

Swiss Association of University Teachers of English

1. Scholarly and Research Activities

Under the auspices of the Swiss Association of University Teachers of English (SAUTE), Ina Habermann, Alex Van Lierde and Alexandra Grasso (University of Basel) organised an international conference entitled conference “Brexit and Beyond: Nation and Identity”, which took place from 3-4 May 2019 at the University of Basel. This timely conference, which was particularly concerned with the construction and negotiation of cultural identities in language, literature and the media, provided a forum for junior scholars and established researchers alike. Keynote speakers were Shelley Fisher Fishkin (Professor of English, Stanford University, USA), Jo Angouri (Reader in Applied Linguistics, University of Warwick, GB), Christine Berberich (Senior Lecturer in English Literature, University of Portsmouth, GB), and Maurice Fitzpatrick (Lecturer, Journalist and Filmmaker, University of Cologne/freelance, Germany).

Two new issues of Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature (SPELL) were published this year, notably SPELL 37, which is entitled “Secrecy and Surveillance in Medieval and Early Modern England” (edited by Annette Kern-Stähler and Nicole Nyfenegger), and SPELL 38, which is entitled “The Genres of Genre: Forms, Formats, and Cultural Formations” (edited by Cécile Heim, Boris Vejdovsky and Benjamin Pickford). A SPELL volume (39) based on the “Brexit and Beyond: Nation and Identity” conference in 2019, edited by Daniela Keller and Ina Habermann, is currently in preparation and is due to appear in 2020.

2. International contacts

SAUTE is a member association of the European Society for the Study of English (ESSE). Andreas H. Jucker, now ESSE President, represented SAUTE at the annual board meeting of ESSE, which took place at the University of Wrocław, Poland from 28-30 August 2019.

3. Public relations/outreach

SAUTE has further improved and updated the information on its website, which can be found at <http://www.sagw.ch/saute>.

4. Administration

The Annual General Assembly was held on 4 May 2019 at the University of Basel, in connection with the conference ‘Brexit and Beyond: Nation and Identity’. At the meeting, Andreas Jucker (University of Zurich) stepped down as president of SAUTE after six years. Anita Auer (University of Lausanne) was elected president. Lukas Erne (University of Geneva)

stepped down as the general editor of SPELL (*Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature*) after twelve years of service. He was replaced by Ina Habermann (University of Basel). The board member responsible for curricular matters Margaret Tudeau-Clayton (University of Neuchâtel) stepped down after six years of service. The outgoing president Andreas Jucker, the outgoing general editor of SPELL Lukas Erne, and the outgoing board member responsible for curricular matters Margaret Tudeau-Clayton were thanked for their service. The new board consists of Anita Auer (president), Martin Hilpert (treasurer), Virginia Richter (curricular matters), Ina Habermann (general editor of SPELL), Martin Mühlheim and Nicole Studer-Joho (secretaries, webmasters and bulletin editors). At the meeting, SAUTE was happy to welcome fifteen new members.

5. Outlook

In 2020, SAUTE will have its General Assembly at the University of Bern on 8 May. Michael C. Frank (University of Zurich) and Prof. Daniela Landert (Basel) have already agreed to give research presentations.

The SAUTE members Nicole Frey Büchel and Isabel Karremann (University of Zurich) will organize an event in the context of the SAGW event series “Wissensorte – Lieux de savoir”, notably a one-day symposium on the topic of “Wissen | Zeigen: Digitale Vermittlung von Text, Bild, Objekt”, which takes place at the Robinson-Bibliothek im Kunst(Zeug)Haus Rapperswil-Jona on 24 October 2020.

The SAUTE members Rachel Nisbet (University of Lausanne) and Anita Auer (University of Lausanne) will also organise two separate events related to the SAGW’s seed funding call on Sustainable Development Goals. Rachel Nisbet organises a one-day seminar on the topic of “Songlines for Resilient Communities in Senegal and Nepal” at Geneva’s Environment House conference rooms. SAUTE members’ contributions include papers on poetry and *phusis* (growth force of nature; Roy Sellars) and living nature in contemporary Australian poetry (Martin Leer). Anita Auer organizes a one-day networking event in autumn 2020 on the topic of “Language, Ageing and Well-being in Multilingual Switzerland”. This event aims to bring together and establish a dialogue between different parties interested in the topic of language, ageing and well-being in multilingual Switzerland, notably to establish a prioritized list of key concerns (gaps in research & most pressing challenges in the lives of the elderly as well as the work of carers).

Finally, as SAUTE will celebrate its 75th Anniversary in 2022, an anniversary committee is currently being created that will organise a range of different celebratory events. The organisation and preparation of these events start in the year 2020.

(5133 characters)