



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Vigdis International Centre
under the auspices of UNESCO

2019

Annual Report



Foreword

The Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding works under the auspices of UNESCO and is a part of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages. The Vigdís Centre was formally inaugurated on 20 April 2017, on the opening day of Veröld – House of Vigdís, where the Centre is located.

The year 2019 was declared by UNESCO as the International Year of Indigenous Languages. To raise awareness on the topic, the Vigdís Centre used social media and local news media throughout the year to highlight global activities, research and projects related to the IYIL 2019. The Centre's main contribution in this field concerned the West-Nordic Region, since it was decided in 2014 that during the first years of its activities the Centre would put special emphasis on the ecology of languages, language contact and culture in this part of the world, i.e. the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the west coast of Norway.

In 2019, the Governing Board put considerable effort into the organisation of the Centre's regular activities in Iceland

as well as its participation in international events. Symposia, exhibitions and conferences took place in Veröld – House of Vigdís, and the Centre worked on the preparation of the interactive multimedia language exhibition, *The Living Language Lab*, which will be launched in the beginning of 2021. Another permanent exhibition, dedicated to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former president of Iceland, was also designed, and will open in September 2020 in Vigdísarstofa in Veröld – House of Vigdís. The Home Zone of languages was equipped with computers and screens, making it an excellent venue for symposia and other events for the general public as well as students. The Centre also participated in several conferences and events abroad, with emphasis on translation and multilingualism.

In 2020 we look forward to the opening of the two permanent exhibitions in Veröld – House of Vigdís. We will continue to promote studies of foreign languages and cultures, emphasizing the importance of translations both for cultural diversity and for the development of mother tongues, as well as continue to strengthen our international participation and impact in the field of mother-tongue-based multilingualism and language

policies. Next on the Centre's agenda is to actively cooperate and prepare for the International Decade of Indigenous Languages, which has been declared by the United Nations to begin in 2022.

The Vigdís Centre cooperated with numerous institutions and organizations in 2019, both in Iceland and internationally. Many of the Centre's events in 2019 were held in cooperation with members of the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages. The University of Iceland has also been extremely supportive of the Centre's work and activities. On behalf of the Governing Board of the Vigdís Centre, I would like to thank the staff, all participants, partners and patrons for their invaluable support.

Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir, Chair of the Board

Objectives and functions of the Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding

The Centre operates according to the Agreement between the Government of Iceland and UNESCO, signed on 27 June 2013. According to the Agreement, the objectives and the functions of the Centre are as follows (see art. 7.1 and 7.2 of the Agreement):

The objectives of the Vigdís Centre are to:

- a) promote multilingualism in order to further understanding, communication and respect between nations and cultures;
- b) raise awareness of the key role of languages as a basic aspect of the human cultural heritage;
- c) contribute to the preservation of languages;
- d) function as a clearing house in the fields of multilingualism and linguistic diversity for decision makers, experts and the general public;
- e) promote translation and translation studies in order to enhance the respect for, and enjoyment of, cultural diversity and intercultural understanding;
- f) contribute to worldwide monitoring of the implementation of language policies and language planning in the field of mother-tongue-based multilingualism;

- g) promote research and education in foreign language and culture studies;
- h) support and promote research into the role of the mother tongue as a human right;
- i) promote the investigation and analysis of and compilation of statistics on translation flows.

The function of the Centre shall be to:

- a) work towards and encourage the preservation of languages by maintaining and supporting digital archives for languages of the world;
- b) support language vitalisation and create a “planetarium of languages” – a combination of a real and virtual reality museum on the languages of the world with exhibitions to be experienced both on location and on the internet;
- c) promote and disseminate research on languages and cultures as an element of the human cultural heritage by supporting research chairs for outstanding scholars, including scholars from developing countries;
- d) provide a forum and facilities for international doctoral students and academics, especially from the developing countries;
- e) devise and make available worldwide strategies and methods in support of endangered and indigenous languages through research projects, conferences and publications;
- f) support outstanding research in the field of language policy and politics;
- g) provide facilities and expertise for research projects and disseminate results with a special view to the objectives of the centre;
- h) demonstrate how native language visions and focused language policy can enhance literacy and education

through the means of research projects and dissemination of knowledge;

- i) develop an international discussion platform;
- j) collaborate with all relevant UNESCO programmes, in particular in the field of translation flows observations, like the Index Translationum (International Translation Bibliography).

