrid Life Writing

Bylaws

Preamble

The Research Committee on Hybrid Life Writing (HLW) was approved by the ICLA Executive Council on 16 September 2026.

Article 1.

The purpose of the Research Committee is to explore Hybrid Life Writing in its international and transnational dimensions, fostering inclusive dialogue across national and disciplinary borders, and promoting new paths of inquiry. We call Hybrid Life Writing the set of practices approaching factual elements from the real life of either the author or another person with the tools of literature, fiction and theory, including the genres of biofiction, autofiction, autotheory, and other neighbouring forms such as exofiction, autosociobiography, etc., their various overlaps, and their counterparts in graphic literature and in screen formats.

Article 2.

The Committee is responsible to the Executive Council of the ICLA and will submit a formal account of its activities annually. The Chair(s) of the Committee is/are entitled to attend the meetings of the Executive Council of the ICLA as non-voting member(s).

Article 3.

The Committee shall consist of no fewer than 8 members, with no maximum number. It shall strive for a balanced representation in terms of specialism, region, gender, ethnicity and professional stage of career. Members of Research Committees must be members of the ICLA in good standing.

Article 4.

Application to join the Committee may be made by any scholar working in the field by submitting to the Committee's Chair(s) and Secretary a CV and a letter of purpose stating how they can contribute to the Committee's work. New memberships are approved by the Steering Group (see Article 5).

Article 5.

The Committee has a Steering Group consisting of the Chair(s), the Vice-Chair(s), the Secretary, and 3-5 other members, for a total of 8 members. After the first 3-year term, all members of the Steering Group are elected by majority vote of all the members of the Committee. In the case where a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, or member of the Steering Group resigns or is no longer able to carry on in their position before their term is over, their position will be replaced through an election by majority vote of all the members of the Committee.

Candidates for any position subject to election should submit a statement of purpose and an updated CV to the Secretary or another nominated member of the Committee who is not standing for election, for circulation to all the Committee members. Elections will take place by email or other form of electronic vote.

Each position on the Steering Group is renewable for a second term. Members of the Steering Group can also apply to stand for a different position. The total number of consecutive terms on the Steering Group is three. Election results are subject to ratification by the Executive Council of the ICLA.

Dates and modalities of elections (including deadlines for candidatures) will be agreed each time by the Steering Group and approved by the Committee's members in good time to ensure that they conform to the schedule of the ICLA Executive Council to permit ratification of the results at the relevant EC meeting.

Article 6.

The Committee meets at least once a year, in person or online, and always at the International Congresses of the ICLA.

Article 7.

The Steering Group will submit a report to the Committee's members in advance of its annual meeting, including plans for future activities, for the Committee's approval.

Article 8.

Votes on the Steering Group's reports and proposals are decided by a simple majority of members present at the annual meeting, which may be in person or online. The quorum consists of half of the Committee membership, plus one. Members who are unable to attend a meeting may delegate their vote to another member of the Committee. For the purpose of determining a quorum, the number of members present shall be taken to include those who have delegated their vote in this way.

In the absence of a quorum, a vote by e-mail or other form of electronic voting will be organized as soon as feasible after the meeting.

The Steering Group may make decisions on urgent matters, subject to approval by the Committee via email or at the next meeting of the Committee.

Article 9.

The Chair(s) and Secretary of the Committee are jointly responsible for managing any finances obtained by the Committee, and should keep an account of any expenditure made on the Committee's behalf. Such accounts should be made available for the Committee to scrutinize at its annual meeting and are subject to approval by a vote. The Committee is free to receive subventions from private, regional, national or international organizations provided that the acceptance of such subventions does not conflict with the statutes of the ICLA and is approved by the Committee.

Article 10.

The activities of the Committee include the convening of conferences, seminars, seminar series, workshops, participation as panels in conferences, the publication of scholarly works, and all other activities which further the objective of the Committee as described in Article 1.

Members are expected to participate in the activities of the Committee in the following ways:

- Participation in meetings of the Committee, normally at least 2 during any 3-year period, unless a good reason is conveyed to the Chair for participating in fewer meetings.
- “Participation in meetings” entails presenting a paper, serving as respondent and/or chair, as requested by the organizer; and constructive contributions to discussion.
- Constructive contributions to the ongoing business of the Committee outside of the annual meetings, in support of the Chair(s), Vice-Chair(s), Secretary, which may include: helping to plan and/or organize future meetings; contributing to the continuity of the Committee by nominating new members; participating in e-mail discussions of Committee business; helping to find a publisher and to edit proceedings.

Members are free to resign from the Committee at any time. A member who has not participated in the activities of the Committee for more than a year may be invited by the Chair(s) either to become active in the Committee or to consider resigning. As a last resort, the Chair(s) may propose that a member who is wholly inactive, or whose behaviour is not conducive to the effective functioning of the Committee, may be excluded from the Committee by a vote as described above in Article 8.

Article 11.

The Executive Council of the ICLA has the right to dissolve the Committee.

Article 12.

A motion to change these by-laws must be made by at least two members of the Committee and be conveyed in writing to all members of the Committee at least one month before the date of the next meeting. Voting on the by-laws follows the provisions of Article 8.

Any change in the by-laws must be approved by the Executive Council of the ICLA.