

The newsletter of the *Poetics and Linguistics Association (PALA)*

# PARLance

Spring 2015 edition

<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

CONTENTS	PAGE
PALA 2015 Conference preview (Jeremy Scott)	2-3
Geoff Leech 1936-2014 obituary (Mick Short)	4-5
<b><u>PALA 2014 (Maribor) reports:</u></b>	
Sandrine Sorlin (France)	6
Robert Stock (UK)	7
Alysia Kolentzis (Canada)	8
Jana Kojcan (Norway)	9
Carin Östman (Sweden)	10
Elisabetta Zurru (Italy)	11
LAND-SIG	12
Anne Cluysenaar (1936-2014) obituary	13
PALA 2014 minutes	14-16



Geoff Leech (1936-2014)

## **Parlance contributions**

If you want to make a contribution to the next issue of *Parlance*, please email the newsletter editor

**Matt Davies** (University of Chester, UK) at:

[matt.davies@chester.ac.uk](mailto:matt.davies@chester.ac.uk)

PALA 2015: Poetics and Linguistics Association Annual Conference

## ***Creative Style***

15th to 18th July 2015

at the **University of Kent, UK**

**Plenary speakers include:**

**Peter Blair** (University of Chester)

**Siobhan Chapman** (University of Liverpool)

**Joanna Gavins** (University of Sheffield)

**Marina Lambrou** (Kingston University London)

**Jennifer Riddle Harding** (Washington & Jefferson College)

Visit the conference website at:

<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>

# PALA conference 2015

## Creative Style

15 - 18 July, 2015, University of Kent (UK)

Conference organizer JEREMY SCOTT explains why this year's annual PALA pilgrimage is not one to be missed

THE PALA 2015 conference will be taking place this year in the Garden of England, at the University of Kent, Canterbury, from **15th-18th July 2015**.

The theme of the conference will be **Creative Style**, and we have been particularly interested in abstracts that explore or engage with the ways in which stylistics and its associated disciplines can be used to shed light on processes of creativity. However, we are also interested in any abstracts that explore broader areas of stylistics and, in particular, its relationships to other disciplines such as pragmatics, semantics, narratology, literary studies, cultural studies, language teaching, translation and others.

We are also delighted to be hosting several Special Interest Groups (SIGs). At the time of writing these are on [pragmatic literary stylistics](#), [stylistics and creative writing](#), [crime writing](#), and [reader response research](#) (see links and next page for further information). There are other special working groups and workshops in the pipeline, so do keep an eye on the website and your email inboxes for updates.

**We will also be hosting a stylistics summer school before the main conference.**

### Accommodation

On-campus accommodation will be available as part of the registration fee: single (or double on request) en-suite rooms, and including breakfast. However, if you would prefer to stay in Canterbury itself then this can, of course, be arranged. It's a (very) short walk from the

accommodation to the conference venue at Woolf College.

In terms of social events, the conference dinner is

being held at Whitstable 'Not Really a Castle' Castle on the Saturday evening (the original proposed venue, Whitstable Royal Native Oyster Stores, turned out not to have enough capacity for the number of delegates we can expect). Rumour has it that there will be organised dancing, but please don't let this put you off. We will also be holding a tasting of some of the award-winning Kentish wines grown in the region, hosted by local winemonger and friend of the conference, James Child. Any PALAns who attended IALS 2014 will be able (just) to testify to the potential entertainment value here. Other events currently being considered are (dependent on outside machinations and manoeuvring): a beach barbecue, a tour of Canterbury Cathedral, a tour of the nearby Shepherd Neame Brewery (the oldest brewery in Britain) and a visit to Leeds Castle (not in Leeds).



Whitstable Castle: Conference Dinner venue

Visit the PALA 2015 conference website at  
<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>

## PALA conference 2015 (continued...)

Here are some websites to visit for more information about these happenings:

<http://whitstablecastle.co.uk>

<http://www.leeds-castle.com/home>

<http://www.shepherdneame.co.uk>

<http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org>

If you have any questions in the meantime, please do feel free to get in touch with us on [pala2015@kent.ac.uk](mailto:pala2015@kent.ac.uk), and don't forget to visit the conference website for updates and information: <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>.

Needless to say, the organising committee, the School of European Culture and Languages, the Faculty of Humanities, Woolf College and I look forward very much to welcoming you all to Canterbury in July 2015.

JEREMY SCOTT (University of Kent, PALA 2015 Organiser)

## PALA 2015 Special Interest Groups (SIGS)

### Crime Writing SIG

This brings together researchers interested in (re) presentations of crime in fiction and non-fiction, as well as crime and criminal justice system-related language. This can include crime fiction, police procedural fiction, crime news, and language in the legal system. The aim of the panel is to promote interaction among those working on these crime-related topics. See link: <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/crime-writing-sig/>

### Reader Response SIG

This brings together researchers who collect and analyse extra-textual data about reader responses or the act of reading in their analyses of linguistic style. The aim of the workshop is to promote interaction amongst reader response researchers working in stylistics. See link: <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/reader-response-research-in-stylistics-sig/>

### Pragmatic Literary Stylistics SIG

The brings together researchers interested in applying ideas from any area in linguistic pragmatics to the analysis, interpretation and evaluation of literary texts. The aim of the workshop is to promote interaction among those working with different theoretical approaches and a variety of literary genres, while sharing a focus on the pragmatic stylistic analysis of literary texts. See link: <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/pragmatics-sig/>

### Creative Writing SIG

This brings together researchers and practitioners interested in exploring the many interfaces between stylistics and creative practice. One of the principal aims of the workshop is to invite and encourage collaboration between stylisticians and creative writers, and to lay the ground for a subsequent international research network and related research/creative outputs. See link: <http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/crime-writing-sig/>

