Dear PALAns,

It can’t have escaped your notice that this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Poetics and Linguistics Association. The forthcoming annual conference at Huddersfield University will give us ample opportunity to celebrate in style, but in addition to this, PALA also has other events planned to mark our 25th year. Amongst these are the PALA 25 Book Prize, of which you will find details below, and the forthcoming one day symposium at the University of Nottingham on creativity (see the ‘forthcoming events’ section for details). I’m sure you will agree that we have a lot to be proud of in terms of the development of PALA over the last 25 years, and I’m equally sure that you’ll join me in expressing heartfelt appreciation to the founders of our organisation for their vision and foresight.

You will see in the list of committee members above that Donald Freeman is listed as PALA Papers Series Editor. Donald has been co-opted on to the committee in recognition of the work he has put into establishing the series of conference proceedings to be published by Rodopi. The move towards a peer-reviewed series of conference proceedings was initiated by Willie van Peer, and Donald has done a tremendous job in overseeing the production of the first volume. The proceedings of the 2002 Birmingham conference, have been edited by Carmen Rosa Caldas-Couthard and Michael Toolan, and will be available shortly. Watch this space!

Finally, as ever, please send any contributions for the newsletter to the address below. We hope to see as many of you as possible in Huddersfield in July!

Dan McIntyre

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PALA 25 Book Prize

To mark the 25th anniversary of PALA, a book prize of £1000 will be awarded for the most influential book written in the
area of stylistic analysis or the linguistic analysis of literature, or a closely related area, and published in the last 25 years. Between now and the annual PALA conference in Huddersfield in July, you are invited to send in your nominations. You can just suggest a title, or you can send in a statement of up to 200 words, which will be posted on the PALA website. You can see the nominations that have already been made on the nominations page. (http://www.pala.ac.uk/pala25/nominations.htm). Taking these nominations and statements into account, the PALA committee will select a shortlist of approximately five books, and voting will take place at the conference.

Please send any nominations to webmaster@pala.ac.uk

The Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory


The recently published Routledge Encyclopedia of Narrative Theory is likely to be of interest to many PALA members. The encyclopedia follows the standard A-Z format and contains about 450 entries written by experts in the field. Entries focus on relevant technical terms, concepts, and genres, covering as well the history of the field, various schools/approaches, major theorists, important debates, and the full range of disciplinary contexts in which narrative figures prominently.

For more information on the book, visit http://people.cohums.ohio-state.edu/herman145/RENT.html

PALA 25
University of Huddersfield, UK
‘Stylistics and Social Cognition’

Preparations for this year’s PALA conference are well underway, and we look forward to welcoming you to Huddersfield to celebrate PALA’s 25th anniversary! We will be publishing an initial programme very soon, so keep checking the PALA 25 website (http://www.hud.ac.uk/mh/pala25/) for updates. Remember that the deadline for registration is 13 May 2005. Registration forms received after that date will incur a later registration fee, so don’t delay!

A number of people have asked what facilities for presentations will be available at the conference. We can tell you that each conference room will be equipped with a PC (including PowerPoint), a projector and an overhead projector, so there should be no need to bring your own laptop unless you have specific software that you need to use. We would ask, though, that you let us know if you will require sound for your presentation (whether this be via a PC or a cassette/CD-player). If you have any questions at all about the conference, please contact us at pala25@hud.ac.uk. And fingers crossed for some sunshine!

Lesley, David, Dan and Derek

A Bibliography of Literary Theory, Criticism and Philology is an online resource edited by José Ángel García Landa (University of Zaragoza, Spain). It is a free-access bibliography which lists more than 150,000 items related to literary studies, linguistics, philology and their interface, classified into several thousand listings on specific concepts, genres, authors. periods, topics, etc. The 10th edition, now fully searchable automatically, is now available at a new URL http://www.unizar.es/departamentos/filologia_inglesa/garciala/bibliography.html

Online resources on the PALA website

We are currently building up a list of links to useful resources on the PALA website at http://www.pala.ac.uk/links/stylistics.htm

PALA members are encouraged to send in details of any sites which they find useful to webmaster@pala.ac.uk.
Rather belatedly (but better late than never!), we are pleased to offer our congratulations to Peter Stockwell, who has been appointed Chair of Literary Linguistics at the University of Nottingham. Well done Prof. Peter!

Congratulations also go to Joe Bray, on his appointment as lecturer in the Department of English Literature at the University of Sheffield. Joe is moving from the University of Stirling and will take up his new post in September.

For further information contact
martin.wynne@oucs.ox.ac.uk

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The Literary Englishes of Ireland
Royal Irish Academy
6 May
Register at:
www.ria.ie

(see attached appendix 2 for details)

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2005 Annual BAAHE Conference
European Business School
Stormstraat 2, Brussels
26 November

Belgian Association of Anglicists in Higher Education

Theme
Common Sense(s) in English Language and Literatures

The BAAHE Conference of 2005 and the thematic issue of BELL 2006 will focus on “common senses”. This is, obviously, a broad theme which offers many possible approaches. First there is “common sense”, the idea of a “healthy” approach to life, and the notion of “native wit”. But normality can also become imperative (and imperialist) in its imposition of a norm.

More specifically in the context of the problematic issue of “Englishness”, contributors may tackle the question of “common sense” as an English ideology and/or empirical discourse that functions as the ‘Other’ of continental/theoretical models. “Common sense” can also be linked to the idea of a commonwealth (state) and its common wealth; the history of the Commonwealth may fit here too. The concept of commonness also has an emotional component, as the common can be charming or irksome. Interactions between the traditional versus the “original” can be envisaged here too. Of course there is also the tension between the “common” versus the “elitist”; every culture has its in-built hierarchies.

