

REPORT OF THE EARLY CAREER AND DOCTORAL RESEARCHERS COMMITTEE (ECARE)

2017-19

I – The report refers to the activities of 2018 and 2019 and follows up on the decisions taken up in 2016 and 2017. During its first term, the committee's activities were geared towards pursuing the agenda for which it was mandated in the Vienna Conference: disseminate the activities of the ICLA amongst the new generation of comparatists, engage with their needs and support career development. For this, it has set up a communication strategy and its members have networked with Literature Departments to engage in training and career orientation activities with the aim of promoting ICLA amongst the next generation of comparatists. The ICLA Conference in Macao was advertised as a pivotal event for early-career researchers to network and become aware of the possibilities offered by the Association.

While early-career researchers wish to have their voices heard in the Associations' governing bodies, they do not wish to be ghettoized. They have expressed the desire to see the committee as a transversal platform to circulate information deriving from other committees and task forces about their research activities. A first step in this direction is to be discussed in Macao.

The committee is grateful for the willingness of the Macao conference organizers to expressly host a reception for ECARE. It responds to a wish repeatedly uttered by committee members and early-career researchers in general to be able to meet, discuss and engage with senior comparatists. The strength of a discipline is measured by the way it acknowledges the great work of the past just as it reveals an openness for the transformation of the future.

To pursue this goal, the committee feels that it is of the utmost importance that senior scholars, Executive Council and other Committee's members attend the early-career reception to encourage and inspire young scholars about the importance of the field and the relevance of the work of the Association to further its goals.

II - Activities 2017-2019:

- Following the approval by the ICLA Executive Bureau, the committee had the first business meeting during the Vienna ICLA conference.
- A second committee meeting took place on January 16 and 17, 2017 at U. Warwick. The new social media strategy was the key discussion topic as well as the development of a communication model to promote the dissemination of career and research opportunities amongst Comparative Literature early career researchers. The third meeting, took place in Lisbon in June 2019.
- **Workshops** – Research training for doctoral candidates organized by U. Warwick, Univ. Sorbonne Paris, UCP In Venice (September 2017, September 2018). A new workshop is planned for November 2019.
- In April 2019, a research training session was organized in Macao, at USJ, with doctoral candidates from Macao, Hong Kong and South Korea.
- Individual committee members have been actively disseminating ECARE's agenda and have consistently labored to bring new early-career members to participate in the activities. William Spurlin worked with Paulo Horta to

advance the reception dedicated to members at the 2010 conference. Isabel Capeloa Gil and Paulo de Medeiros have been active organizing the Venice research training networks, generously hosted in 2017 and 19 by Warwick at Venice and from 2019 by Univ. Ca Foscari.

- Other than scholarly mentoring, career orientation and communication, ECARE is committed to raise awareness and foster support for an early-career travel fund at ICLA, and improve the existing fee differentiation for young researchers at ICLA conferences and associated sponsored events.

III - Communication:

The ECARE website and Facebook pages announce activities dedicated to graduate students, its goals are that it becomes a space for dialogue amongst them and senior researchers. The website for the committee is currently managed by U. Warwick, on a *pro bono* basis. This has become a strain on ECARE's activities, as the former webmaster (Emanuele Santos) is moving to a full position at U. Coventry. Funding for the digital media strategy is essential to maintain the site and the information flowing.

The website and social media page are linked to the ICLA page through <http://www.aic-icla.org/site/ecare/>

The social media strategy is research and professionally oriented. It is aimed at strengthening the ties between institutions and researchers, and is intent on becoming a global platform where opportunities for early career researchers are announced, and where new projects, conferences and seminars are disseminated.

IV - Organization of the committee:

During the first term, the committee was chaired by Isabel Capeloa Gil. For the next term, William Spurlin will be up for election as new chair.

The members proposed to chair the committee for the 2019-2022 term are:

Chair: William Spurlin (Brunel University, UK)

Vice-Chair: Paulo Lemos Horta (NYU – Abu Dhabi)

Vice- Chair: Emanuelle Santos (U. Warwick, UK)

Members of the committee:

Isabel Capeloa Gil (UCP, Portugal),

William Spurlin (Brunel University, UK),

Paulo Lemos (NYU – Abu Dhabi)

Paulo de Medeiros (U. Warwick, UK),

Anne Tomiche (Université de Paris, Sorbonne, France),

Ross Shiedeler (UCLA, USA),

Noriko Hiraishi (U. of Tsukuba, Japan)

Early career researchers:

Eugenia Kelbert (Post-doc, U. Passau, Germany),

Emmanuelle Santos (U. Warwick, UK),

Maria Loreto Nuñez (Post-doc, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland),
Karina Sembe (Uni. Kiev/Univ. Vienna),
Myriam Olah (U. Lausanne),
Jana Vijayakumaran (Doctoral candidate, U. Bochum).
Vera Herold (Doctoral candidate, JLU, Giessen and UCP, Portugal)
Ekaterina Smirnova (Doctoral candidate,

V – Challenges

ECARE is a functional committee within ICLA, created with the goal of furthering the professional prospects of young comparatists and strengthening the pipeline of talent in the association. Because much of its work is not subsumed under a research-based logic but can be more broadly understood as part of a training endeavor, the current structure of operation has proved challenging. A critical issue is the upkeep of the social media strategy, that can only thrive if it is both fed by information from members and is continuously updated. Warwick's initial push is endangered because the post-doc allotted the job has now a full-time position at an IES and the costs for the site, though small, will probably not be supported by U. Warwick beyond 2021.

Co-payment of a small fee (\$1000/Year) for the management of the site is thus requested from ICLA for the 2019-2022 term.

Respectfully submitted

Isabel Capeloa Gil, UCP, Portugal
(Committee Chair 2016-2019)