

22nd Congress of the AILC-ICLA, 29 July-2 August 2019

Minutes of the First meeting of the new Executive Council (2019-2022), 2 August 2019.

(In the absence of the Secretaries, Minutes were taken by Lucia BOLDRINI)

Present: Sandra BERMANN, YANG Huilin, E.V. RAMAKRISHNAN, Lucia BOLDRINI, Noriko HIRAIISHI, Marie-Thèrese ABDELMESSIH, Toshiko ELLIS, Oana FOTACHE-DUBĂLARU, Marko JUVAN, Youngmin KIM, Adam KOLA, Sangjin PARK, Mads ROSENDAHL THOMSEN, Rita Terezinha SCHMIDT, Takayuki YOKOTA-MURAKAMI, ZHANG Xiaohong, Stefan BUCHENBERGER, Kitty MILLET, Chandra MOHAN, Liedeke PLATE, Haun SAUSSY. Massimo FUSILLO joined the meeting later.

The new President, Sandra BERMANN, welcomed the new Executive Council and invited all members to introduce themselves.

The President explained her priorities: To continue the work of the previous EC and enhance efficiency and transparency. In particular:

- 1 - Establish the committee for the Early Career travel grant, to agree the process of application, criteria for selection, deadlines, etc.
- 2 – Finalise as early as feasible the Guidelines for the organisation of the triennial Congress.
- 3 – Confirm and collect the documentation defining the legal status of the Association, including non-profit status, in view of revising/checking by-laws of committees and establishing clear procedures conforming with legal requirements.
- 4 – Following the suggestion made by several members: to compile a calendar of activities in order to establish clear annual timelines and description of procedures for each committee and the EC as a whole, and from this compile a triennial comprehensive calendar and description of processes, so that future committees can rely on these without repeatedly reinventing wheels or risking departure from statutes and by-laws. This will also aid transparency.
- 5 – Development of Newsletter. The President invited Lucia BOLDRINI to explain how this would work: the precondition is the consolidation of the membership list – well on its way – and the setting up of a reliable mailing system (as approved at the Shenzhen EC); the Newsletter can start as soon as possible thereafter. The frequency is to be confirmed, but the expectation/hope is that it will be, initially, bi-monthly. The need to ensure conforming with the legal requirements of data protection was re-stated.
- 6 – Communication with National Associations is crucial. The President will write to presidents of the NAs affiliated to the AILC-ICLA to introduce herself and explain the work being done, inviting them as observers at our EC meetings, and inviting collaborations.

7 – To move toward Electronic Voting to facilitate participation of all members. E.V. RAMAKRISHNAN reminded the EC that the Statutes may need to be amended.

8 – To move towards having our three treasurers' accounts audited and their formats regularized and made uniform. Meanwhile, the President will communicate an account of the budget of the AILC-ICLA to National Associations who have asked for this.

9 – Next meetings of the EC:

a) Massimo FUSILLO offered to host the next meeting of the EC at the University of L'Aquila, to coincide with a conference on "Transcodification in Literature, Art and Media", probably to be held on 28-29 June 2020 (to be confirmed). It should be possible to cover accommodation expenses for the EC; there can be an AILC-ICLA panel at the conference; for this, "transcodification" can be taken in its broadest sense and the focus can be mainly on literature. Travel to L'Aquila is fairly easy from the airport of Rome (Fiumicino). The President and the EC expressed their gratitude and enthusiasm.

b) For the meeting of the EC in 2021, Sandra BERMANN expressed an interest in exploring the organisation of an event aimed especially at Early Career Researchers, with whom the EC would engage, and focused on international publishing. This may be at Princeton. An application process is likely to be necessary as this format does not work well with very high numbers.

c) The 2022 EC would take place at the next triennial Congress; for the moment the only offer we have is Tbilisi, Georgia; the President expressed the wish to have more offers and invited members of the EC to consider good location where a local committee may be willing; she would explore the possibility of having it at Princeton (if the 2021 event does not take place there), though there would be some difficulties due to the small size of the town and the campus.

In the ensuing discussion,

- Numbers for the Early Career workshop were discussed, and the importance of addressing publishing in languages other than English; Haun SAUSSY suggested that holding the workshop in the vicinity of the Frankfurt Book Fair, which is attended by publishers worldwide and where translation rights are negotiated, may facilitate attracting the presence of publishers to our event, and possible sponsors. Colleagues in the German CL Association may be contacted to explore this. E.V. RAMAKRISHNAN suggested that the perspective of publishers from South Asia and South America should be included. Marie-Thèrese ABDELMESSIH suggested that members from all over the world should be contacted and invited to propose Early Career Researchers, or to bring the workshop to the attention of Early Career Researchers in areas where the information may otherwise not be circulated.

- Regarding the Newsletter, Mads ROSENDAHL THOMSEN suggested that Research Committee Chairs should be invited to submit a short (100-150 words) exciting outline of the activities of their Committees, to publicise and expand participation. This could be done for a few of the Research Committees at a time, on a rolling basis, to ensure coverage of all committees over several issues.

- Mads ROSENDAHL THOMSEN also pointed out that both the outgoing and the incoming Presidents had highlighted in their addresses to the General Assembly the importance of what we do as comparatists and of Comparative and World Literature to society, and that we should seek to include this in the topics / themes of the next congresses, in order to stimulate a discussion on how we can meaningfully engage with society and promote the values of tolerance and exchange.

- Adam KOLA suggested that digital humanities could be an important topic for a new Research Committee.

- Youngmin KIM suggested that the circulation of the Newsletter should also stimulate the exchange of ideas on new topics of inquiry that we as an Association can promote and support.

- Oana FOTACHE-DUBĂLARU observed that there always is a keynote lecture by a writer at the AILC-ICLA Congress, and suggested that we could also invite writers to discuss in panel formats.

- Marko JUVAN wondered if, since the abstracts of papers at the Macau Congress had not been published, it would be possible to publish them on our Website (possibly the papers too?). Lucia BOLDRINI said she would think about whether and how this could be done; a difficulty would be retrieving them and obtaining all permissions. Publishing the papers would be difficult.

- Chandra MOHAN asked about the list of books for review that the editor of *Recherche Littéraire / Literary Research* normally circulates, and which we did not receive this time. The Editor, Marc MAUFORT, will be contacted and the list requested for circulation by email.

The meeting ended with mutual thanks and general good wishes.