## Confirmed PALA 2015 keynote speakers:

- [Peter Blair](#) (University of Chester)
- [Siobhan Chapman](#) (University of Liverpool)
- [Joanna Gavins](#) (University of Sheffield)
- [Marina Lambrou](#) (Kingston University London)
- [Jennifer Riddle Harding](#) (Washington & Jefferson College)

Visit the PALA 2015 conference website at  
<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>

# In memory of Geoffrey Leech (1936-2014)

## MICK SHORT remembers his friend, colleague and founding PALA member

PROFESSOR Geoffrey Leech, one of the finest British linguists of the last hundred years, died suddenly, aged 78, on 19 August 2014. At the time of his death, he was still tirelessly researching, publishing, debating, supporting colleagues and supervising students. Geoff, as everyone knew him, was a Fellow of the British Academy, the Academia Europea, Lancaster University and University College London. He was the founding Chair (1974) of Lancaster University's Department of Linguistics and English Language. I am proud and grateful to have been his close Lancaster colleague for more than 40 years, benefiting continually from his insight, wisdom and kindness.

Geoff had the confidence, passion and energy to pursue huge long-term projects until the rest of his subject came to understand their value. He wrote more than 30 books and well over 100 articles, led the Lancaster University team which built the 100-million-word British National Corpus, a major research tool used by linguists worldwide, and acted as series editor of linguistics monographs for Longman and Routledge. He played a leading, sometimes founding role in a number of significant areas of linguistics and English language: English grammar, the construction and automatic annotation of large electronic corpora for linguistic research, stylistics, semantics and pragmatics. He had the enviable skill of writing books which showed academic colleagues new insights and at the same time were applauded by students for their accessibility, elegance and clarity.

In 1985, Geoff and his co-authors (Randolph Quirk, Sidney Greenbaum and Jan Svartvik) won the English-Speaking Union's *Duke of Edinburgh Language Competition* for their book *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language* (Longman). In 2005, the book Geoff had invited me to write with him, *Style in Fiction* (Longman 1981) won the PALA's *Silver Jubilee Prize*, for being 'the most influential book in stylistics' since the founding of the Association.

In addition to his work in linguistics, Geoff was a dedicated family man, a talented musician and a committed Christian. He was choirmaster and played the organ at Leck parish church, where he is now buried just outside the door of the church, in recognition of his commitment to, and work for, the church, a devotion which his wife, Fanny, shared enthusiastically and continues. Geoff and Fanny met around the time of Geoff's BA graduation and he proposed to her within a week, saying, when she accepted his proposal, that he was glad he didn't now have to go to any more dances!

Geoff worked steadfastly on English grammar, and in particular, under Randolph Quirk's leadership, the *Grammar of Contemporary English* (Quirk, Greenbaum, Leech and Svartvik, Longman 1972). This compendium approach to the grammatical description of English became a hallmark of his approach to linguistics, seen in two huge later works, as did a collaborative approach to publication seen in his various books on grammar.

Apart from his work on English grammar, Geoff Leech will probably be remembered best for his foundational role in corpus linguistics. He had decided in 1970 that Lancaster should develop a computer corpus of British English to match Brown University's one-million-word Corpus of American English, thus enabling accurate comparative research between British and American English. This was an onerous and time-consuming task at a time when computing facilities in Lancaster were



**Mick introduces Geoff's plenary lecture at the 2014 PALA conference in Maribor**

primitive and little funding was available. Fanny became his unpaid research assistant and on most Sunday afternoons they could be found in the department, working away at the corpus. Eventually, this led to the establishment of the Lancaster-Oslo/Bergen (LOB) corpus, the International Computer Archive of Modern English Texts (ICAME) and the British National Corpus, as well as a series of influential corpus-based publications.

Geoff continued his research after retirement, creating corpora and writing more papers on corpus linguistics, English grammar, politeness, stylistics, the history of English and applied linguistics. He also continued to play a significant part in departmental life in Lancaster, teach overseas and take an active role in conferences.

Visit the PALA home page at  
<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

## In memory of Geoffrey Leech (1936-2014) (continued...)

PALA was always dear to Geoff's heart; he was one of the founding members of the association and gave PALA papers for many years. Even when other academic concerns (e.g. running all those corpus projects!) took over his life he always returned to the stylistic analysis of literary texts. Besides *A Linguistic Guide to English Poetry* (Longman 1969), *Style in Fiction* and *Language in Literature* (Longman 2008) he wrote influential stylistics articles on



Geoff entertaining PALAns at the post-conference entertainment in Maribor, 2014

all three literary genres. In 2006, following our PALA Prize for *Style in Fiction* in 2005, Geoff and I co-organised a *PALA Style in Fiction Symposium* in Lancaster and, a few weeks before he died, he gave a plenary paper at the PALA conference in Maribor, Slovenia and also played piano accompaniment to sketches in the post-conference-dinner entertainments.

Perhaps not surprisingly, Geoff Leech managed to get by with less sleep than most. When he and I were writing *Style in Fiction* (Longman 1981), and we had agreed who would draft each of the next two chapters, at the end of my first night's work I would have, say, four or five draft pages but would find a completed first draft of Geoff's

next chapter in my pigeonhole the following morning. He would start work when the rest of the family went to bed and still be up in time to help prepare the family breakfast. He also needed a steely side to achieve all he did. I remember him coming to visit me during the period we were writing *Style in Fiction* together, Terry's chocolate orange in hand, when I was confined to bed with a nasty virus. My wife was charmed but as soon as she left us alone, out came chapter 4. We needed to talk about some revisions!