Furthermore, the Centre operates according to the Rules and the Procedures of the Vigdís Centre that were formally agreed upon by The Centre for Research in the Humanities at the University of Iceland on 27 November 2012.



Governing Board and staff

According to the UNESCO Agreement and the Rules and Procedures for the Vigdís Centre, the Governing Board makes all strategic decisions on behalf of the Centre and is responsible to the Board of the Centre for Research in the Humanities and the Dean of the School of Humanities for its finances. The board shall also ensure that the Centre fulfils its roles, decides on its research policies, grants funding for individual research projects and approves its annual operating budget and annual report.

Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir continued to serve as chair of the Governing Board of the Vigdís Centre in 2019. Other members of the Board, nominated by the University of Iceland, were Geir Þórarinn Þórarinsson and Þórhallur Eypórsson. Irmgarda Kasinskaite Buddeberg was UNESCO's representative on the board. Eiríkur Smári Sigurðarson continued as the representative of the Icelandic UNESCO-Committee and Guðrún Kvaran as the representative of the Minister of Education, Science and Culture.

The Governing Board of the Vigdís Centre held its annual meeting in Veröld – House of Vigdís on 6 September 2019. Irmgarda Kasinskaite Buddeberg participated in the meeting via Skype from Paris.

In accordance with the agreement between UNESCO and the Icelandic government, as well as the Centre's rules of procedure, the Governing Board decided in October 2017 to appoint an Executive Committee to handle the Centre's affairs on its behalf. This was done in order to ensure the effective running of the Centre between sessions of the board. The executive committee met on three occasions in 2019.

Sebastian Drude left his post as managing director of the Vigdís Centre in May 2019. Valgerður Jónasdóttir served as events manager and Halldóra Jóhanna Þorlákssdóttir as public relations manager and project manager. Þórunn Elísabet Bogadóttir served as public relations manager from April until December when she left her post.

Financial Support and Management

In 2019, the Government of Iceland approved funding to the Vigdís Centre of an annual 20,000,000 ISK for three years. The City of Reykjavík agreed annual funding of 3,000,000 ISK for three years 2017-2019, as well as special support for the Vigdís Square outside Veröld – House of Vigdís.

The Rector of the University of Iceland granted the Centre 15,000,000 ISK annually from 2017-2019 to cover the managing director's salary.

The Centre benefits from the goodwill and support which the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute has received from several organizations and individuals throughout the years. In 2019 efforts were made to provide funding to support its future operation.

Cooperation

The Vigdís Centre has cooperated with many different organisations both in Iceland and internationally. They include Linguapax, European Language Resources Association (ELRA), Common Language Resource and Technology Infrastructure (CLARIN), City of Reykjavík, City Library of Reykjavík, Icelandic Literature Centre, Reykjavík International Literary Festival, STÍL-Association of Foreign Language Teachers, Women Political Leaders (WPL), International Standardization Organization (ISO), Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL), InfoTerm, Modeling the Linguistic Consequences of Digital Language Contact (MoLiCoDiLaCo), the Nordic House, the Northern Lights Confucius Institute, the Association for Bilingualism (Móðurmál) and the Icelandic Association of Translators and Interpreters (THOT), the Gypsy Lore Society and the Embassies of Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Poland, Russia, Sweden and United States to Iceland.



