

EUROPEAN BEAT STUDIES NETWORK

AGM 26th June 2016 Manchester

1. Report on the 2015 AGM (Polina Mackay)

Last year we discussed where to hold future conferences: approved Paris, 2017 and Vienna, 2018. Also discussed the future of the Network.

2. Report on 2015 conference in Brussels (Franca Bellarsi)

Had a total income for the conference of 12,429 euros. Generated by different associations funds that were solicited through ULB. About 1/3 of that corresponded to the revenue generated by registration fees. Expenses cost 11,512.45 euros, leaving about 736 euros. Registration costs paid for most of the food and a banquet for the student team. Some funds also went to the performance artists and a part of the rental of the premises. (For a new report by Peggy Pacini and Anna Aublet on the papers given, see the Brussels conference page on the EBSN website.)

3. Report on the 2016 conference (Doug Field)

Welcome to everyone and thanks to Wonder Inn, a non-profit organisation run by volunteers and artists. Hope that vibe comes across this week.

4. News of 2017 conference: Paris 2017 (Véronique Lane and Peggy Pacini)

Paris a destination we've been waiting for. Have many plans and a venue: the Columbia Global Centre located right in the centre of Paris (between the Latin Quarter and Montparnasse).

Véronique has cut a deal so that both location and technician crew are free, which will allow bigger part of the budget for keynote speakers, exhibition, performances, etc. Location is a wink to the early Beat circle's formation in New York at Columbia University and makes sense for the students of the CGC coming, like the Beats, from New York to Paris. Very informal and friendly space, not overly academic but offers great space and resources (images shown in slide-show).

Peggy reported that she has submitted a grant application to her University (Cergy Pontoise). She is also working with Frank Rynne and Véronique on applications to involve other institutions (e.g. University of Chicago in Paris, an exhibition of documents and photographs in partnership with the IMEC, evening readings at Shakespeare & Co and La Maison de la Poésie).

Right now, there is a major Beat Generation exhibition at the Pompidou Centre in Paris, and Véronique, Peggy and Frank will be participating in its closing conference (on September 28, 29 and 30), where they will announce our EBSN conference for 2017.

The conference will be bilingual (French and English) and will have a plenary session on language barriers and issues of translation in Beat Studies. Administration will be divided between Raven See (English) and Anna Aublet (French). The conference will take place at the end of September / beginning of October 2017 so that the French are back from holidays.

Open to all types of submissions (papers, roundtables, performances) to do with any aspect of Beat creativity, but as a high number of proposals is to be anticipated, priority will be given to submissions in relation to:

- Under-studied Beat writers or artists
- Franco-American collaborations and publications (*Evergreen Review*, *City Lights*, *Locus Solus*, *Paris Review*; reception of the Beats by French philosophy or media; Kerouac's recently published French writings; Beats in contemporary Francophone literature) or
- Translation of Beat works into any language (from Arabic to Japanese).

5. News of 2018 Conference in Vienna (Thomas Antonic)

Pleasure to announce Vienna Poetry School has accepted to host our 2018 conference. Strongly connected to the Beats, especially to the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics in Colorado. Located in the heart of Vienna has 2 classrooms and a large archive. Planning to hold an exhibition during the conference to highlight the archive. September is a possibility but they would prefer May. School is funded by city of Vienna, which would offer funding.

6. News of "Global Beat Studies" publication (Polina and Oliver)

Polina and Oliver have been editing two-dozen essays that emerged out of the Tangier conference, which should be published in December. Working with an open access journal – *CLC Web*. Important for the EBSN to be publishing work and distributing it widely so it reaches beyond just academia.

7. Beat Database, Website Development (Oliver)

In line with the EBSN's mission, a database on the website could help people connect by offering a kind of expanded bibliography that points to where to learn more about a specific subject within Beat Studies. Would hope to feature people who are experts in the field and help connect them with others who are new to the field or have questions.

Would be happy to have volunteers to offer input. Hope to promote good contacts. First step seems to be gathering the data. Kurt Hemmer has volunteered to help to get things started as a contact person. Bob Lee brought up an idea we have discussed in the past about creating a Beat library or archive that would be housed in a centre to act as a research library.

8. Report on the Network and its future (Oliver, Polina, and Paul Aliferis)

The Network has been going for 6 years and has organised 5 conferences, has grown to nearly 250 members and done what we hoped it would do. One regret is that it hasn't done more to be multi-lingual which is some of the work we hope to continue to do in Paris and Vienna.

At this time the board feels that things are going well; however, the idea of becoming a formal Association is one plan to keep alive for the future. An Association is a separate legal entity that we were envisioning setting up in Germany. The main advantage is that it enables donors to give money to an actual entity. In the event that we do form an archive, it is Paul's legal opinion that it should be done as a legal entity. Paul noted the structure can remain flat and democratic.

This is an issue that we will come back to next year in Paris. Véronique noted that maybe there will be a time when we need more funding for events and moving the EBSN to the status of a legal entity would allow for more opportunities. Franca noted that in terms of organising for Brussels our lack of a bank account had been a challenge for organising funding and this is also a challenge that Véronique and Peggy are already facing in regards to Paris.

Paul suggests we could as an interim solution found an association for legal reasons, without making the move to functioning as one, and this will be considered by the EBSN Board.

9. AOB

Jaap van der Bent noticed some scholarly posts were missing from the website. This probably happened when the site migrated template recently, and will be looked into.

Franca expressed an interest in what we could do to work with David Giannoni from the Maelström Publishing that assisted in Brussels on publishing works in translation in hopes that little known texts make it into translation. Véronique noted it would be good for David to present his idea in Paris, as issues of translation will be central to the 2017 conference.

Bob Lee would like to again propose an annual prize for an undergraduate or post-graduate essay and that we honour them with a prize as a spur to get more student participation in these meetings. We need, he felt, to have a generation that recognises they are welcome, although it was noted that indeed several undergraduate students were attending in Manchester.

Kurt Hemmer noted that in the US there is not a lot of encouragement to study the Beats.

Franca shared the idea of Webinars where students could have access to scholars or artists.

PRESENT: Oliver Harris, Polina Mackay, Doug Field, Alexander Adams, Tony Hoffman, Rebecca Evans, Thomas Antonic, Véronique Lane, Peggy Pacini, A. Robert Lee, Kurt Hemmer, Erin Hemmer, Jim Pennington, Giordano Goffi, Elena Losauier, Chelsea Stripe, Antonio Bonome, Jaap van der Bent, Estibaliz Encarnacion Pinedo, Raven See, Chad Weidner, Franca Bellarsi, Alexander Greiffenstern.