A world-renowned figure, Geoff Leech was a most fair-minded man who always treated others with respect, whatever their status. He would always make time for others and go out of his way to help. He was more painstaking and careful of detail than anyone I have ever met. How he fitted it all in, I will never know. He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his wife, Fanny, his children, Tom and Camilla and his grandchildren.

**Lancaster University's Department of Linguistics and English Language website has a page at <http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/geoffreyleech/> for those who knew Geoff to leave memories of him.**

The news about Geoff's death was a big blow for me. He was a truly great scholar in every way and one of the finest grammarians of the English language. Only a few days before he died he was engaged in a lively email discussion about a finer point of English grammar with a few fellow linguists. As ever, he was full of passion for his subject.

*Professor Bas Aarts (UCL)*

... His knowledge of English grammar and of other areas of linguistics was boundless and inspiring. He was my Linguistics hero, my greatest mentor, and he has changed the way I think about grammar... his modesty was remarkable, his encouragement and interest in my work enabled me to complete my thesis, his kindness and generosity helped me achieve the best of my potential and his great sense of humour kept me cheerful. I thank God for having been given the opportunity to be supervised by such a humble genius.

*Dr Urszula Skrzypik (University of Chester and one of Geoff's former PhD students)*

**“A world-renowned figure, Geoff Leech was a most fair-minded man who always treated others with respect, whatever their status. He would always make time for others and go out of his way to help [...] He will be sorely missed.”**

**Professor Mick Short**

*This in memoriam is based on a more extensive version written for *The European English Messenger* vol. 23.2 Winter 2014.*

**Visit the PALA 2015 conference website at**  
**<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>**

# Magical Maribor musings

## Some heady conversations for **SANDRINE SORLIN** but the intellectual atmosphere is never rarified

**A**S ROCÍO Montoro [PALA secretary at the time] wrote to me a few days before the conference in Maribor, it was “about time we had you visiting us in PALA”. Indeed I must confess it was the first time I could make it to PALA in July, although I had heard a lot about the association through its French ambassador, Manuel Jobert, and had of course read a lot of the books written by the most respected scholars of the field. My first contact with the “atmosphere” of PALA conferences occurred in Graz station where I met PhD students obviously going to PALA. Then started a most pleasant conversation with them through Austria to Maribor which placed the conference under the best auspices: they were looking forward to the conference that, unlike me, they seemed never to have missed once, mentioning that it was their favourite conference of the year. I told myself that an international association that treated students so well (that is, our future colleagues) could only be an open, dynamic and thriving organization.

During the whole conference, what struck me most was the availability of renowned stylisticians. During the breaks I always saw them ready to answer students’ questions, listening to their projects or providing them with research or career-related advice, which is again for me a sign of generosity and of awareness of the necessity to ensure continuity. Of course they were open to any stylistic questions from colleagues of theirs as well. Having just completed a handbook of stylistics for the French market—with the specific aim of making French and international stylistics better known in my own country and ascertain the territory of the discipline there, I had myself a few enquiries about theories and concepts I did not entirely agree with or tended to find fault with. I remember having harassed Mick Short with questions in the most improbable of places—on our way up to the picnic in the cable car—and he answered every question with kindness and extreme precision, making me forget we were a hundred feet above the ground. Stylistics has many unsuspecting virtues like alleviating the fear of height...! All this is part of the magic of the conference, brilliantly orchestrated by Tomaz and Simon, to mix enjoyment and reflection with music. Stylistics was indeed practised in and outside the conference, the

“punctuation show” during Saturday dinner bearing witness to this perfect blend.

I was drawn to stylistics in the first place because of its broad conception of language and the interest it has



shown in its potential effects in various contexts of production and reception. What I heard at the conference confirmed the interdisciplinarity of stylistics. The talks were on many different topics and materials and were backed up by many different theoretical sources. The conference also made room for controversies with those provokingly asking for more method and scientificity in stylistics in order to have the capacity to give the most ‘objective’ interpretation and those, although acknowledging the necessity of scientific rigour, showing that there can be no such thing as a ‘neutral’ stylistic interpretation. Stylistics is thus not a linguistic school where everyone must think alike in order to ‘belong’. I personally think that only *undisciplined* stylisticians can make innovative contributions to the field...

PALA, thank you for existing!

**Sandrine Sorlin, Aix-Marseille University , France**

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# Travelling in style

## New member ROBERT STOCK reflects on his first PALA conference in Maribor

SITTING in the departure gate at Stansted waiting for the flight to Ljubljana, I was trying to engage in a bit of stylistician spotting. I thought about getting Billy Clark's *Relevance Theory* out of my bag in the hope that someone might come and say hello. But then I realised that they might also come and ask me my opinion on free enrichment processes and generalised conversational implicatures, so I played safe and remained in a state of apprehensive anonymity.

Compare this then, with the scene on the return journey only four days later at Ljubljana airport, surrounded by a whole new set of friends, a suitcase bulging with handouts and a head buzzing with new concepts (and probably the after-effects of too much Slovenian wine). Everyone told me beforehand that PALA conferences are fantastically friendly events, but I was overwhelmed by the warmth shown by PALA die-hards to conference virgins like myself. Who'd have thought you could meet so many like-minded people in such a short space of time?

Most importantly, I was amazed at the generosity with which everyone was prepared to share their work and their thoughts – a far cry from the commercial conferences I remember from my previous career where fears of corporate espionage and over-sized egos prevented any genuine exchange of ideas. Well, maybe there were a few egos around in Maribor, but none that got in the way of a lively debate or that achieved anything more than ruffling the odd feather or two – and anyway, what else would you expect with so many lively minds under one roof?