Highlights of the Activities of the Centre

West Nordic network

Since its opening, the Centre has focused its activities on languages and cultures in the West Nordic Region, namely the Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and the west coast of Norway.

Two research networks related to this emphasis are now in operation. Auður Hauksdóttir is at the forefront of the West Nordic collaborative network Language and Culture contact in the West Nordic Area (Sprog- og kulturkontakt i Vestnorden), with the main research focus on the relationship between languages and culture in the area.

Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir leads the West-Nordic Language Barometer (Vestnordisk Sprogbarometer), with researchers from the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute, University of the Faroe Islands, University of Greenland and the Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language Use at the University of Copenhagen. The Language Barometer research project focuses on the use of English and Danish in the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Iceland, particularly in the school systems and media.

The International Year of Indigenous Languages

It is estimated that around 6,700 languages spoken around the world are in danger of disappearing, the majority of which are indigenous languages. To raise awareness of this global topic, the United Nations declared 2019 The International Year of Indigenous Languages. To celebrate IYIL 2019, the Vigdís Centre emphasized involving the cause of indigenous and endangered languages into the Centre's range of activities.

A special focus was on the Inuit languages of the Arctic, both in research collaboration and in a photographic exhibition and a seminar on Greenland that was held in the spring semester. The opening talk of The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series, given by professor of linguistics, Dr. Þórhallur Eypórsson, on indigenous and endangered languages, attracted great attention, and was followed by Latin American Movie Days, screening films in indigenous languages of the continent. *Islands of Cognition. Conference on the peculiarities of island languages*, organised by the Faculty of Icelandic Language at the University of Iceland in collaboration with the Vigdís Centre, was partly dedicated to indigenous languages.

Throughout the year, social media and local news media were utilized to highlight global activities, research and projects related to IYIL 2019.

Theatre Dialogues

Theatre Dialogues is a new series of events that started in the spring semester of 2019. In the series, directors, actors, translators and scholars come together to discuss foreign or translated/adapted theatre works, currently performed by the National Theatre and the Reykjavik Theatre Company.

Altogether four events were held in 2019, in collaboration with both theatres. The aim of the series is to discuss and promote theatre translations, literature, performers and directors and at the same time honour Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, a life-long patron and, since 2008, World Theatre Ambassador of The International Theatre Institute.

The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series

A series of scholarly lectures was organized by the Centre in the spring and autumn semesters of 2019, focusing on languages through the lenses of literature, translations, climate change discourse and media. Altogether 32 scholars participated in the series. A complete list of the lectures can be found later in this report.

First Encounters. Greenlanders in Ísafjörður in 1925 and Ittoqqortoormiit revisited

The photographic exhibition *First Encounters. Greenlanders in Ísafjörður in 1925* opened in Veröld – House of Vigdís in January. The exhibition covers the first visit by Greenlanders to Iceland and first formal encounter between the two nations.

The exhibition was made in collaboration with the National and University Library of Iceland and Ísafjörður Culture House. Exhibition creator was Sumarliði R. Ísleifsson. A seminar titled *Ittoqqortoormiit revisited: Images, memories and visions of Northern Greenland* was held in conjunction with the exhibition.

The UNESCO International Mother Language Day

UNESCO's International Mother Language Day is celebrated annually at the Centre to emphasize the importance of linguistic and cultural diversity and at the same time the importance of peace, respect and tolerance in all communities. Large groups of children aged 7-15 from two elementary schools in the capital area were invited to Veröld – House of Vigdís in the morning to participate in a project dedicated to multilingualism.

Roma in the Centre Conference and Workshop

Roma in the Centre is an initiative uniting several Romani Studies related projects, with a commitment to research, present and popularise — in Iceland, in the Nordic countries, in Europe and globally — the literature and culture of the Roma/Gypsies. The centrality of the Romani agency is crucial for the initiative's approach.

