

International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA)

Association Internationale de Littérature Comparée (AILC)

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

1. ECARE Prizes

At the last meeting of the Executive Council, the proposed prizes for early-career scholars and graduate students in comparative literature studies were approved. These included the **First Book Subvention Prize**, providing funding for a subvention for an early-career scholar's first book to be published as a monograph, an annual prize in the amount of up to US\$1500; the **Best Translation Prize** for an outstanding translation, in the form of an article, chapter, or other short work, between any two languages, published by an early-career scholar in the period between ICLA Congresses, and awarded in the amount of US\$1000; and the **Best Graduate Paper Prize** awarded to a graduate student who delivers a paper at an ICLA Congress in the amount of US\$250 with publication of the paper in *Recherche Littéraire/Literary Research*.

The prizes were announced, following the last Executive Council meeting, on the ICLA/AILC website under ECARE, in the Call for Papers for the Tbilisi 2022 ICLA/AILC Congress, in the AILC/ICLA Newsletter, and on the ECARE Facebook page. The deadline for the Best Translation Prize was announced for 15 January 2022 and 1 February 2022 for the First Book Subvention Prize.

By the actual deadlines, ECARE received only one nomination for the First Book Subvention Prize and only one nomination for the Best Translation Prize. After consultation in the ECARE Committee and with the ICLA President, it was decided to extend the deadline for both prizes to 15 May 2022. Further announcements were made in the above forums, and Paulo Horta volunteered to put the announcements for the prizes on various social media platforms. By 15 May, we still only had one submission for the First Book Subvention Prize, but a total of five submissions for the Best Translation Prize. One nomination for the Best Translation Prize was disqualified as an entire book was sent as the submission when the Call specifically asked for a short work (chapter, article, poetry, short fiction, etc), and the person submitting was not verified as a member of ICLA through either direct membership or through their national association. Membership is required to qualify for the prizes as stipulated in the Call.

The languages for the Best Translation Prize included French, Bengali, and Sinhalese, and it took some time to find evaluators for Bengali and Sinhalese, but eventually these were found. As we are still waiting to hear back from some evaluators, given the deadline extension, the ECARE Committee has not yet had the meeting to decide on the winner of the Best Translation Prize. We expect the evaluations in soon, and certainly before the Executive Council meeting in Tbilisi so that the prizes can be approved by the EC. We

will send along the winners and a brief citation as an addendum to this report. The ECARE Committee has considered the sole submission for the First Book Subvention, following the advice of the President, in order to determine if the submission meets the criteria of excellence to warrant the awarding of the prize and will communicate that decision, along with the winner of the Best Translation Prize, prior to the EC meeting.

2. NEXT GEN Seminar at the ICLA/AILC 2022 Congress in Tbilisi

Initially, in response to the Call for Papers for the NEXT GEN seminar (sponsored by ECARE) to take place at the Tbilisi Congress, we only received four proposals, so it was decided that we extend the deadline to 15 February 2022 in order to solicit more proposals. By the final deadline, ECARE received 44 proposals of which 27 were accepted. These fell into five broad sub-themes as listed below. As of June 2022, of the 27 accepted, only 19 have registered for the Congress, including three who received a fee waiver grant.

As a result, this final total of participants has broken down into five seminars over the course of the Congress; three will be online and the other two in person. Papers will be in English and French, possibly one in Georgian, and papers are from Europe, Georgia, Japan, China, Kazakhstan, North America, India, and Australia. The seminars are arranged according to the following title and sub-themes:

NEXT GEN: Introducing the Next Generation of Comparative Scholars and New Approaches to Comparative Literature and Culture

Sponsored by the Early-Career Researcher Development Committee (ECARE)

- *New Comparative Spaces and Mappings
- *Translation and Translative Encounters
- *Gender and Sexuality
- *Comparisons within Digital Frameworks
- *Theory and Criticism

3. ECARE Business Meeting

The ECARE Business meeting will occur at the Congress on 26 July and will be online. It is an open meeting, and we will discuss the process for awarding the ECARE prizes, ideas for future NEXT GEN seminars at ICLA, and other ways of including graduate students and early-career scholars in the work of ICLA and helping them to launch into careers as academics in university positions, and as post-doctoral scholars, translators, and other careers. We will also elect a new leadership team (Chair/President and Vice-President) and discuss ways of getting more early-career scholars on to the Committee so that its leadership can come from that cohort and have more of a voice within the ICLA.

Respectfully submitted,

William J Spurlin
Chair of ECARE