Whether it was in the presentation rooms, during lunch or over a drink or two on top of a mountain, it was incredible to be exposed to, and feel a genuine part of, discussions on everything from over-feminised chick lit to media narratives of violence in Brazil. Before the conference I would have had no idea what an *expletive infixation* was. But more significantly, nor would I have known whether I was capable of defending my view on the difference between a *second-order meaning* and an

*implicature* with people who for all I knew could have written an entire series of books on the very subject (I've since checked, and they haven't – phew!). Now I do.

And that's precisely the most exhilarating thing about PALA for a newcomer – the excitement of presenting all those carefully crafted ideas to someone other than my supervisor, and getting lots of constructive feedback from some of the biggest names in the business. It's like all your best school Nativity plays rolled into one – that thrill that comes from realising that you can rise to the challenge, and that you do have something valid and new and interesting to offer. And knowing too that if you don't understand something, it's perfectly OK to say so. After all, concepts in stylistics never feel as difficult when someone very kindly takes the trouble to explain them to you. Next time *elaborate conceptual substrate* comes up in a pub quiz, I'll feel so proud.

But on a more serious note, it is after all this very sharing and encouragement of ideas that will produce the trickle-down effect that will keep stylistics growing and becoming richer as a discipline over time. That's why I was so pleased to see so many fellow early-career researchers like myself at the conference – and why I was touched by the conference fee waivers and bursaries that PALA so generously offered to us so that we could attend and contribute. There aren't many professions that would be so generous with their resources. You should feel very proud too.

And as if all this intellectual stimulation weren't enough, what about the real eye-opener that was Maribor itself, a hidden jewel of friendly people, gorgeous architecture, stunning scenery – and, yes, some great wine too? Tomaz and Simon, you did a fantastic job making us all feel welcome in your beautiful city. Will we be allowed back? I hope so. Will I bring a bigger suitcase to take some of that delicious wine home with me? I think so. And will I be packing *Relevance Theory* in my bag to make me feel I have at least some legitimacy as a stylistician? Sorry, Billy – I think I can leave your book at home next time.

**Robert Stock, University of East Anglia, UK**



Visit the PALA home page at

<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

# No newbie nerves at Maribor

**ALYSIA KOLENTSIS is grateful for the intellectual and social rewards on offer at PALA 2014**

**P**ICTURE this: a journey to a gem of a country; a hotel by the river, where one can eat breakfast on a rooftop patio with a view across the water; a



convivial evening of fine food and drink in an historic wine cellar; a sunset picnic on the top of a mountain in a scenic lodge with a live band for entertainment; a superb dinner with scores of friends new and old sharing a drink and a laugh over pub quizzes, comic skits, and musical interludes. What's this? A long overdue vacation? In

fact, it is what awaited participants at the 2014 PALA conference in Maribor, Slovenia. Expertly organized and hosted by Tomaz Onic and Simon Zupan of the University of Maribor, this conference achieved the seemingly impossible feat of providing rich rewards on both intellectual and social fronts.

Accustomed as I am to conference food being a stale pastry, and social events consisting of a sedate dinner in a

hotel ballroom, believe me when I say that my experiences in Maribor were a welcome surprise. I admit that I anticipated the conference with some anxiety; after all, I am a Canadian Shakespeare scholar, in some senses far removed from work of the stylisticians, linguists, and other language experts of PALA. However, spurred by my longstanding interest in language theory, and my conviction that approaches to early modern literature still have gaps to fill in terms of embracing and applying developments in PALA-related disciplines, I submitted my abstract and hoped for the best. I am certainly glad that I did. The productive responses to my own paper, and the many illuminating presentations that I attended, were most valuable. Moreover, the members of PALA give the lie to stereotypes of academics as a staid and insular bunch. Within minutes of arriving at the PALA conference, I forgot that I was ever a newbie. The wonderful events described above provided ideal settings for conversations and connections among participants to flourish. I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to be a part of this conference, and to witness firsthand what the best kinds of academic gatherings can look like.

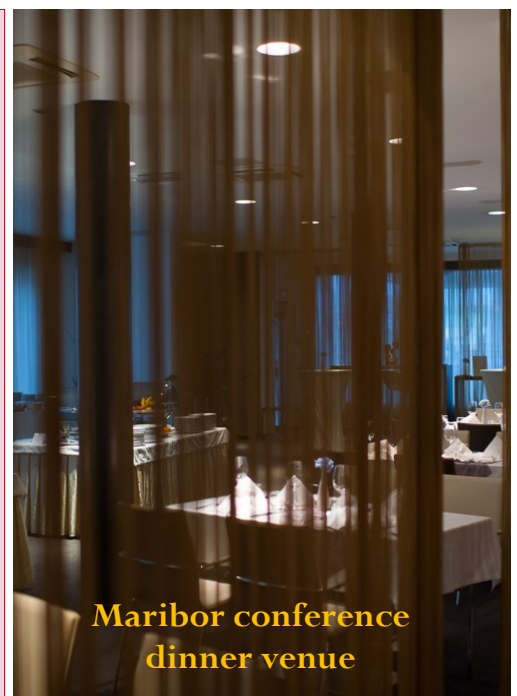
**Alysia Kolentsis, St. Jerome's University in the University of Waterloo, Canada**

## LAND-SIG success

**T**HE first LAND-SIG workshop, coordinated by ERNESTINE LAHEY and DANIELA FRANCESCA VIRDIS, was held at the 2014 PALA conference in Maribor.

