

25. Annual Activity Report 2018-19

Research Committee on Comparative Gender Studies Liedeke Plate

International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)

Statement of Purpose (new)

The Comparative Gender Studies Committee works to further the comparative study of gender and sexuality through organizing innovative seminar programmes at the ICLA and at other conferences, such as the ACLA, and through supporting research and publication in the fields of comparative gender, sexuality, queer and trans* studies. We define 'comparative' in its broadest sense as an approach to the study of literature and culture that includes: a) traditional comparisons across national and linguistic borders as these relate specifically to gender and/or sexuality; b) comparative work across historical, postcolonial, and transnational contexts focusing on gender and/or sexuality; and c) scholarship using gender and/or sexuality as sites of comparison themselves, or as they intersect with race, class, ethnicity, national and religious affiliation, and other sites of difference.

We also support research on the gender, queer and trans* politics of textual and/or cultural translation in all historical periods. The work from our seminars is published in international peer-review journals and in edited collections with major academic presses. Anyone with a scholarly interest in comparative gender, sexuality, queer and trans* studies is invited to join the Committee, and we especially welcome graduate students.

Elected Officers

Officers serve a three-year term with the option to serve only one additional term of three years if they so choose. Terms of office expire at the ICLA conference in the year given in parentheses. Elections for new officers will be held at the business meeting of the committee, which is scheduled to take place in Macau on August 1, 2019, 11-12.30, as listed in the ICLA General Congress Programme.

President/Chair (2022)

Liedeke Plate, Radboud University (NL)

Vice President (2022)

Jordana Greenblatt, University of Toronto and York University (Canada)

Secretary (term ends in 2019)

Chris Coffman, University of Alaska, Fairbanks (USA)

Elected Executive Board Member:

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, University of Texas at Austin (USA) (term ends in 2019)

Rita Terezinha Schmidt, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil) (2022)

Tegan Zimmerman, Stephens College (USA) (2022)

Annual Business Meeting of the Committee: 2019

The ICLA Comparative Gender Studies Committee will hold its annual business meeting 2019 at the ICLA congress in Macau. The business meeting is open to its members and to anyone with a scholarly interest in comparative gender and comparative queer studies. In line with its open door policy, the business meeting is advertised in the ICLA International Congress 2019 programme booklet.

The ICLA Comparative Gender Studies Committee organizes a panel (three sessions) at the ICLA General Congress in Macau in July - August 2019 on the topic of "Comparative Gender Studies: Rooms, Media and Expressions of One's Own".

Committee-Sponsored Programme at ACLA 2019 in Georgetown

The ICLA Comparative Gender Studies Committee sponsored a two-day seminar at ACLA 2019 in Georgetown, entitled 'Resilient Bodies: Queer Persistence in a Post-Factual Age', co-organised by Elizabeth Richmond-Garza (University of Texas at Austin), Jordana Greenblatt (York University) and Tegan Zimmerman (Stephens College). The presentations were followed by a rich discussion of affect theory, toxicity, and queer identity/labels, amongst other topics.

Affiliated programmes

In June 28-30, 2019, the second CIRQUE (Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca Queer – Inter-University Center for Queer Research) conference, "Performativity: Pasts, Presents, and Futures", took place in Pisa. CIRQUE and its journal *Whatever* are affiliated with the Committee.

Publications

Over the years, the ICLA Comparative Gender Studies Committee has published a number of special issues in such journals as *Comparative Critical Studies* (2009), *Comparative Literature Studies* (2014), and *Intertexts* (2014), as well as several edited volumes, such as *Translating Women* (ed. Luise von Flotow, 2010) and *Comparatively Queer* (eds. Jarrod Hayes, Margaret Higonnet and William J Spurlin, 2010). All of these works have made important interventions in the field. In 2018, the journal *Whatever: A Transdisciplinary Journal of Queer Theories and Studies* was launched. ICLA Comparative Gender Studies Committee members are involved, as editors and on its scientific board. The committee has several other projects in line, including edited collections and special issues based on the papers presented at recent committee-sponsored meetings. Also, past president Margaret Higonnet is

preparing a report on the role of gender-focused committees in changing both the structures of learned societies and the development of new areas of research.

Website

The Committee has a webpage on the ICLA website: <https://www.aic-icla.org/committee-on-gender/>. It also has its own website: <https://sites.google.com/a/alaska.edu/icla-comparative-gender-studies-committee/executive-board>; as well as a distribution list: icla-gender-studies-committee@lists.alaska.edu.

Respectfully submitted July 9, 2019 Liedeke Plate, President