In 2019, two events were held as a part of the initiative: The Nordic Workshop *Roma in the Centre: Narratives by Roma in oral and written culture*, in June, and *GLS 2019: The Annual Conference on Gypsy / Romani Studies* which

was held in Veröld – House of Vigdís in August, along with the *Annual Meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society*. Both events were coordinated by Sofiya Zahova, ethnologist, post-doctoral researcher and specialist of Romani literature and culture.

Transitions / Vistabönd

The Art Exhibition *Transitions / Vistabönd* opened in Veröld – House of Vigdís on 29 August. Participating in the exhibition were many of Iceland's leading artists: composer Anna Þorvaldsdóttir, visual artists Karlotta Blöndal, Olivia Plender, Unnar Örn and Ragnar Kjartansson, and author Kristín Ómarsdóttir. The exhibition was set up in association with the conference *Migration / Vistaskipti*, held in the University of Iceland in collaboration with the University of Manitoba on 29-30 August.

Halldór Laxness International Literary Award

World renowned author Ian McEwan became the first recipient of the new Halldór Laxness International Literary Award which was awarded to him in Veröld – House of Vigdís in September. The prize is awarded to an internationally-recognised writer whose works are judged to have helped renew the art of literature. Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir presented the author with the award at the award ceremony, organized by the Reykjavík International Literary Festival in collaboration with the Vigdís Centre.

Seminars on translation in Paris and Tokyo

The Vigdís Institute and Centre launched a series of translation conferences in 2019. The purpose is threefold:

- to promote translations of Icelandic literature and cooperation with translators abroad;
- to promote and study translations of foreign literature in Iceland;
- to emphasize the importance of translators and their work.

The first seminar was organized in collaboration with the Icelandic Embassy in Paris, on the initiative of the Ambassador, Mr Kristján Andri Stefánsson, and took place in the Ambassador's residence on September 23, with the support of the Icelandic Literary Center and Icelandair.

Participants of the seminar were Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir, Bjarni Benedikt Björnsson, Catherine Eyjólfsson, Eric Boury, Hanna Steinunn Þorleifsdóttir, Hrafnhildur Hagalín, Jean-Christophe Salaün, Kristín Jónsdóttir, Pétur Gunnarsson, Steinunn Sigurðardóttir, and the representatives of French Publishing Houses.

The second seminar, dedicated to Icelandic Culture and Language, was held at Waseda University in Tokyo on October 25 and was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Iceland in Japan, on the initiative of the Ambassador, Mrs Elín Flygenring, and Waseda University. The seminar was opened by Aiji Tanaka, President of Waseda University, and Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland. Other participants were: Ásdís R. Magnúsdóttir, Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir, Kristín Ingvarsdóttir, Maji Christin Rhee, Makoto Murai, Nobuyoshi Mori, Sayaka Matsumoto, Shohei Watanabe and Yuriko Shibayama.

European Day of Languages

European Day of Languages is celebrated annually on September 26 in the Centre, in collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland. The day was devoted to children and language teachers. Children from Austurbæjarskóli elementary school were invited to participate in a language-related event, and language teachers were invited to a seminar on language teaching methods. The event was held with support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

Women, Leadership and the Sustainability of Languages and Cultures

International leaders met in Veröld – House of Vigdís in November, to discuss women, leadership and the sustainability of languages and cultures. Participants were Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister of Iceland, Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland, Julia Gillard, former Prime Minister of Australia, Dalia Grybauskaitė, former President of Lithuania and Irma Erlingsdóttir, Director of the UNU-Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme and Edda Research Center. The event was held

in conjunction with The Reykjavík Global Forum Women Leaders and organised in collaboration with the University of Iceland and the Council of Women Political Leaders.

Languages Open Up Worlds in English

The book *Languages Open Up Worlds. Words for Vigdís (Tungumál ljúka upp heimum. Orð handa Vigdís)* was first published in 2010, in celebration of the 80th birthday of Vigdís Finnbogadóttir. The book contains short essays on languages, written by twenty-seven renowned Icelandic writers. In 2019 an English translation of the book, by Megan Matich, was published, one year after the release of a Danish edition.

