

From the editors

We are very happy to present the first issue of CEATL's brand new e-zine, *Counterpoint*, a bi-annual periodical appearing in both an English and a French version.

The European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) unites translators' associations from 29 countries, representing some 10,000 literary translators from Iceland to Turkey, and from Lithuania to Portugal.

As European literary translators, we have a lot in common: our profession, the art of literary translation, and our love of languages and literatures being some of the first that come to mind. Beyond the pages of the books we work on, we share a cultural and economic role in the world of publishing. Translations make up an important part of all books published every year, and many of us actively engage in the selection of titles for translation, the introduction of 'new' authors and the promotion of translated books. Still, regardless of wherever in Europe we work, our economic position is precarious. Being spread out over such a vast

area, there are many differences among us too. As literary translators in Europe, we work with a huge variety of languages, of cultural spheres and of literary traditions. Likewise, working conditions for translators in different countries vary greatly due to different economic circumstances, national traditions, copyright practices, size of readerships as well as the role of translated literature. And although global developments in the publishing industry affect all of us, and increasingly so, the effects aren't always equal.

With *Counterpoint*, we hope to touch on topics that unite translators all over Europe, and beyond, and on matters that are specific to some. We'll report on what's going on in CEATL, and we'll look outside. We'll present articles about translators and translating, and we'll deal with the broad cultural, artistic and economic context of our work.

This first issue opens with an article by CEATL's President, Morten Visby, on literary translators and human rights. Our most recent members, translators' associations from Romania and

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Macedonia, relate the many challenges they face. CEATL’s working group on Authors’ Rights gives an insight into the variety of topics they deal with, while Secretary-General Lara Hölbling Matković introduces the CEATL board.

Translations from English into other ‘big’ languages make up the vast majority of all book translations. Only recently, awareness on the importance of translations from ‘small’ languages has started to increase. Máire Nic Mhaoláin, translator of Welsh and Irish amongst others, kicks off a series on translating from and into ‘small’ languages. Frank Wynne writes about the daunting task of compiling a book of short stories from all over the world, translated into English. Film director Nitesh Anjaan endeavoured to capture the nature of literary translation in his film portrait of Mette Holm, the Danish translator of Murakami. And Marije de Bie, former editor and new director of the Amsterdam Translators’ House, talks about the dynamics in the publishing world, and the role of literary translators.

We hope that *Counterpoint* will be exactly that – a place where independent and sometimes contrasting voices come together and form a stronger and more enthralling whole, much like the art of literary translation itself.

We welcome all comments and suggestions at editors@ceatl.eu for this and coming issues. We hope you enjoy reading it.

**Hanneke van der Heijden,
Anne Larchet &
Juliane Wammen**



Hanneke van der Heijden is a literary translator and interpreter from Turkish into Dutch, and writes about [literature from Turkey](#). She has an MA in Linguistics and Literary Theory, and in Turkish Languages and Literatures. She was a board member of the Translators' Association Turkey ([ÇEVİRİ](#)), which she represents in CEATL.

Hanneke van der Heijden

Photo: Private Archive



Anne Larchet is a freelance interpreter and translator from Spanish into English. She has a BA in Arabic and Spanish, a Graduate Diploma in Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies and a Certificate in Spanish Law. She was a scholarship student at the American University Cairo, Egypt. Anne has been on the Executive Committee of the [ITIA](#) (Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association) since 2012 and is Editor of the [ITIA Bulletin](#) e-zine.

Anne Larchet

Photo: Martin de Haan



Juliane Wammen is a literary translator from English and Norwegian into Danish. She has an MA in Comparative Literature and Anthropology and is second delegate for CEATL for the [Danish Translators' Association](#). She is a member of the Danish Arts Council's grants committee and co-editor of [Babelfisken](#), a Danish e-zine for literary translation.

Juliane Wammen

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