Nine speakers (Mohamed Ahmed, Stefania Gandin, Tatiana Guskova, Nataliia Kolbina, Jana Pelclova, Olga Ponomareva, Karolien Vermeulen, Olga Vorobyova, Elisabetta Zurr) delivered papers focusing on space, place and landscape representation in a variety of texts, from fiction to tourism discourse. The coordinators wish to thank all who submitted abstracts, and those who participated in the workshop. A special thank you also to the conference organizers, Simon Zupan and Tomaz Onic, for their help in planning the workshop.

*See page 12 for further information on LAND-SIG*



**Maribor conference dinner venue**

Visit the PALA 2015 conference website at  
<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>



# Building firm foundations

## JANA KOJCAN tries to bridge the gap between architecture and stylistics

**T**HE MOST common reaction when I tell people that I am an architect and study linguistics, is usually: “Two really different things! How is that possible?”

I am rather fascinated how similar these two fields are. After all they both deal with, and discuss, things like structure, context, meaning and details. They are an abstract way of describing something that is to be realized, whether it be a building, a word or a sentence etc. The terms like ‘the language of architecture’ and ‘architecture of the language’ aren’t new either. At the same time, both architecture and language influence and are influenced by culture, and contribute to the creation of national and personal identity.

I often think how lucky I actually am to be able to use the knowledge and principles from one field in another. For example, it could be the visual abilities I have developed by studying and working with architecture that

help me see and describe the links within language structures and patterns. However, the main purpose of architecture, or at least the architecture I work with, is to produce something new. Perhaps this is what makes me personally different from other students of linguistics.



The PALA conference in Maribor was the first conference I attended to present a paper, and I really enjoyed it. At the same time it made me even more aware that I do come from a different academic environment. I have never heard an architect ask another, on which theory his plans or design are based. I think that architects in general are more focused on inventing rather than referring. Of course that doesn’t mean that I am ignorant when it comes to academic referring, or that I wouldn’t respect someone else’s work and give credit for it, but I do like the freedom of simply being inspired in order to produce something new.

**Jana Kocjan, architect in Tromsø, and an MA student of linguistics at NTNU Trondheim, Norway**

**Impressive architecture containing impressive stylisticians!**

**The University of Maribor, which hosted PALA 2014**



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# Studying Swedish stylistics

## CARIN ÖSTMAN empathises with talks on discourse presentation and narrative techniques

**T**HIS summer I attended my second PALA-conference, in Maribor, Slovenia, where I presented a paper about the Swedish author Selma Lagerlöf. So far the PALA-conferences are not so well known in Sweden, so in Maribor me and my colleague Alva Dahl were the only Swedes.

I heard a lot of interesting presentations, with a variety of themes, but among these themes it seemed to me as two major tracks emerged. The first one dealt with discourse presentation, with discourse presentation categories and their effect, and with questions about narrative viewpoint – different kinds of techniques to mark voice shifts for example. As a linguist interested in literary studies I enjoyed the presentations about how linguistic features such as coordinating conjunctions and punctuation can show voice shifts. Also as a teacher in text analysis and stylistics this was an inspiring theme. The second track showed up in the presentations discussing fundamental issues such as: What is stylistics? And what is style? Has the discipline made any progress? What is the relation between genre, register and style?

Among Swedish linguists there has been a focus on studies of non-literary texts for the last decades, but we

now see a growing interest in the study of literary texts, and in stylistics. For this “new born” discipline both the above mentioned themes are very relevant.

One of my own interests in stylistics is about how /if linguistic features can explain the emotional impact on



the reader, so I appreciated the presentations where these kinds of questions were discussed. One good example was the presentation of Carolina Fernandez Quintanilla, where she discussed different narrative techniques that trigger empathy or dyspathy – very inspiring and useful for me!

Another reflection on this PALA conference: the absolute majority of the studied texts were English (British), and often not so modern; Virginia Woolf, Shakespeare, Jane Austen. And of course it is easier with English texts as the examples are understood by everyone, but nevertheless it was quite striking with this dominance.

As in Genoa (my first PALA-conference) the atmosphere in Maribor was very friendly, and it was easy to interact and discuss with other participants. I think this helped me feel as a part of the international society of Stylistics, which for me personally maybe was the greatest outcome of the conference.

**Carin Östman, Uppsala University, Sweden**



Maribor's atmospheric underground wine cellar

Visit the PALA home page at  
<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>

# PALA family values

## ELISABETTA ZURRU feels at home wherever the PALA conference is held

**I** FIRST got to know about PALA when my English Professor suggested I should read a couple of articles published in *Language and Literature*.

When I got back to him about the articles, saying they were “super inspiring”, he told me a lot more about the association and suggested I attend the annual conference, which was a few months away.

I was a PhD student back then, and to say that I was profoundly impressed at how scientifically grounded yet welcoming the atmosphere was would be a huge understatement. I have never missed a PALA conference ever since and, even as the years went by and I passed from being a student to being a lecturer, that first impression has never been disconfirmed. On the contrary, it has grown stronger and stronger, and PALA 2014 Maribor was no exception. Even this time the annual conference of the association meant ‘feeling at home’, surrounded by colleagues and friends who not only, just like me, appreciate the very rare ‘PALA way of doing things’ – serious and scientific yet friendly and

engaging – but who also share the same interest for stylistics as I do (and who, incidentally, never ask the question “You’re a stylistician, eh? What is it that you do then, exactly??”). This, in particular, is what makes PALA so important a part of my academic and personal life: the fact that, while in Italy stylisticians are sometimes ‘difficult to classify’ and stylistics hard to come to terms with (“Is it linguistics, literature, or *something in between?*”), PALA conferences allow me to have 4 or 5 whole days a year where explanations as to what I do and how I do it all of a sudden stop being necessary and I am finally ‘at home’.

