



Research Committee

ICLA Executive Council

Report 2012

I respectfully ask for the assistance of the ICLA Executive Council, for the Committee I chair is experiencing some difficulties.

The Research Committee I chair is formed by Zhao Baisheng (Peking University), Sibylle Baumbach (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz), Montserrat Cots (Universitat Pompeu Fabra), Bala Venkat Mani (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Mariano Siskind (Harvard University), Jola Škulj (Inštitut za slovensko literaturo in literarne vede), Mads Rosendhal Thomsen (Aarhus Universitet), and Hein Viljoen (Noordwes-Universiteit).

The Research Committee has approved the following applications for new committees so far:

- Literary and Cultural Inter-relationships between India, Its Neighbouring Countries and the World, submitted by Prof. Chandra Mohan.
- Literature and Neuroscience, submitted by Prof. Suzanne Nalbantian
- Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies, submitted by Prof. Xiaoyi Zhou

As a Chair, I have been informally contacted regarding other proposals for research committees. However, after providing the proposers with the guidelines approved in the last Executive Council meeting (see Appendix), said formal proposals have not been received.

These guidelines state that an annual report on the status of the project (1000 words), including any information regarding undertaken activities, publications, and information on dissemination, should be submitted to the Research Committee.

However, once received the reports kindly distributed by Prof. Marc Maufort, I verify that the 2012 reports of the Committees on 'Literary and Cultural Inter-relationships between India, Its Neighbouring Countries and the World' and 'Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Studies' have been directly sent to Prof. Maufort, but not to the Research Committee, whereas the 2012 report of the Committee on 'Literature and Neuroscience' has not been received as far as I know. As a result, it has not been possible for the members of the Research Committee to assess the progress made by each research committee before the September meeting.

As for ongoing research committees, approved before 2011, their chairs submit reports directly to the Secretary, but not to the Research Committee in order to be assessed before the Executive Council meeting.

According to Article VII of the Statutes, "The Council may establish committees for the study of specific problems. The composition of such committees and their assignments are subject to approval by the Council. The Council may authorize standing research committees to operate according to by-laws which they devise and the council approves". Consequentially, reports are being sent correctly according to this Article of the so-called "Unofficial English Version of the Statutes" (http://www.aile-icla.org/site/?page_id=20).

However, in the information I was provided regarding the Research Committee, it is stated that according to the Statutes of the ICLA, "The [Research] Committee aims to examine proposals for research projects under the aegis of the ICLA, monitors activity of existing research projects sponsored or recognized by the Association, and investigates ways to stimulate and support research efforts of special relevance to the work of the Association. It also considers inquiries from interested parties seeking collaborative encouragement, recognition, or support for research projects. In accordance with the Statutes of the ICLA it attempts to realize this objective through international cooperation."

I respectfully ask the Executive Council clarification on this issue in order to define the exact aims and functions of the Research Committee I chair. Once this is clarified, and as stated in my previous report, the Research Committee considers that having a specific webpage within the ICLA webpage is of key importance in order to make publicly available guidelines, reports, etc.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "César Domínguez". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'C' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

August 30th, 2012

César Domínguez