Café Lingua

The Vigdís Centre is a co-organizer of Café Lingua in Reykjavík. Café Lingua is a platform for those who want to enhance their Icelandic or other language skills, a place to communicate in and about various languages as well as a gateway into different cultures. The goal is to “unveil” the diverse linguistic treasures that have found their way to

Iceland, enriching life and culture, as well as giving international citizens the option to express themselves in Icelandic and to introduce their mother tongues to others.

The Living Language Lab

In September, a team of specialists lead by the linguist Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir, in collaboration with the design studio Gagarin, began working on *The Living Language Lab*, an interactive multimedia language exhibition to be opened in Veröld – House of Vigdís in the autumn of 2020. The exhibition will serve as an introduction to the diversity of the world's languages, aiming to raise awareness on the importance of languages and multilingualism in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue.

The Living Language Lab will be open to all, the prime target group being children and teenagers. School visits will be organized to the exhibition throughout the year, and a website dedicated to the exhibition, including resources for language-related activities designed for different age groups, is now being designed.



Events held by the Vigdís Centre and the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute in 2019

January

- Exhibition *Sagatid – Nutid / The Icelandic Sagas Revisited*, opened in December 2018 and ended on 30 January 2019.
- *Ius Sanguinis or Ius Soli – Race or Place? European Notions of Nationhood and Indigenous Ethics of Ethnicity*. Lecture by Hartmut Lutz, professor emeritus of Greifswald-University in Germany and Szczecin-University in Poland.
- *First Encounters. Greenlanders in Ísafjörður in 1925 and Ittoqqortoormiit revisited*. Photographic Exhibition.
- *Shocking Secret: The Scandal of Female Agency & Autonomy in Sensation Fiction*. Lecture by Jessica Murphy, adjunct lecturer of English at the University of Iceland. við Háskóla Íslands. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Japan-Festival*. Held in collaboration with the department of Japanese Studies at the University of Iceland and the Embassy of Japan in Iceland.
- *Translating Dante*. Lecture by Einar Thoroddsen and Jón Thoroddsen, translators, and baroque harp performance by Sólveig Thoroddsen. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- French Film Festival. Screenings of the films *Kennedysyllan, Swagger* og *Strákarnir að austan*, in collaboration with the Embassy of France in Iceland and the department of French Studies at the University of Iceland.
- *How Polish are you?* Lecture by Anna Rabczuk, lecturer of Polish language at the University of Warsaw, as part of the program for *Polish Days*, held in collaboration with the Language Centre of the University of Iceland.
- Polish Movie Days. Screenings of the films *Planeta Singli* og *Najlepszy*, as part of the programme for *Polish Days*, held in collaboration with the Language Centre of the University of Iceland.
- Open House in Veröld – House of Vigdís at the Reykjavik Museum Night. French and Greek music performance by *Les Métèques* and free dance lessons.
- Teacher Training Workshop: *Lectio divina*. Instructed by Ármann Halldórsson, language teacher. In collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland.
- Book launch: *Translations of the Poetry of Pablo Neruda*, edited by Hólmfríður Garðarsdóttir, professor of Spanish at the University of Iceland.
- *Friends of Veröld*. Language students of University of Iceland performed music and poetry.
- *Jane Austen among Women*. Lecture by Alda Björk Valdimarsdóttir, associate professor of literature at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Conference on the translations of Ingibjörg Haraldsdóttir*. In collaboration with the Icelandic Association of Translators and Interpreters and the Embassy of Russia in Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- *The UNESCO International Mother Language Day*. School children invited to participate in a project dedicated to multilingualism, and a seminar on translation between Chinese and Icelandic held in collaboration with the Confucius Institute.

