



ESPRit Newsletter No. 1, October 2010

1. Welcome

This is the first newsletter of ESPRit, the European Society for Periodical Research. To introduce ourselves, we have sent this to everyone who is involved—or may be interested in—periodical research. Below you can find information on how to become a member of ESPRit and receive these newsletters every six weeks.

WHAT IS ESPRIT?

ESPRit was founded in 2009 by a group of periodical researchers from Austria, Belgium, England, the Netherlands, Scotland, and the United States. The aim of the organisation is to unite the resources of individual scholars from various disciplines who work with periodicals. ESPRit takes an interdisciplinary approach and focuses on both English and non-English language periodicals. It transcends specific thematic interests, although the emphasis will be on European research.

ESPRit is affiliated with various European and American research groups, such as the *Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing*, the *Research Society for American Periodicals*, the *Research Society for Victorian Periodicals* and *Projectgroep Tijdschriftstudies* (Huizinga Institute, the Netherlands) to ensure a broadly international and transatlantic collaboration.

ESPRit members can stay in contact through the network website, which will keep track of current research in the field and serve as a platform to share research findings and material. The ESPRit core group will organise an annual international conference and /

or expert meeting, during which members can define common topics in the field of periodical research and explore ways to publish together.

WHO ARE WE?

The organisation of ESPRit consists of a group of mainly European scholars who are interested in periodical research. This is an overview of the current ESPRit team:

ESPRit core group:

Dr. Peter Buse (Salford University)
Prof. Odin Dekkers (Radboud University Nijmegen)
Prof. Marysa Demoor (University of Ghent)
Dr. Kristin Ewins (Salford University)
Dr. Wolfgang Görtschacher (University of Salzburg)
Prof. Alistair McCleery (Edinburgh Napier University)
Dr. Usha Wilbers (Radboud University Nijmegen)

ESPRit Advisory Board:

Prof. Margaret Beetham (Manchester Metropolitan University)
Dr. Ellen Gruber Garvey (New Jersey City University)
Dr. Linda Gunn (Edinburgh Napier University)
Prof. Sophie Levie (Radboud University Nijmegen)
Prof. Chris Atton (Edinburgh Napier University)
Prof. Antony Rowland (Salford University)

HOW CAN I BECOME A MEMBER?

You can become a member of ESPRit by signing up for the newsletter, which contains information about European periodical research and upcoming events. You will receive the newsletter every six weeks. If you have news (about conferences, book publications, research grants, etcetera) that you would like us to include in the newsletter, send an e-mail to esprit@let.ru.nl.

2. ESPRit events

Workshop Salford University, 3 June 2010

On June 3 Salford University organised a workshop on periodical research. With 22 participants, including academics and postgraduate students mostly from Salford but also from other universities in the North West of England, the event was a great success. As ESPRit core group member Kristin Ewins reports:

We were delighted by the enthusiasm with which everyone engaged in the group tasks and general discussion. The sense of research community was also helped by informal introductions by all participants at the very start, giving a background to their interests in periodical research, and revealing an impressive range of specialisms which spanned the long nineteenth century and the twentieth up until the present day. Professor Brian Maidment (Salford University) then led a discussion around "How to do periodicals research." He used a map he had drawn of the different approaches to periodicals research, on which we based small-group and general discussion, animated by having direct access to original copies of several nineteenth-century periodicals. Peter Buse (Salford University) and I then led a session on "Elements of the periodical" where we took Brian's exercise further by handing out a number of twentieth-century periodicals. One of the dominant topics of discussion was how periodical cultures change over time, and what implications this has on our study. Other themes that were raised in the first two sessions were editorial and production processes, regulation, frequency, readerships, distribution, contributors and price. The afternoon opened with another session led by Brian, this time on illustrations. Again, using a range of first-hand examples, he made us think about different methods of printing and representation across the nineteenth century. The day was concluded by a discussion of seriality and the relationship between article, issue and volume in periodicals research, led by Professor Margaret Beetham (Manchester Metropolitan University).

Call for Papers Edinburgh Conference

In the spring of 2011 ESPRit will organise its first conference, to be held at Edinburgh Napier University. The conference will be open to all ESPRit members. In particular, we welcome papers on research methods and on teaching with periodicals but the conference is open to papers on all aspects of periodical research. Papers will be of twenty minutes duration while panels will normally consist of three presenters.

The exact date of the conference and Call for Papers will be posted on our website in the coming months: <http://www.ru.nl/esprit>

3. Upcoming events of interest to ESPRit members

"Scientific Poetics in European Modernist and Avant-garde Magazines of the 1900s to the 1940s," an international ILLE conference (in collaboration with INTERMAG and OuDM) at Mulhouse University, 16-18 June 2011. The Call for Papers is available in French and English on the [conference website](#) [Deadline 15 November 2010]

4. Next newsletter

The next ESPRit newsletter will appear in late November. To sign up for the newsletter and become a member of ESPRit, register on our [website](#). If you have news that you'd like us to include in the newsletter, send an e-mail to esprit@let.ru.nl