

ICLA Short-Term Research Committee on Digital Comparative Literature (CDL)

Annual Report - 2025

Prepared by Simone Rebora

1. Foundation and first meeting

The “Digital Comparative Literature” Short-Term Research Committee was founded thanks to the efforts of Marko Juvan, who contacted a series of colleagues in Autumn 2023 and organized a **first, Preparatory Meeting** on 4 March 2024 (via Zoom, Present: Andrejka Žejn, Christof Schöch, Giovanni Pietro Vitali, Karina van Dalen, Lucija Mandić, Marko Juvan, Massimo Salgaro, Matthew Reynolds, Matthew Wilkens, Pieter Francois, Roxana Patras, Simone Rebora, Steven Totosy, and Youngmin Kim). During the meeting, Simone Rebora volunteered to provisionally chair the prospective Committee. A **second, Inaugural Meeting** took place on 15 April 2024 (via Zoom, Present: Andrejka Žejn, Christof Schöch, Lucija Mandić, Marko Juvan, Matthew Wilkens, Paolo Silva Pereira, Pieter Francois, Roxana Patras, Simone Rebora, Yina Cao, Youngmin Kim, and Yu Ming). During the meeting, the positions of chairperson (Simone Rebora), co-chair (Youngmin Kim), and secretary (Yina Cao) were defined. A first draft of the bylaws was prepared by Marko Juvan, and preparations began for drafting the application for ICLA Short-Term Research Committee status (submitted on 20 May 2025).

After approval by the ICLA EB, the **first Official Meeting** took place on 5 November 2024 (via Zoom, Present: Simone Rebora, Youngmin Kim, Yina Cao, Alexandra Huang-Kokina, Christof Schöch, Gabriele Vezzani, Pieter Francois, Roxana Patras, Andrejka Žejn, Luiza Marinescu, Marko Juvan, and Lucija Mandić), dedicated to planning future Committee activities, including the organization of a special session at *ICLA2025* Seoul and of a workshop at *DH2025* Lisbon. All minutes of the three above-mentioned meetings have been collected and preserved by the Committee chairperson, Simone Rebora.

2. Website and social media

Thanks to the help of Christof Schöch, a Committee website was published at the following link: <https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/>.

The website contains a detailed description of the Committee’s goals (https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/files/ICLA_DCL_Description.pdf), its bylaws (https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/files/ICLA_DCL_Bylaws.pdf), an updated list of the members (<https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/members.html>), and a blog with information on all activities

(<https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/news.html>). The website (currently managed by Simone Rebora) was realized through a publishing system, *Quarto*, which allows an open and ethical usage of online technologies.

Two social media accounts on Mastodon (https://mastodon.social/@icla_dcl) and LinkedIn (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/icla-dcl>) were opened and are currently managed by Yina Cao.

3. New Members

At the time of its foundation, the committee listed 26 members. In the following months, four new membership requests were received and approved via a majority vote (in two cases, in February and March 2025, vote took place via an online poll, managed by Simone Rebora). Three more requests were received afterwards, but could not be accepted due to the limit of 30 members set by the Committee bylaws. One of the future goals of the Committee will be to update its bylaws, by either increasing or removing the maximum number of members.

4. Activities

In summer 2025, the DCL Committee organizes two events at the two main global conferences on Comparative Literature (ICLA2025 Seoul) and Digital Humanities (DH2025 Lisbon). The choice to organize two quasi-parallel events was motivated by the opportunity to disseminate knowledge about the Committee activities both in two different continents (Asia and Europe) and in two research communities (which are both directly addressed by ICLA DCL).

4.1 ICLA2025 session

In the context of ICLA2025 in Seoul, the DCL Committee organized one group session (“12. Research Committees Proposal - Digital Comparative Literature,” co-organized by Simone Rebora, Roxana Patras, Christof Schöch, Gabriele Vezzani, Pieter Francois, Yina Cao, Alexandra Huang-Kokina, Youngmin Kim, and Marko Juvan), which received a total of 14 submissions. The text of the Call is available here:

<https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/news/2025/icla-session.html>.

Final program of the session is currently being prepared.

4.2 DH2025 mini-conference

In the context of DH2025 in Lisbon, the DCL Committee organized a mini-conference (“Comparative Literature Goes Digital,” co-organized by Simone Rebora, Simone Rebora, Joanna Byszuk, Yina Cao, Maciej Eder, J. Berenike Herrmann, Youngmin Kim, Suzanne Mpouli, Federico Pianzola, and Pablo Ruiz Fabo) together with two sister initiatives, the ADHO Special Interest Group in Digital Literary Studies (SIG-DLS) and the Computational Literary Studies Infrastructure (CLS-INFRA). The text of the Call is available here:

<https://icla-dcl.quarto.pub/info/news/2025/dh-mini-conference.html>.

A total of 21 submissions were received, 15 of which were accepted.

Final program of the mini-conference (which will take place on 14 July 2025) is available here:

<https://dls.hypotheses.org/1952>.