So now I do with my own students what my Professor did with me: I have them read *L&L* and suggest that they attend PALA conferences or summer schools (or both!). And that’s because, on the one hand, I know PALA will inspire them just as much as it inspired me when I was a student myself, and, on the other, I believe that the larger the family grows, the less frequent the question “What is it that you do then, exactly??” will become.

**Elisabetta Zurru, University of Genoa, Italy**



**BLED SLICE—the Slovenian cream cake delicacy**

**According to PALA webmeister  
Brian Walker:**

***“The best thing since sliced bled!”***

Visit the PALA webpage at <http://www.pala.ac.uk/>



# LAND-SIG

Have an interest in *stylistics, landscape* and the *environment*?  
Then join this trail-blazing Special Interest Group

**T**HE CENTRAL idea behind LAND-SIG is to provide a forum for stylisticians to contribute more actively to the dialogue about landscape and environment which is currently ongoing within other humanities disciplines. Stylistics' contribution to this dialogue may take the form of an eco-stylistic/eco-poetic scholarly activism, but environmental activism is not the only, nor even the central goal of the SIG, which should incorporate a wide range of concerns, including stylistic analyses which focus on the following features, forms and genres: travel writing/tourism discourse (including tourist narratives and tourism advertising/promotion),

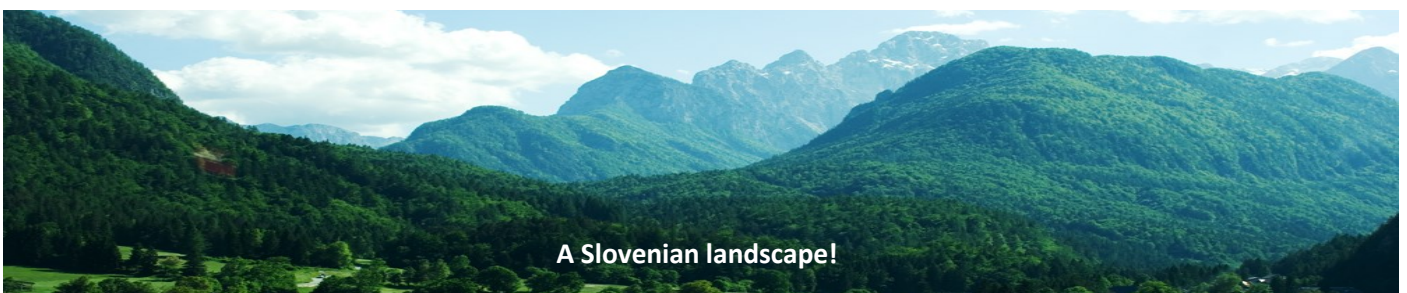
figurative/metaphorical aspects of landscape and setting; world-building strategies in landscape description; landscape, place and belonging (e.g. as in post-colonial literatures); the landscapes of science fiction; the landscapes of drama and performance; the stylistics of specific places; the style of specific writers in their representations of landscape, space and place; the stylistics of setting in specific genres; the style of landscape description in specific works. This list is suggestive rather than exhaustive and other concerns and approaches which fit into the board aim of the SIG would be most welcome.

**PALA members interested in participating in a PALA special interest group on the stylistics of landscape, space and place (broadly conceived, and incorporating related concepts such as setting, environment, eco-stylistics, eco-poetics etc.) can get in touch with LANG-SIG coordinators:**

**Ernestine Lahey:** [e.lahey@roac.nl](mailto:e.lahey@roac.nl)

**Daniela Francesca Viridis:** [dfviridis@unica.it](mailto:dfviridis@unica.it)

**You will be added to a mailing list, and contacted with further information about events such as forthcoming LAND-SIG workshops.**



A Slovenian landscape!

## **PALA membership renewal**

Don't forget to renew your PALA membership. Choose from one of the following two options.

Standard annual subscription with *Language and Literature* (all four issues for 2015) for £50

Basic 2015 membership without the journal for £20.

You can pay your subscription by visiting this page: <http://www.pala.ac.uk/make-a-payment.html>



**Visit the PALA 2015 conference website at**  
<http://blogs.kent.ac.uk/creative-style-conference/>

## In Memoriam: Anne Cluysenaar (1936-2014)

### MICK SHORT mourns the passing of the inspiring stylistician and poet

**I**T IS with shock and regret that I report the untimely death of Anne Cluysenaar, one of the early contributors to *Stylistics*. Anne was murdered in Usk, Wales, on 1 November 2014 at the age of 79. She wrote the influential *Introduction to Literary Stylistics* (Batsford 1973) and indeed introduced me to *Stylistics* as an undergraduate in the 1960s.

Born in Brussels in 1936, Anne was the daughter of John Cluysenaar, who painted for the Belgian Court, and the painter Sybil Fitzgerald Hewitt. She graduated with a double First in French and English Literature from Trinity College Dublin, gained a Diploma in General Linguistics from Edinburgh University in 1963 and taught

at Manchester, Aberdeen, Lancaster, Huddersfield, Birmingham, Sheffield and Cardiff. She was a highly intelligent and inspiring teacher and a well-known poet. Indeed, her main passion, even when teaching, was writing poetry. The poem below, from her recently-published collection, *Touching Distances: Diary Poems* (2014), shows the sensitivity, dispassion and attention to detail that made her a such good stylistician and poet.

Anne's husband, Walter Freeman Jackson survives her. She will be sorely missed.

Mick Short, Lancaster University, December 2014

### January 1

It made me look in the shed, his cooing: too early.  
And he had her by the neck, sure enough, a wing  
across her back. They formed a tremulous mass  
the two of them, snowy white, in the dim shed corner.

