

ECARE Committee Report

Executive Council Meeting July 2025

By Emanuelle Santos, Committee Chair

In this report we update the Executive Committee on: 1) Committee developments; and 2) preparations for the ECARE strand of activities for the 2025 Congress in Seoul.

1) Committee developments

Past ECARE awards (2023-24)

Since the August report last year, we concluded the assessment of applications for the II round of the First Book Subvention Prize launched in 2022. We had a total of two applications, both of which were assessed by external peer reviewers with expertise on each respective theme. Both applications were strongly recommended for award on the basis of originality, rigour and significance to its respective subfields. As we did not open a new competition before the completion of the former, we consulted the President requesting permission to recommend both applications for award, one drawing on the 2023 budget and one on the 2024, which we were permitted to do.

The awards went to:

- Alexandra-Ecaterina Irimia's [*Figures of Radical Absence Blanks and Voids in Theory, Literature, and the Arts*](#) (2023).
- Jeannette C. Oholi's [*Afropäische Ästhetiken: Plurale Schwarze Identitätsentwürfe in literarischen Texten des 21. Jahrhunderts*](#) (2024).

An announcement of the winners was published in the Association website repeated in the Association newsletter.

Awards have been paid with the Treasurer and on preparations to have the books reviewed by *Recherche littéraire/Literary Research* are underway.

Current ECARE awards (2025)

After extending the deadline for the applications to the 2025 round of [First Book Subvention Prize](#) and [Best Translation Prize](#), we have:

- 4 applications for the First Book Subvention Prize
- 0 applications for the Best Translation Prize

We are in the process of getting the book proposals reviewed with the hope to have the names to be indicated in the Seoul Congress.

2) Preparations for the ECARE strand of activities for the 2025 Congress in Seoul.

We have received and review 143 abstracts for the NextGen session of the conference, which after paper withdrawals, resulted in a total of 136 papers.

These 136 papers have been organized into 37 thematic panels that are planned to run in 5 parallel sessions to be concluded before the General Assembly to allow us time to process votes for the Best Graduate Paper Prize.

The next step involves a close collaboration with Youngmin Kim to ensure that the full breath of the ECARE activities are organized accordingly. They include:

- A special **Welcome Reception** for graduate students and early career researchers attending the Congress hosted by the ICLA Executive Council, the Officers of the ICLA, and the Congress Organising Committee from Dongguk University.
- **ECARE Workshop** led by established researchers in the field addressing pressing issues in the profession.
- **The ECARE Business Meeting** during the Congress where graduate students and early career researchers can bring forward ideas for how the ICLA can further support graduate students and early career researchers within the discipline of comparative literature.
- **NEXT GEN Seminars** especially dedicated for papers presented by graduate students and early career researchers to give them an opportunity to present new ideas and new approaches in comparative literature based on their research.
- **Best Graduate Paper Prize** this prize was not awarded in the 2022 Congress as the right way to process votes was not found considering the difficulties of a hybrid conference setting. We are working with the Seoul team to make it happen this year. This prize will be advertised as soon as a

Finally, plans to develop an interim ECARE capacitation event, at a midpoint between congress, has now been pushed to early 2027.

We are still planning to work on the ECARE mentoring scheme with the view to launch on or after the 2025 Congress.

Emanuelle Santos, 23 June 2025

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