

From the editors

In these final days of editing *Counterpoint Issue No.2*, a lot of media coverage around Europe is focusing on what is happening in the United Kingdom. It seems that at the moment we are living in rather more interesting times than most people would probably like. So much is at stake, and we seem to be heading into quite uncharted territory, both in a European and a global context. But whether you are for or against Brexit, or don't know what to think, it seems very clear that cooperation across national borders is, and should be, as important as ever.

By definition, translators of all kinds work in a very concrete way with exactly this – and literary translators, the people that CEATL represents, are not only working across and hopefully bridging linguistic borders, we also constantly cross and re-cross real and imaginary borders and no-man's lands, creating a network, a field, a space (choose your own metaphor) of cultural, linguistic, political and temporal interconnectedness and cooperation.

This is what we, as editors, and CEATL as an organization, aim to contribute

to with *Counterpoint*. After a lot of hard work, collaboration, enthusiasm and sheer doggedness, we published the first issue of *Counterpoint* in May this year. It was, on a whole different level, also uncharted territory, for us personally, and for CEATL. But the reception of *Issue No.1* was quite overwhelming, the feedback from our own delegates and people outside CEATL very heartwarming. *Counterpoint*, and therefore CEATL and literary translators, has since been mentioned in several international magazines and websites and the list of subscribers is still growing. We wish to extend our sincerest thanks to all our contributors as well as to the other people who backed this ezine, even before it had a name.

In this issue, then, we proceed to deal with the various aspects of literary translators' work and lives in the political and cultural sphere. From different points of view, we hear about promoting both Irish and German literature, getting it translated and out into the world, we learn of the difficulties in translating between minority languages, what one can get

“It seems very clear that cooperation across national borders is, and should be, as important as ever”

out of a residency, how a translation of Jamaican Marlon James ended up angering the Norwegian translators, and we learn what a Boost Book is and how you can contribute. We hear of the Italian translators' path into a union and we learn how to hum in ancient Greek. But not least, long-time delegate and treasurer of CEATL Shaun Whiteside relates his personal view on the importance of organizations such as CEATL and of cooperating across borders and languages.

Let this be an inspiration and perhaps also a reminder that beneath all the shouting across borders at high levels of government, literary translators and so many other good people are working hard, in concrete and metaphysical ways, to hold it all together.

As before, we welcome all suggestions and comments at editors@ceatl.eu. We hope you enjoy reading it.

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