But because, of my life, the present is only a part,  
I've watched for the eggs, the two she lays one by one,  
and fingered them out from under her beating wings.  
No skinny squab must starve as winter sets in.

For these, alive in my hand, holding their heat,  
there never was hope. Though tempted to put them back,  
I know that, soon, there are bound to be flakes of snow.  
Better throw them across the yard to the bramble bank.

They'll be food for sparrows and rats. Even so, as I slipped  
my hand underneath and felt that hot patch of skin  
each side of her breastbone, I heard myself mutter 'Sorry'.  
And know how relieved I'll be when the snow does fall.



Anne Cluysenaar (1936-2014)

# PALA 2014 Maribor (19th July 2014)

## *Annual General Meeting*

### **1. Chair's business and updates**

The Chair, Paul Simpson, thanked the two PALA 2014 Maribor conference organisers, Tomaz Onic and Simon Zupan, and presented them with gifts. He thanked their student helpers, all friends and colleagues who participated in the conference, and the six keynote speakers whose plenary lectures — as the conference title goes — actually tested the boundaries of contemporary stylistics. He thanked the two outgoing PALA committee members, Rocío Montoro and Marina Lambrou, and presented them with gifts.

The Chair briefly reported on the latest PALA committee meeting, which had taken place a couple of days before the AGM, where the issues in the AGM agenda had first been discussed. The next committee meeting will take place in Belfast in spring 2015.

### **2. AGM Minutes (Heidelberg 2013, in Spring 2014 Newsletter) and matters arising**

The PALA Heidelberg 2013 AGM minutes were approved.

### **3. Reports from Committee members**

#### **a) Treasurer's report**

Treasurer—Marina Lambrou / Joe Bray

It was agreed that the financial report would be circulated amongst PALA members only.

#### **b) Membership secretary - Stephen Pihlaja**

Stephen also reported on behalf of Agnes Marszalek, the Student membership secretary.

Standard plus basic PALA members amount to 156.

Stephen will introduce some small changes to the membership renewal procedures and will encourage all members to check that they have renewed. The renewal process will be made as smooth as possible. He will email those who have not renewed their membership in the very first months of the year and invite them to do so by the 21st May; this will be the final deadline to renew one's membership in order not to be taken out of the list of PALA members.

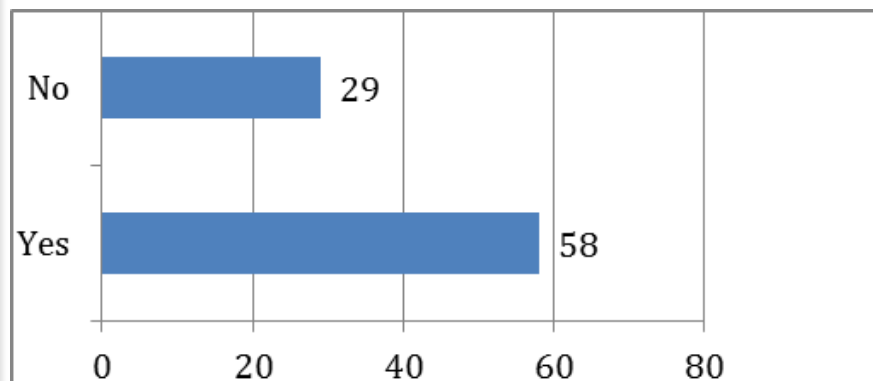
Student members amount to 233.

A full-time student may be a PALA member for up to four years, a part-time student for up to eight years. It is important to monitor students' status so that they may become fully-paid members as soon as they graduate. Stephen emailed all the people in the list of student members to inquire whether they were still students; some of them had actually graduated but wished to become basic members. He has also removed from the list those people who are no longer students and do not wish to be PALA members anymore.

#### **c) Publicity officer - Jane Lugea**

Survey Results

Q. Do you think PALA should have a greater online presence?



- two thirds of PALAns wanted a greater online presence
- many members prefer not to be featured in photos online unless asked (71%), or at all (34%)
- we now will not share images of PALAns unless the people depicted have expressed consent to do so (see Publicity Guidelines on website: <http://www.pala.ac.uk/publicity-guidelines.html>)
- we now have Facebook and Twitter accounts, but the email list stays the main way of distributing information:

[www.facebook.com/PoeticsandLinguisticsAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/PoeticsandLinguisticsAssociation)  
[@PoeticsLinguist](https://twitter.com/PoeticsLinguist)

#### **PALA Ambassadors**

- Jane tried to refine the list
- Printed and posted new flyers
- Invited all the PALA ambassadors present at the AGM to introduce themselves to her

#### **d) Newsletter editor – Matt Davies**

Matt thanked all the contributors to the spring 2014 edition of PARLance, which is available on the PALA website : (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/parlance-newsletter.html>).

He encouraged those members attending a PALA conference for the first time to consider reporting their experiences. He also urged members from countries where stylistics is minimally represented in academia to submit contributions for inclusion in the newsletter.

The new issue of PARLance will appear in January 2015. It will feature some new sections, such as conference reports and advertisements for future events related to stylistics. Announcements about individual publications cannot be included.

PARLance will also contain a new section focusing on stylistic research topics and issues, for instance those discussed in some of the conference papers and plenaries. The pieces in this section will be short and informal; longer and more formal pieces may be submitted to Language and Literature.

All reports and contributions can be sent to Matt: [matt.davies@chester.ac.uk](mailto:matt.davies@chester.ac.uk) . They should be in .doc or .docx (Word) format, not in .pdf format. Photographs will be published only with the explicit consent of all those featuring in them.

