

OSL-panel 11 October 2019

Parallel Session 4: Research Group *Beyond Borders in Cultural Transfer*, session on Literary Prizes and Cultural Transfer (Convenors Petra Broomans, Mathijs Sanders, Jeanette den Toonder)

Jantina Tammeszaal (UB): 16:00 – 17:30

16:00 - Welcome

16:05 - 16:35

Overview state of art research groups Nijmegen and Groningen

16:35 - 17:00

Kerstin Bohne (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg): “The Nomination Database for the Nobel Prize as a Tool for Research Matters”

17:00 - 17:25

Stella Linn (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen): “Pride and Prejudice. The Martinus Nijhoff Prize for Translations 1955-2019”

17:25 - 17:30

Closure and project proposal

Abstract Kerstin Bohne:

The Nobel Prize is regarded as the most renowned prize worldwide; until today, altogether 935 laureates have been chosen. 114 of them have been awarded by the Swedish Academy for their literary benefits. In current research about the Nobel Prize for Literature, the awarding is mainly analyzed on a poetical level – but these interpretations often do not go beyond ad hoc-statements. Grüttemeier (2016) was the first one using the *Nomination Database* of the Nobel prize-organization systematically (*nobelprize.org*). In this database, all nominations for all Nobel nominees are registered, including the authors who were nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. Since information about the candidates of the Nobel Prize is kept a secret for 50 years, at this moment, the database shows information on the Nobel candidates until 1966.

This database can be an effective instrument for explaining the awarding of the prize because the data can provide insights in the institutional logic behind the choices of the jury (Grüttemeier 2016). It can also function as a starting point for further research on cultural transfer and networks between candidates, nominators and the members of the Swedish Academy. It even allows comparisons with other Nobel disciplines; Hansson (2019) illustrates this in his research about physicians who were nominated for the literary prize.

This presentation will discuss the Nomination Database as a tool for doing research about literary prizes. After an introduction to the nomination process and the database, the presentation will illustrate with some examples how the database can be used. Afterwards, a reflection will follow concerning possible limitations and problems using this database.

Abstract Stella Linn:

The Martinus Nijhoff Prize, which has been operative since 1955, is the most important prize for literary translators in the Netherlands. This presentation will insist on questions such as: how have the criteria for awarding the prize developed over the decades, and to what extent does this reflect the role of the translator as a cultural mediator? How did the translator's self-positioning develop during this time, and what does this tell us about the status of translation and the translator? An overview of these trends will be given on the basis of the analysis of jury reports and acceptance speeches.