March

- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- Book launch: *Narratives of African American Women's Literary Pragmatism and Creative Democracy*, edited by Gregory Alan Phipps, assistant professor of English literature at the University of Iceland.
- *University Day*. Introduction to the Vigdís Centre for University students.
- *Translanguaging among the Roma: Everyday Practices, Representation in Literature and Application in Education*. Lecture by Sofiya Dimitrova Zahova, post-doc researcher at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- Latin American Movie Days: Screenings of the films *Sueno en otro idioma*, *Ixcanul*, *Bolivia* og *Mala Junta*, in collaboration with the department of Spanish at the University of Iceland
- *Behind the scenes: Modern-day Ancient Near Eastern Archaeology in Iraq. Examples of Three Projects of the University of Heidelberg*. Lecture by Jan Heiler at the University of Heidelberg.
- *Theatre Dialogue: Richard III*. In collaboration with the Reykjavík City Theatre.
- *On the Climate Discourse of Japan*. Lecture by Kristín Ingvarsdóttir, assistant professor in Japanese studies at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Literatura argentina y violencia: Cuántos modos de narrar el horror existen?* Lecture by Manuel Quaranta, professor at the University of Rosario, Argentina.
- *What I did in Iceland*. Lecture by Pulitzer-prize author Jane Smiley. In collaboration with the Embassy of the United States in Iceland and the University of Iceland.
- *Seminar on Nordic Languages*. In collaboration with SNU, RÍM and the Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies.

- *Alexander Pushkin and Duke Peter Alexandrovich of Oldenburg*. Lecture by Emma Annenkova, historian, and performance of Alexandra Tsjernyshova, opera singer.
- Argentine Movie Days: Screenings of the films *Nueve reinas*, *Zama* and *Los rubios*, in collaboration with the department of Spanish at the University of Iceland.

April

- *Translanguaging Practices in Secondary Education*. Lecture by Piotr Romanowski, adjunct lecturer at the University of Warsaw.
- *Word Poetry*. Lecture by Ástráður Eysteinnsson, professor of literature at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Roma, the film*. Lecture by Emma Martinell, professor emerítus at the University of Barcelona.
- Introduction to *LEXIA – Icelandic-French Online Dictionary*. Lecture by Rósa Elin Davíðsdóttir, lecturer in French at the University of Iceland, in collaboration with Alliance Française.
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- *Asian Art – Past and Present*. Seminar in collaboration with the Northern Light Confucius Institute.
- *Litusic: Literature and Music*. Performance by Argentine sociologist Enrique del Acebo Ibáñez and pianist Javier Miranda.
- *Theatre Dialogue: Midsummer Night's Dream*. In collaboration with the National Theatre of Iceland.
- *Seminar on Multilingualism and Education*. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Are you home, dear Jelena?* Lecture by Rebekka Þráinsdóttir, adjunct lecturer of Russian at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *Islands of Cognition. Conference on the peculiarities of island languages*, organised by the Faculty of Icelandic Language at

the University of Iceland in collaboration with the Vigdís Centre.

- *Seminar on Icelandic Nobel Laureate Halldór Laxness*, in collaboration with Gljúfrasteinn Museum, the Embassy of Norway in Iceland, Fritt ord and the Norwegian Arts Council.
- *Orðstír 2019: Seminar on Translations*, organised in collaboration with the Reykjavík International Literary Festival.
- Teacher Training Workshop: *Drama in Language Teaching*. Instructor: Ásta Ingibjartsdóttir. In collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland.
- *The dark and difficult aspects of human nature*. Lecture by Canadian author Iain Reid.
- *Theatre Dialogue: A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In collaboration with the National Theatre of Iceland.
- *Theatre Dialogue – Tartuffe*. In collaboration with the National Theatre of Iceland.

