

MiddleWOMen

Networking and cultural mediation with and between women (1850-1950)

On 7 and 8 May 2015 (Brussels, Belgium) the Centre for Reception Studies (CERES), the HERA Travelling Texts project and Huygens ING organise a roundtable conference on the relations between gender, networking and cultural transfer activities in the late 19th and early 20th century.

This workshop wants to explore the formation of networks concerning women, their different modes of transferring cultural objects and gaining access to literature, texts and knowledge.

Next to two lectures by professor Margaret H. McFadden (Appalachian State University) and Suzan van Dijk (Huygens ING), the participants will engage in roundtable discussions based on a short informal presentation of their own research and on a by each participant chosen article (not written by the participant) that will be sent to the other participants beforehand.

The discussions should concern

(1) at least one of the following focal points:

- The flow of ideas organised internationally
- The concept of *virtual* and/or *actual networks* (McFadden 1999, Jensen 2001)
- The process of archival research in the digital age
- The concept of *shadow narrative* (McFadden 2011)
- The relevance of social, symbolic and economic capital

(2) in combination with at least one of the following questions:

- How did women penetrate the literary field of another country?
- In what ways was the reception of female authors different?
- Which networks – informal or institutionalized – organized women's transfer activities?
- What was the function and effect of women's transfer activities with regard to cultural and/or national identities?
- What was the function and effect of women's transfer activities with regard to the literature of a particular country?
- What factors caused the intensification of personal and institutional interconnectedness on an international and trans-Atlantic scale? (E.g. McFadden (1999): *e.g.* new communication systems, the work of religious women, a growing amount of reform movements, international diplomacy, the emergence of female literary celebrities, etc.)
- Which theoretical and methodological frameworks are helpful to study women's networking activities?

This conference intends small-scaled but intensive and focalized discussions aiming at exchanging research methods and ideas, giving and receiving feedback on research activities and networking (as a theme but also as an activity!).

Practical information

Participation is free.

A short motivation stating your research interests (Dutch, English or French) and the article of your choice should be submitted to the organizers (dorien.deman@kuleuven.be) before November 15th 2014. Notification of acceptance will be given by December 1st 2014. Discussions will be held in English.

For people who cannot get financial assistance from their institution, it is possible to apply for a (partial) repayment of travelling expenses and accommodation. If wished for, add a motivation and an estimation of your costs to your proposal.

Organization:

Dr. Elke Brems
Dr. Suzan van Dijk
Dorien De Man

Venue:

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Websites:

<http://www.receptionstudies.be/>
<https://www.huygens.knaw.nl/>
<http://travellingtexts.huygens.knaw.nl/>