



## **Women Writers in History: Toward a New Understanding of European Literary Culture.**

Last week, the new European COST Action IS0901 “Women Writers in History” was launched in Brussels. The first meeting of the Management Committee, with members representing the fifteen European countries involved as yet in this collaborative network, was held at the COST office in Brussels. This collaborative Action will last four years and will be financed by **COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) / ESF (European Science Foundation)**. The initiative was originally taken by the NEWW network (“New approaches to European Women’s Writing”; cf. [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl)), which seeks to renew literary historiography from a gender and a transnational perspective. This COST Action will allow the extension of the existing network and the preparation of a large scale research project in which European scholars will further collaborate – in the real and virtual world.

The aim of this COST Action is to lay the groundwork for a new history of European women’s participation in the literary field **before 1900**. What was these women’s influence? Which active roles did they play as authors and readers in the broadest sense of the word, *i.e.* including their roles as transcribers, translators, mediators and educators? What happened to them when they fell into the hands of 19<sup>th</sup>-century canonizers? How is their disappearance from literary history to be explained? Technological progress now allows addressing these questions by means of large scale empirical research: the COST Action will make use of an innovative database allowing researchers to stock and manipulate data concerning the contemporary *reception* of women’s works and interventions. Particular attention will be paid to women’s participation in transnational cultural dynamics and to the overlooked role of “smaller”, less internationally known literatures within the larger European context. This interdisciplinary research will lead to a new way of looking at Europe’s literary past – male *and* female –, which also implies a different perspective on Europe’s *present*.

Manager of this Action, based at Huygens Institute The Hague (NL): Suzan van Dijk.

Universities currently represented in the Action’s Management Committee: Universiteit Gent, Université de Liège (Belgium), University of Southern Denmark, University of Turku (Finland), Université Nancy 2 (France), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universität Trier (Germany), National University of Ireland Galway, Bar Ilan University (Israël), University of Utrecht, University of Groningen (Netherlands), Volda University College, University of Oslo (Norway), Universidade de Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal), University of Bucarest, University of Cluj (Romania), University of Belgrade (Serbia), University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia), Universidad Complutense Madrid, University of Valencia (Spain), University of Bern, Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne (Switzerland), University of Southampton, Oxford Brookes University (United Kingdom).

The first activity of the Action will be a Workshop, organized together with the NEWW network and Huizinga Institute Amsterdam, about:

### **Quantitative methods in cultural history.**

It will take place at the Huygens Institute, The Hague, Friday 20 November 2009, starting 10.00.

Keynote speaker will be:

#### **Franco Moretti**

Author of: *Atlas of the European Novel 1800-1900* (1998),  
*Graphs, Maps, Trees* (2005).

For further information and registration: [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl)



## **Mulheres Escritoras na História: Para uma melhor compreensão da Cultura Literária Europeia**

Nos dias 1 e 2 de Outubro foi lançada a nova Acção COST IS0901 «Mulheres Escritoras na História». A primeira reunião da Comissão coordenadora, com representantes dos quinze países já envolvidos nesta rede de colaboração, teve lugar na sede do COST em Bruxelas. Esta Acção de colaboração durará quatro anos e será financiada pelo programa COST (**European Cooperation in Science and Technology**) / **ESF (European Science Foundation)**. A iniciativa teve origem no projecto promovido pela rede NEWW (pela “New approaches to European Women’s Writing”; cf. [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl)) que tem como objectivo a renovação da historiografia literária a partir de uma perspectiva transnacional e de género. Esta Acção COST permitirá alargar a rede já existente e preparar um projecto de investigação de larga escala no qual os investigadores europeus continuarão a colaborar – quer no mundo real quer no mundo virtual.

O objectivo desta Acção COST é lançar as bases para uma nova história europeia da participação das mulheres no campo literário antes de 1900. Que influência tiveram estas mulheres? Que papéis activos desempenharam enquanto autoras e leitoras no mais amplo sentido da palavra, *i. e.* assumindo o papel de transcritoras, tradutoras, mediadoras e educadoras? O que lhes aconteceu quando caíram nas mãos das instâncias canonizadoras do século 19? Como se explica o seu desaparecimento da História literária? O progresso tecnológico permite hoje lidar com estas questões a partir da investigação empírica em larga escala: a Acção COST utilizará uma Base de Dados inovadora que permita aos estudiosos armazenar e manipular dados relativos à recepção contemporânea dessas autoras, das suas obras, e das suas intervenções. Será dada atenção particular à participação das mulheres nas dinâmicas culturais trans-nacionais, bem como à importância de literaturas menos conhecidas internacionalmente, muitas vezes esquecidas ou ausentes das grandes sínteses realizadas para o contexto europeu. Esta investigação interdisciplinar conduzirá a um novo modo de encarar o passado literário europeu – no masculino e no feminino -, o que também implicará a adopção de novos pontos de vista sobre o presente da Europa.

**Investigador Responsável pela Acção**, sediada no Huygens Institute em Haia (NL): Suzan van Dijk.

**Universidades representadas na Comissão Coordenadora da Acção:** Universiteit Gent, Université de Liège (Belgium), University of Southern Denmark, University of Turku (Finland), Université Nancy 2 (France), Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Universität Trier (Germany), National University of Ireland Galway, Bar Ilan University (Israel), University of Utrecht, University of Groningen (Netherlands), Volda University College, University of Oslo (Norway), **Universidade de Lisboa, Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Portugal)**, University of Bucarest, University of Cluj (Romania), University of Belgrade (Serbia), University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia), Universidad Complutense Madrid, University of Valencia (Spain), University of Bern, Université de Genève, Université de Lausanne (Switzerland), University of Southampton, Oxford Brookes University (United Kingdom).

A primeira actividade organizada no âmbito desta Acção COST será um Workshop, organizado em conjunto com a rede NEWW e o Huizinga Institute de Amsterdão, sobre:

### **Uso de Métodos Quantitativos em História Cultural.**

Realizar-se-á no Huygens Institute, Haia, Sexta-feira 20 Novembro 2009,  
Com início às 10.00.

O orador convidado será:

### **Franco Moretti**

Autor de: *Atlas of the European Novel 1800-1900* (1998),  
*Graphs, Maps, Trees* (2005).



For further information and registration: [www.womenwriters.nl](http://www.womenwriters.nl)