May

- *Civility, civilization and power*. Lecture by Hélène Merlin-Kajman, professor of French literature at the Sorbonne Nouvelle University.
- *Seminar on the literary works of Palestinian-Icelandic author Mazen Maarouf*.
- *Ittoqqortoormiit revisited: Images, memories and visions of Northern Greenland*, seminar on the first encounters of Greenlanders and Icelanders in 1925.
- *Neo-liberalism and Environment in Latin America*. Lecture by Hólmfríður Garðarsdóttir, professor of Spanish at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.

June

- *Roma in the Centre: Narratives by Roma in oral and written culture*. Nordic Workshop on the Roma.

August

- *GLS 2019: The Annual Conference on Gypsy / Romani Studies and Annual Meeting of the Gypsy Lore Society*. In collaboration with the Gypsy Lore Society and the department of Anthropology at the University of Iceland.
- Art Exhibition *Transitions / Vistabönd* set up in association with the conference Migration / Vistaskipti, held in the University of Iceland in collaboration with the University of Manitoba.
- Visit of Mary Robinson, former Prime Minister of Ireland.

September

- *Indigenous languages and endangered languages*. Lecture by Þórhallur Eypórsson, professor of linguistics at the University of Iceland, *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *The role of languages in Roma, Alfonso Cuarón's masterpiece*. Lecture by Juan Pablo Mora, associate professor at the University of Sevilla.
- *Globalization, Media and Culture*. Lecture by Ragnar Karlsson, project manager at the department of political studies at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series*.
- *The Autocrat's Tongue: Interpreting for Soviet Leaders from Stalin to Gorbachev*. Lecture by Andrei Rogatchevski, professor of Russian literature at the University of Tromsø.
- *Between war and reform: Ukraine after the 2019 "reset"*. Lecture by Volodymyr Kulyk, specialist at the Kuras Research Centre in Kiev.
- Russian Movie Day. Screening of the film *Butterfly* in collaboration with Russian Studies at the University of Iceland.
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.

- *Be-loved: Toni Morrison and the Redemptive Possibilities of Love.* Lecture by Gregory Alan Phipps, assistant professor of English literature at the University of Iceland, *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *Remaking Carmen in Spanish Cinema.* Lecture by Jose Colmeiro, lecturer at the University of Auckland.
- Chinese Movie Days. Screenings of the films *Feeling from Mountain and Water*, *The Monkey King*, *Hero*, *The Knot* og *Thunderstorm*, in collaboration with Northern Light Confucius Institute.
- Ian McEwan received the first Halldór Laxness International Literary Award, event in collaboration with the Reykjavík International Literary Festival.
- Teacher Training Workshop: *Identity and language learning.* Instructor: Renata Peskova. In collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland.
- *European Day of Languages.* Language activity for school children and a seminar on language teaching methods. Held in collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland with support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.
- *West-Nordic Day Seminar*, in collaboration with the West-Nordic Council, the Nordic House and the Nordic Association.
- *Towards Transnational Feminist Gender-awareness in Translation Studies: Challenges and Solutions.* Lecture by Louise Von Flotow, professor at the University of Ottawa, *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *A Modern Viking Story: Continuity and Identity, Independence and Interdependence.* Lecture by author Glenn Sigurdsson from Manitoba.
- *Overdoing Democracy: The Problem of Political Polarization.* Lecture by Robert Talisse, professor of philosophy at the Vanderbilt University.
- *Earthrise: The Imagery of the Environmental Movement.* Screening of the film *Earthrise* and panel discussion on climate change. In collaboration with the Embassy of the United States in Iceland, Association of Young Environmentalists and the American Film Showcase.
- *What are They Reading? The Nature of English Exposure of Children and Young People in Iceland.* Lecture by Ásrún Jóhannsdóttir, adjunct lecturer of English at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *An ode to the short story.* Seminar organised in collaboration with STUTT – Research Centre of Short Stories at the University of Iceland.
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- *Theatre Dialogue: ÖR.* In collaboration with the National Theatre of Iceland.
- *Los portafolios digitales en la formación inicial docente.* Lecture by Isabel Murillo Wilstermann, Spanish lecturer at the University of Kiel.
- *Italian Film Festival* in collaboration with RAI Italia, and Italian Studies at the University of Iceland. Screenings of the films *Ride*, *Fiore gemelle*, *Sembra mio figlio* and *Non sono un assassino*.
- Teacher Training Workshop: *Lyrics and music in language learning.* Instructor: Ármann Halldórsson. In collaboration with STÍL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland.
- *The Reinvention of Agnes Magnúsdóttir and the Role of Icelandic Landscape, Nature and Seasons in Hannah Kent's Burial Rites.* Lecture by Ingibjörg Ágústsdóttir, associate professor of English at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *Argentine Literary Evening.* Introduction to the works of Denise León and Fabián Soberón, teachers at Tucumán University.
- Screening of argentinian documentaries *Alas* and *Luna en llamas* by Fabián Soberón, filmmaker and teacher at the Tucumán University.

