### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE IALJS

# LITERARY JOURNALISM

**VOL 10 NO 3** 

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LITERARY JOURNALISM STUDIES

**SUMMER 2016** 

### FUTURE IALJS CONFERENCE SITES

The following future IALJS convention venues are confirmed and/or planned:

**IALJS-12:** University of King's College, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 11-13 May 2017.

**IALJS-13:** Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna, Austria, 17-19 May 2018.

IALJS-14: (tba), U.S.A., 9-11 May 2019.

**IALJS-15:** University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 21-23 May 2020.

IALJS-16: (tba), U.S.A., 13-15 May 2021.

**IALJS-17**: South Africa or Sweden, 19-21 May 2022 (pending).

**IALJS-18**: Brussels, Antwerp or Leuven, Belgium, 11-13 May 2023 (pending).

**IALJS-19**: Santiago, Chile, 23-25 May 2024 (pending).

**IALJS-20**: Brock University, St. Catherines, Canada, 15-17 May 2025 (pending).

IALJS-21: Poland, 21-23 May 2026 (pending).

#### 2016 MEMBERSHIP

Our association's membership, as of 31 May 2016, including all IALJS-10 attendees at the Brazil conference, totals 131 members from 27 countries around the globe. More than 58% of our members are not from the U.S.

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#### DIFFERENT LANGUAGES, ONE VOICE

Masters of exploration.

By Isabel Soares, Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

erendipity. Throughout the course of these eleven years, many a time have I heard the word pronounced *a propos* the fortunate coincidences that have brought IALJS into existence. *Serendipitous* is certainly the right adjective to describe the occasion when a Portuguese-speaking



PRÉSIDENT'S LETTER president of this genuinely international association is elected at the annual meeting on a continent and, coincidently, in a Portuguese-speaking country where IALJS has never ventured before.

But, let me take this instance to talk a bit further about seren-

dipity and our conference at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre.

Portuguese is the main European language spoken south of the Equator—largely on account of Brazil—and IALJS-11 was our very first conference south of the Equator. Who would have guessed that a decade after the serendipitous encounter that brought a few of us literary journalism enthusiasts together at the former University of Nancy (now the Université de Lorraine) in France, I would be using the word to characterize so many things so personally meaningful?

I was a graduate student back in 2006 at the birth of our association, and literary journalism in Portuguese was unheard of— or, at best, incredibly exotic. I remember the first person I saw in the Nancy audience was John C. Hartsock. My heart raced in fear because he was going to hear what tiny, insignificant me had to say about literary journalism in a country of ten million inhabitants and a language vastly overlooked in a world dominated by English. To my further amazement it was that guru of literary journalism research who opened the Q&A after I finished presenting.

"Yep," the guru said, turning to face the audience, "there's got to be more out there." I think I must have frozen in

To honor his lifelong dedication to students, we have renamed the best student paper award the Norman H. Sims Prize

perplexity and, from that moment on, IAL-JS has been characterized by the pursuit and discovery of literary journalism in a multilingual world. How's that for serendipity?

Serendipity is also a former graduate student finding herself as president of our association, a learned society that cares for its young because it does care for its future. This spirit has been perfectly embodied by Norm Sims' tenure as IALJS President and his determination to make IALJS a forum where students can freely both debate their ideas and rub shoulders with more senior academics.

It was Norm who suggested that IALJS create a fund to help finance graduate students' attending our annual conferences. In gratitude to Norm his support for students over the years, we have thus taken the liberty of renaming the Best

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#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Student Paper award the Norman H. Sims Prize for the Best Student Research Paper.

Starting with our 2014 Paris conference, we have been encouraged by the success of holding research panels in the language of host countries. So at IALJS-11 this past May we went the extra mile and held two panels in languages other than English. Given the hegemony of Portuguese and Castilian (which we all call Spanish) as the official languages of the South American continent, one panel was in Portuguese, covering its rich varieties of European-Portuguese and Brazilian-Portuguese and the richer varieties of literary journalism in Portuguese.

The second panel in Spanish focused on the manifold instances of literary journalism in Spanish on both sides of the Atlantic. Indeed, both Portuguese and Spanish give their word *crónica* all the attributes of literary journalism, defining it as a literary journalistic form on its own while bragging it being untranslatable into English. Again, the serendipity of the nuances of literary journalism in different languages coming together under one umbrella.

In closing my first "Presdient's Letter, a word of gratitude to the Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul for IALJS-11. Moreover, we have to thank our perfect host, Prof. Juan de Moraes Domingues who, along with his students, made it happen so flawlessly. Dear Juan, we are indebted: *obrigada!* 

IALJS-11 was another great conference, showing how literary journalism is thriving across the linguistic spectrum. Having members from 27 different countries certainly reaffirms IALJS's international stature. Again. this was a moment to celebrate the meaning of serendipity—a word, by the way, untranslatable into Portuguese.

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## 2016 IALJS ANNUAL CONVENTION IN BRAZIL Porto Alegre is the site of our first South American meeting.

By Alice Donat Trindade, Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal)

The 11th International Conference in Brazil inaugurated the second decade of IALJS meetings. IALJS-11 took place in Porto Alegre at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), more precisely at its Social Communication School, FAMECOS. Porto



IALJS-11 CONFERENCE

Alegre—situated in the southernmost Brazilian State, Rio Grande do Sul—was a hospitable and pleasant destination for all participants who, once again, came from most of the world's continents bearing witness to global

interest in the literary journalism genre.

The highlight of the first morning was the conference's keynote address, this year by IALJS founding member and American University of Paris scholar, William Dow. It was a thoughtful and profound piece of both theoretical and applied scholarship that set just the right tone for the rest of the meeting.

The two-and-a-half day conference was the perfect setting for the (re) discovery of the transnational body of author/journalists who constantly provide researchers with new avenues of research for both canonical authors and newly spotted writers who steadily add *corpus* to ongoing research.

For the first time in Latin America, IALJS's Research and Program Committees and our local organizer, Prof. Juan de Moraes Dominguez, put together an extensive program after having received 40 submissions for works-in-progress and

research papers, as well as eight panel proposals. Of special note is the fact that two IALJS-11 panels were held in languages other than English, i.e., Portuguese and Spanish, with significant success. The Portuguese one was entitled "Vozes colectivas, olhar individual: Jornalismo literário em Português e de cada lado dos oceanos," while the Spanish-language one was "Nuevas voces y nuevas visiones en el periodismo literario latinoamericano en español." At the same time, for all participants who had not mastered the languages originating in the Iberian Peninsula, concurrent sessions in

Our annual conference benefited from the indefatigable assistance from a number of our host's students

English were being held.

IALJS has always placed special emphasis not only on the past and the present, but also on the future of literary journalism scholarship. President Norm Sims—whose term of office was concluded at IALJS-11—chose a specific goal in this area when he started his term by dedicating special attention to graduate students and their success.

In recognition for his efforts in this regard, as well as his lifetime commitment to the success of students, the IALJS Executive Committee unanimously voted that the Best Student Paper award by renamed the Norman H. Sims Prize for the Best Student Research Paper.

This year it was awarded to Thomas Schmidt of the University of

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