#### **e) Webmaster – Brian Walker**

Brian presented the new PALA website (<http://www.pala.ac.uk/>). The contents have been imported from the previous website onto a new platform. The old website already featured several contents, and Brian gave some thought on how they could be better structured and laid out. All the PALA newsletter issues have been posted online on a dedicated page. Brian proposed introducing password-protected pages with restricted contents in order to give membership extra value. The response from the members was favourable, so he will investigate putting them on the website.

#### **f) Language and Literature Editor – Geoff Hall (in absentia)**

Geoff sent a report along with his best wishes. He encouraged all members to download articles from the Language and Literature website (<http://lal.sagepub.com/>) and to invite their students to do the same.

Language and Literature is one of the most thriving peer-reviewed journals in the field. Many submissions usually come in after the PALA annual conference.

Language and Literature devotes special issues to key topics; no special issue has been planned for 2016 yet, so Geoff encouraged members to submit proposals.

## Questions and comments from the floor

Marina Lambrou: the Treasurer's report posted on the website should be password-protected.

Mick Short: agreed. The website could include an archive containing photos and videos of the entertainment during the PALA conference dinners.

Dan McIntyre: students should also be able to access the password-protected areas.

Lesley Jeffries: the PALA online proceedings should remain freely accessible to everybody interested in stylistics and to those involved in the Longman Prize.

Jane Lugea: the discussion forum could be password-protected.

Chair: we should have an agreement in principle, then several materials can go in the protected areas; these can take the form of individual pages or whole sections. There should be a password to be renewed every year along with membership.

## 4. PRIZES

**The PALA prize** - £250 from Sage, free subscription to the journal for one year, free membership of PALA for one year. Best article published in a particular year by newcomer to the field. Judges this year: L&L Editor, 1 member of Editorial team and 1 member of Editorial Board. Awarded to:

**Jane Lugea, University of Huddersfield** for "Embedded dialogue and dreams: the worlds and accessibility relations of Inception", *Language and Literature*, May 2013; vol. 22, 2: pp. 133-153.

**The Longman Prize** - £200 of books. Prize for written version of best postgraduate paper presented at the annual conference, and judged by two members of the PALA executive committee. Awarded to:

**Zoe McCaw, Queen's University Belfast** for "Metaphors and identity in self-help books: an emerging typology", presented at PALA 2013 Heidelberg conference.

## 5. The PALA conference 2015 - University of Kent, UK

Creative Style, 15th – 19th July 2015

Jeremy Scott, the conference organiser, gave a short presentation: five plenary speakers, accommodation on campus, very good connections from the continent and from London, what to do in Canterbury, conference dinner, Kentish wine tasting.

## 6. Location of PALA conference 2016 and beyond

The only bid for the PALA conference 2016 was from the Borys Grinchenko University in Kiev, Ukraine. The bid was discussed by the committee in April 2014 during the Belfast meeting: although the proposal is attractive, given the current situation in that country, and the particular events of July 2014, it was felt that the bid should be reconsidered for 2017.

During the Maribor committee meeting, a member of the committee (Daniela Viridis) put her own institution (University of Cagliari, Italy) forward as a bid in order to cover the shortfall in provision for 2016. The committee accepted the bid.

After a short discussion at the AGM (Mick Short, Olga Vorobyova, the Chair), the Chair asked for endorsement of the Cagliari bid for 2016. Members at the AGM approved.

## 7. AOB

Dan McIntyre: publishers would like a panel session, particularly to involve early-career researchers; this should be taken into account by future conference organisers.

The 2014 AGM closed.



## THE PALA COMMITTEE

### Chair

**Paul Simpson** is Professor of English Language and Head of the School of English at Queen's University, Belfast, UK.  
Email: [p.simpson@qub.ac.uk](mailto:p.simpson@qub.ac.uk)

### Editor, *Language and Literature*

**Geoff Hall** is Head of English at the University of Nottingham Ningbo, China.  
Email: [geoff.hall@nottingham.edu.cn](mailto:geoff.hall@nottingham.edu.cn)

### Secretary

**Daniela Francesca Viridis** is Lecturer in English Language and Translation at the University of Cagliari, Italy.  
Email: [dfviridis@unica.it](mailto:dfviridis@unica.it)

### Treasurer

**Joe Bray** is Reader in English Language and Literature at the University of Sheffield, UK.  
Email: [j.bray@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.bray@sheffield.ac.uk)

### Membership Secretary

**Stephen Pihlaja** is Lecturer in Stylistics at Newman University, Birmingham, UK.  
Email: [S.Pihlaja@staff.newman.ac.uk](mailto:S.Pihlaja@staff.newman.ac.uk)

### Student Membership Secretary

**Agnes Marszalek** is studying for a PhD in English Language at the University of Glasgow, UK.  
Email: [a.marszalek.1@research.gla.ac.uk](mailto:a.marszalek.1@research.gla.ac.uk)

### Newsletter Editor

**Matt Davies** is Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader for English Language at the University of Chester, UK.  
Email: [matt.davies@chester.ac.uk](mailto:matt.davies@chester.ac.uk)

### Publicity Officer

**Jane Lugea** is Senior Lecturer in Applied Linguistics at the University of Huddersfield, UK.  
Email: [j.lugea@hud.ac.uk](mailto:j.lugea@hud.ac.uk)

### Webmaster

**Brian Walker** is Senior Lecturer in Corpus Stylistics at the University of Huddersfield, UK.  
Email: [b.d.walker@hud.ac.uk](mailto:b.d.walker@hud.ac.uk)

### PALA 2015 Conference Organiser

**Jeremy Scott** is Senior Lecturer in English Language and Literature at the University of Kent, UK.  
Email: [j.d.scott@kent.ac.uk](mailto:j.d.scott@kent.ac.uk)

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