October

November

- *How a house is made: Contemporary Argentinean Poetry Written by Women.* Lecture by Denise León, lecturer at the Tucumán University.
- *Tübingen for 20 years.* Lecture by Oddný Sverrisdóttir, professor of German language at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- Café Lingua Language Rendez-Vous.
- *Vanishing point? Holocaust commemoration 80 years after the outbreak of WWII.* Lecture by Tomasz Łysak, teacher at the University of Warsaw.
- Swedish Movie Days. Screenings of the films *Låt den rätte komma in*, *Mitt liv som hund*, *Tillsammans* and *Det sjunde inseglet*, in collaboration with the department of Swedish at the University of Iceland.
- Salento International Film Festival (SIFF), in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Norway and Italian Studies at the University of Iceland. Screening of the films *Il ministro*, *Quiet Bliss* og *The Ark of Disperata*.
- Panel discussion: *Foreign news in Iceland.* *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *Seminar: American Literary Naturalism and Its Descendants.* Organized by Gregory Alan Phipps, assistant professor of English at the University of Iceland.
- Panel discussion: *Women, Leadership and the Sustainability of Languages and Cultures.* Held in conjunction with The Reykjavík Global Forum Women Leaders, and organised in collaboration with the University of Iceland and the Council of Women World Leaders.
- Teacher Training Workshop: *“Do what you love” – The role of emotions in foreign language teaching and learning.* Instructor: Maria Del Pilar C. Coello, in collaboration with STIL – The Association of Language Teachers in Iceland.

- *On the feminist translations of the Algerian writer Assia Djebar.* Lecture by Irma Erlingsdóttir, associate professor at the University of Iceland. *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- *Språksamhällen av idag – stora och små. Villkor och utveckling,* seminar in collaboration with the Swedish Örtendahls fund.

December

- *Seminar on work-related language teaching.* *The Vigdís Centre Lecture Series.*
- Book launch: *Languages Open up Worlds – Words for Vigdís.*
- Café Lingua. *World Christmas.* Christmas sing-along with the multicultural Choir Múltikúltikórinn.

Thanks

The Governing Board of the Vigdís International Centre for Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding wishes to thank all those who contributed to the Centre's work and activities in 2019. Sincere thanks go to Dr. Sebastian Drude, the executive manager of the Centre until May 2019, and Þórunn Elísabet Bogadóttir who served as a public relations manager until December 2019. We also wish to thank Dr. Birna Arnbjörnsdóttir, director of The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute, for a rewarding and inspiring collaboration.

The Vigdís Centre would not have become a reality had it not been for the financial support it has received, as well as the help and encouragement from the University of Iceland, the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute for Foreign Languages and its former director, Auður Hauksdóttir, and the International Advisory Board. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to Vigdís Finnbogadóttir for her unfaltering support to the Centre and its staff.

The Vigdís International Centre for
Multilingualism and Intercultural Understanding
Annual Report 2019

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