

HORÁRIO: 10:30 – 12:15 (Brasília)

ACLA Vice Presidential Panel - Geopolitics of Comparison around the World

Shu-mei Shih

Organizer

Wail S. Hassan

Co-Organizer

Comparative Literature in South Korea and its Task toward Decentralization

Presenter

Sangjin Park - sangjinpark64@gmail.com
Busan University of Foreign Studies

Abstract Info

This paper aims to discuss how the comparative literature in Korea, as a peripheral context of literature, needs to be related to a more universal dimension of literature such as East Asian literature, global literature or world literature or literature itself. For this, some aspects of theoretical position will be examined by highlighting the concepts of openness, other-ing, contextualization, de-homogenization, de-centralization, and universalization, so as to contributing to the multi-layered strata of Comparative Literature around the World.

Speaker Bio

Sangjin Park received his Ph.D. from the University of Oxford and served as Visiting Professor at Harvard University and University of Pennsylvania. He is the former Vice-President of Korean Comparative Literature Association, and currently Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at Busan University of Foreign Studies, Korea, and the author of "Semiotics and Theory of Openness, Reading Dante's Comedy: Universality of Classic and Sensibility to the Other", and "A Comparative Study of Korean Literature: Literary Migration", among others.

Comparative Practice, Plurality and the Ethics of Difference

Presenter

Ipshita Chanda - pixybee@gmail.com
English and Foreign Languages University

Abstract Info

Historically, plurality characterises the cultures of South Asia, and in the circumstances, literary and cultural practices as well as the scholarship related to them naturally demand a comparative approach. Yet, the fundamental (mis)conception of a nation with a single homogenous culture as a distinct category of analysis, raises questions about the location of the comparative approach, and its relation with society itself. I argue that alterity makes possible the act of comparison: 'comparative' reading and scholarly practices, are founded upon the fact of otherness. In this context, engagement with difference becomes the conceptual frame of reference for our discipline. A comparative approach to understanding culture and literature involves an engagement with alterity and demands an ethics grounded in plurality and relationality, eschewing instituted binaries. I submit that this approach of engaging alterity through a pluralist frame is not applicable exclusively to South Asian contexts, but can serve as a model for comparative literature scholarship in general.

Speaker Bio

Dr. Ipshita Chanda is Professor of Comparative Literature, School of Literary Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. She has a teaching experience of twenty-seven years at institutions of national repute like Jadavpur University, Calcutta and English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. She has also been Principal Investigator in various research projects funded by UGC and Jadavpur University. She has worked in theory of literature and comparative approaches to Indian language literatures and served as ICCR Chair professor of Indian Culture at Georgetown University, Washington DC in the year 2013-14.

A Bandung Conference Revival in Southeast Asia?

Presenter

Nazry Bahrawi - nazry_bahrawi@sutd.edu.sg
Singapore University of Technology and Design

Abstract Info

Animated by the question of Southeast Asia's place in the world, this presentation will outline the decolonial strategies of comparative analysis employed by contemporary literary and cultural scholars of the multilingual, multicultural region that is normatively divided into mainland and maritime Southeast Asia. In particular, I will consider works that deal with translation,

ecocriticism and theoretical interventions that are reminiscent of the pan-Asian spirit of the 1955 Bandung Conference.

Speaker Bio

Nazry Bahrawi specialises in the comparative study of texts, theories and traditions of Indian Ocean cultures between the Malay Archipelago and the Middle East. He is a senior lecturer at the Singapore University of Technology and Design and an editor-at-large at Wasafiri magazine. He is working on two co-edited volumes on Southeast Asia. The first investigates the region's littoral zones and the other explores its engagement with theory.

Unreconstructive Disciplinarity: Positioning Comparativism in the World

Presenter

Ayman El-Desouky - ayman.eldesouky@dohainstitute.edu.qa
Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

Abstract Info

This presentation will offer a brief overview of the challenges, disciplinary, theoretical, institutional and pedagogical, of establishing a new program in Comparative Literature in the Arab and Middle Eastern regions. The vision of the program rests on the reconceptualization of comparativism as a fundamentally critical hermeneutical act, repositioned, philologically rigorous and cognizant of the endemic historical, cultural and institutional power differentials in the cartographic imaginary of the discipline. Still in its experimental foundational phase, as a pioneering venture in the region, the Comparative Literature Program at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies is not yet afforded the expansive luxuries of a larger department setting. The vision has had to be precise in its focus, conscious of its positioning vis-à-vis the discipline at large and the current theoretical and definitional challenges, as well as structured in the modes in which it can be translated into a curricular configuration. Tapping into a locally unique situation of multilinguality, comparativism is reconceptualized and activated as the untranslatable of crossing that requires thinking in more than one language and with non-proprietary philological resourcefulness. Though historically a latter-day neologism, comparativism has remained the logical priority of disciplinary formation. Disciplinarity is most called for in a region long ruled by established national language and literature departments (historically modelled on the British or French systems, though recently morphing into hybrid forms with the American system). The program's insistence on the designation of the discipline as such is unreconstructive and is a deliberate strategy in face of potential reduction to the question of "method" in the debates on world literature or the return to the literary, that is no return, in the recent advances in postcolonial theory.

Speaker Bio

Ayman A. El-Desouky is Associate Professor of Modern Arabic and Comparative Literature and Founding Chair of the new Program in Comparative Literature at Doha Institute for Graduate Studies (2018-2020). El-Desouky was the Founding Chair of SOAS's Centre for Cultural, Literary and Postcolonial Studies (CCLPS, 2009-2012) and cofounder of the pioneering degree English at SOAS (launched in 2014) at SOAS, University of London. He studied English and Comparative Literature at the American University in Cairo and Comparative Literature at the University of Texas at Austin. He has lectured on World Literature and American Literature at the University of Texas at Austin (1993-1995) and on Arabic Language and Literature at the Johns Hopkins University (1995-1996), where he founded a new Program in Arabic Language and Literature, and at Harvard University (1996-2002).