Inspired by the above, researchers in ELT may want to address the following questions and related issues. How do we delineate or define communality? How is it
formed by certain traits in communication? How do communication and communion relate? How do the insider and the outsider experience “a common culture”? How are the reactions to the uncommon pictured, the common and its liminalities? Researchers in Critical Discourse Analysis are also aware that “common sense” is problematic as unthematized ideologies are at work in texts.

The five senses, of course, cover a wide field. There is the question of “taste” in its many meanings: when are manners, arrangements, interactions, in good /bad taste? Though the Romans maintained that “de gustibus et coloribus non disputandum est”, we can and do dispute matters, not only concerning taste and colours but also in the other senses. What about the implied hierarchy in the senses? Is not the optical often less important than the auditory, tactile, gustatory, olfactory? Sensory perception is a matter of shades; is it possible to delineate sensitivity, sensibility, sensuousness, sensuality etc? The literary space used to be described in terms of topoi, like the pleasant and the terrible place (locus amoenus, locus terribilis), in which the senses were very important. Are contemporary authors still inspired by these motifs?

For linguistics, too, the subject can be approached in many ways. One could look at the power of cognitive verbs. How do “sense and sentence” relate? Working with thesaurus categories can reveal interesting questions; -the verb or noun sense can be investigated, sense relations, sense and polysemy, Saussurean “sense”. How do we make sense of corpus data? And, finally, the sense of language differences is interesting to us all, from whichever disciplinary or subdisciplinary point of view, such as pragmatics, functional grammar, discourse and genre analysis.

The aim is to chart these possible enquiries and assess their importance from the perspectives of ELT, linguistics and literature.

Please send proposals for papers (a title and 250-word abstract) to Geert Beheydt (geert.beheydt@ehsal.be)


2006

Literature and Cognitive Studies
University of Connecticut, Storrs
6-9 April

This conference represents the first-ever open-format, open-invitation event in the widening field of cognitive approaches to literature and arts; it will also be highly interdisciplinary, featuring, in addition to literature, arts, and theatre scholars, at least one cognitive scientist as a keynote speaker and others at various roundtables and panel discussions.

Contacts
F. Elizabeth Hart
Associate Professor of English, University of Connecticut: Elizabeth.hart@uconn.edu

Alan Richardson
Professor of English, Boston College: alan.richardson@bc.edu

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RaAM 6 – Researching and Applying Metaphor – Ten Years On
University of Leeds
10-12 April

First call for papers
This sixth conference in the RaAM series returns to Yorkshire, UK to celebrate 10 years of Researching and Applying Metaphor.

Theme
Metaphor in the real world.

Plenary speakers
Professor Ray Gibbs (Psychology, University of California, Santa Cruz)
Baroness Susan Greenfield, CBE (Director, the Royal Institution; Professor of Pharmacology, University of Oxford; Director, Oxford Centre for the Study of the Mind)
Dr Brigitte Nerlich (Institute for the Study of Genetics, Biorisks and Society, The University of Nottingham)

Time and Place
Start: Monday 10 April at 1400hr.
Finish: Wednesday 12 April at 1800hr.
The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Leeds.
Types of session
We would welcome proposals for any of the following:

Presentation (40 min)
Colloquium of Panel Session (80 min)
Workshop (80 min or 120 min)
PhD report (40 min), from recently or nearly completed doctoral research projects.
Poster/Electronic Poster

Submission of proposals
Submissions should be made electronically using the RAAM website http://www.psyc.leeds.ac.uk/raam6/
They should give the title of the session, the type of session, the name of the presenter or co-ordinator, affiliation, contact addresses and email. The text should be a summary of 500 words max. indicating the content of the session and summarising relevant data.
Workshop proposals should explain why the session is valuable and the nature of the data to be explored.
Colloquium proposals should indicate the names of the main contributors and how they would interact with the audience.
The more concrete and clearly worded the proposal, the greater the chance of acceptance.

Deadline for receipt of proposals
30 June 2005
Notification of acceptance
November 2005
Confirmation by presenters
30 November 2005
Registration opens
1 December 2005

Books available for review in Language and Literature
To review any of the following, please contact the Book Reviews Editor, Dr Joanna Gavins, at: j.gavins@sheffield.ac.uk

International Stylistics Conference, China (ISCC)
This conference will be held at Tsinghua University, Beijing from June 16th to 18th, 2006 (registration on the 15th). The conference is sponsored by China Stylistics Association. The deadline for the submission of abstracts is December 31, 2005. Abstracts of about 300 words should be sent to Liu Nannan, wyxws@mail.tsinghua.edu.cn; tel. +86-10-62795726; fax +86-10-62784969; postal address: Liu Nannan, for Organizing Committee, ISCC, Department of English, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, P. R. China. Submission of abstracts by email is preferred.

PALA 26
University of Joensuu, Finland
26-29 July
Nominations for the posts of treasurer, secretary and publicity officer and webmaster of PALA were advertised on PALA’s homepage, and members were encouraged to make nominations for these posts. As the Committee was aware of the fact that the treasurer, Peter Stockwell, the secretary, Urszula Clark and publicity officer and webmaster Martin Wynne might be willing to stand for re-election, we contacted them, and I am glad to report that they have given us, in writing, their statements of a continued interest in standing for candidates for the posts in question. As the deadline for nominations is over, the committee feels that PALA is privileged to have the continued support and help of Peter, Urszula and Martin pending on the confirmation of their re-election by the AGM in Huddersfield.

Isil Bas
PALA Chair

Next year the PALA conference will take place in picturesque and beautiful Joensuu in Finland, from the 26th to the 29th July 2006. Anyone (from anywhere in the world) interested in the possibility of hosting future PALA conferences is invited to contact the PALA Chair, Isil Bas.