

Addendum Report of the Early Career Researcher Development (ECARE) Committee 2019-2020

The purpose of the Early Career Researcher Development Committee (ECARE), founded at the ICLA Congress held in Vienna in 2016, addresses ways of supporting and developing early-career researchers and doctoral students researching in the field of comparative literature in the changing environment of humanities research and scholarship, and the changing nature of higher education in various parts of the world, as well as asking how the innovative research of early-career researchers and doctoral students is changing the landscape of the discipline through new and innovative forms of comparative inquiry.

At the meeting of the ICLA Executive Council held in January 2021 on Zoom, the ECARE Committee was asked to clarify the proposed prizes the ICLA would confer to graduate students and early-career researchers working in comparative literature. The Committee was also charged with touching base with the local programme committee for the Congress to be held in Tbilisi in 2022 in order to ensure that its proposed events and seminars for graduate students and early-career researchers would be included in the Congress programme. Both tasks have now been completed as discussed below, and the Committee has consulted online to agree the terms of the prizes below. We ask that the Executive Council approve the prizes and the feasibility of the amounts proposed and note from which Treasuries the prize amounts would be drawn. A fuller description of the prizes can then be prepared for the AILC/ICLA Newsletter and website as soon as possible so that nominations and applications can be received by the first round of deadlines in early 2022 and so that the subvention and translation awards can be conferred at the next Congress in Tbilisi.

Proposed ECARE Prizes: The Committee has met to discuss the prizes to be awarded specifically to graduate students and early-career researchers for their work in comparative literature. The Committee proposes three prizes—**a) Best Graduate Paper** (US\$250 and publication in *RL/LR*; awarded every 3 years) awarded to a graduate student who delivers an excellent paper at an ICLA Congress, which will be nominated by ICLA members during the Congress, with nominations gathered and announced at the General Assembly, and the winner announced at a special online event by 31 December of the same year; **b) First Book Subvention** (up to US\$1500 annually and book reviewed in *RL/LR*) awarded to an early-career researcher **[NOTE: It was agreed at the Executive Council meeting that no time limit from doctoral award be specified, to recognize different life circumstances]** and announced at the ICLA General Assembly in an ICLA Congress year or at a special online event by 31 December in the years between ICLA Congresses; and **c) Best Translation Prize** (US\$1000 and abstract published in *RL/LR*) awarded only in years in which there is an ICLA Congress to an early-career researcher **[see previous note]**. Winner announced at the ICLA General Assembly. All of the awards will also be mentioned in the AILC/ICLA Newsletter.

1) ICLA Congress Programme:

- i) The Chair has been in contact with Tatia Oboladze and her colleagues in Tbilisi regarding the ICLA 2022 Congress programme. We have been assured that there will be a **Welcome Reception** on the ICLA programme specifically for the ICLA Executive Council and ICLA members to welcome formally graduate students and early-career researchers. It is not clear who will cover the costs of the reception.
- ii) We have also been assured that ECARE will have a dedicated seminar session for **NEXT GEN** dedicated to the research of early-career scholars and advanced doctoral students at ICLA. The Chair of ECARE will organise the first seminar for 2022 through

a call for papers on the theme of the ICLA Congress; the number of seminars can either be predetermined or can be based on the number of abstract/proposals accepted, especially if the volume of submissions is high. It is hoped that in future years an early-career scholar on the ECARE Committee can take responsibility for organising NEXT GEN seminars once ECARE becomes more established at ICLA.

- iii) Finally, we were told that the programme committee in Tbilisi is organising **workshops on the academic job search** in comparative literature for graduate students and early-career scholars, but ECARE and the Executive Council of ICLA should also be involved as the conventions for academic job searches, applications for grants and funding opportunities, academic job interviews, etc vary greatly in different parts of the world. The ECARE Committee would appreciate the participation of those on the ICLA Executive Council at the next ICLA Congress in contributing to a workshop on the academic job search and funding opportunities for graduate students and early-career researchers since most EC members are senior and would have held grants, and would have served on academic search committees, hiring panels, and funding boards.

Prizes to be announced formally in due course. [All prizes were approved by the Executive Council at its June 2021 meeting].

Respectfully submitted,

William J Spurlin

ECARE Committee Chair

14 May 2021 **[annotations and amendments: 26 June 2021]**