

PURDUE COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER



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A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR PROFESSOR BEATE ALLERT

So glad to come out of the remote modus operandi as necessary during the past two years of the covid pandemic. It is wonderful to communicate face to face again. I have enjoyed my fall 2022 sabbatical while continuing to attend to my tasks as Comparative Literature program director.

We were able to maintain a vibrant CMPL program and have currently seven wonderful grad students. I hope that more incoming graduate students will be admitted in fall 2022.

I presented papers at SLSA at Purdue U and at ICR in Santa Barbara, CA, grateful to the support of an ASPIRE Grant. My co-edited volume Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World, is scheduled to be published by Purdue U Press in 2023 and I plan to offer a graduate course titled “Cosmos: Postcolonial Environmentalism” based on related research (see flyer under Courses offered in 2023 below). The CMPL course will be cross-listed with LC and ENGL.



School of Interdisciplinary Studies

DEPARTURES

Thank you to our previous Graduate Coordinator and Assistant to the Head of SIS, **Brandi Plantenga**. She has left SIS in August 2022 for another position at Purdue University.

Congratulations and thanks also to **Matilda Stokes**, our former SIS scheduling deputy on her retirement. Heartfelt thanks for all their excellent work for us over the years and best wishes for the future!!

WELCOMES

Andrea Furrer is now our CMPL graduate assistant and **Kayla Scott** the new Lead Administrative Assistant and SIS events organizer, among other duties.

Special congrats go to our **Stacey A. Smythe**, ABD in Comparative Literature, who has now taken the position as the SIS Program Manager and Assistant to Professor Lopez, Head of SIS.

We are also continuously thankful to **Andrea Furrer**, our help with the graduate student registration and graduate program events.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONALIZING

Thanks to **Gwénäel Jouin** for having served as our CMPL senator in the Purdue U Senate until October 2023, now replaced by new senator **Marisa Bryans**.
Congratulations to both !!

Thanks also to **Gwénäel Jouin** for having served as a moderator in one of the SLSA panels at Purdue U in October 2022.

Our monthly CMPL luncheons this fall were organized first by **Stacey Smythe**, ABD in CMPL, and then **Gwénäel Jouin** as our new “social committee chair.” Thanks for that.

COMPLETED CMPL DOCTORATES

Fan, Jiacheng, Ph.D. in CMPL 2022: “Tracking *Shishi* in Contemporary Chinese Historical Novels.” (directed by Allert) defended his dissertation successfully in May.

Here we are celebrating Dr. Jiacheng Fan in the middle with Profs Hsieh, Allert, Wang-Route and Hughes at the portal of the newly renovated Purdue U Memorial Union hotel.



Rodriguez de Jesus, Alejandro, Ph.D. in CMPL 2022: “Sharing Dylan’s Euphantasistos Role in Francoist Spain in the Context of Commodified Culture.” (directed by Prof. Morris; other committee members were Prof. Hart, Lopez, Allert) We celebrated with his parents and younger brother attending the commencement ceremony and the celebration afterwards. They came from Spain to West Lafayette to celebrate Alejandro and we had fun meeting them also before Alejandro or Dr. Rodrigue flew back with them to Spain.

Wang, Lang, Ph.D. in CMPL 2021. “Aspirations and Ambivalences of the New Woman: French and Chinese Women’s Press and Fiction in the Early Twentieth Century, 1900–1930” (Broden). She has a tenure track academic teaching position in China now.

Wang, Meng, Ph.D. in CMPL 2021. “An Annotated Translation of Chapters 21-30 of the Late Ming Dynasty Novel, *Xingshi yinyuan zhuan* 醒世姻缘傳 (Marriage Destinies to Awaken the World)” (Hughes). She is an Assistant Professor of Asian Studies in the Department of World Languages and Cultures, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA.

Current good news is that **Zhiyu Zhang** received a Ross-Lynn Fellowship to be able to complete her dissertation titled “War Literature and Cinema: Representation and Reimagination of Trauma, Witnessing, and Memory of Chinese Women after the 20th Century” to support her dissertation writing August 2022-August 2023.

COMPLETED MASTER’S WORK

We had three students complete their Master’s theses in CMPL at Purdue this year: **Hassan Muhammed Butt** who after his two year Fulbright Fellowship with us at Purdue returned to Pakistan, **Rachel Hackett** whose MA thesis was ranked as best in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and **Han Hao** who accepted admission into the UC Santa Barbara PhD program in CMPL with his MA from Purdue U and with a fellowship. (For more details on these students and pictures, see our last year’s CMPL Newsletter of 2021).

COMPLETED PRELIMS

Gwénäel Jouin and **Andrew Kroninger** both completed their Prelims with success.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

Welcome to three new Graduate Students in Comparative Literature, who were selected from more than 20 applications into our Purdue University Comparative Literature program in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Thanks to the Steering Committee and the CMPL affiliated faculty involved in the annual admissions process, as well as in offering courses, including CMPL 590s, Independent Study courses in order to fulfill those needs and research interests. New members of the Comparative Literature Steering Committee are Dr. Ahmed Idrissi Alami and Dr. Pedro Bossoe and thanks to Dr. Angelica Duran who stepped down from her membership in the CMPL Steering committee where she served for many years. (Current members also include Drs. Allert, Coda, Hsieh, Hughes, and Lopez).

Marisa Bryans



Marisa earned a bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Medieval Studies from Indiana University, and a Master's degree in English with a focus on Medieval Literature from Purdue University. They have taught ENGL 10600 and worked in the OWL and are dedicated to student's learning and ability to engage in language ad literature, They are mainly interested in queerness and gender fluidity in Medieval English and French texts and their research is also primarily focused on cross-dressing and medieval material culture. They came with a wonderful CLA Research Grant into the CMPL PhD program with a MA from the English Department at Purdue.

Sarah Jaran



Sarah earned a bachelor's degree in Comparative Literature from Lycoming College and a Master's in Medieval Studies from Western Michigan University. She spent two years teaching high-school level Latin and French in New haven, CT. These experiences have helped to shape her interest in cultural literary analysis, particularly focusing on connections across English, French, and Latin in the Medieval Period. Sarah also has a keen interest in food culture, specifically representations of food in texts.

Rajaa Moini



Born in Karach Pakistan, Rajaa Mohini is currently pursuing her love of literature as a Fullbright Scholar at Purdue. A journalist by profession, her work lies at the intersection of literature, religion, and philosophy, exploring the process of living, grieving, and dying in a world tormented by apocalypses of too many different kinds. She is also completely obsessed with things monstrous, magical, and occult (in books and otherwise).

RECENT EVENTS

35th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts

Dr. Paula Leverage (Associate Professor, and Director of the Center for NeuroHumanities, School of Languages and Cultures), as the conference chair of the **35th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts**, organized a program on intersections of the humanities with AI technologies, which emerged from a grant proposal submitted in March 2022, “Reading Minds: Neural Networks, Artificial Intelligence and the Reading Human.” Over the course of the last few months, Dr. Leverage presented her research at three conferences: a) in June she participated in the 38th International Conference on Psychology and the Arts (held virtually this year), speaking on “Reading Minds in Marcel Carné’s *Les Visiteurs du soir*.” In September she travelled to a conference at the Université de Perpignan to present “Giono au Canada: manifester l’inaperçu à travers une adaptation animée.” At the SLSA conference at Purdue, she gave a paper which focused on the environmental humanities.

Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, and the Reading Human

From October 6 to 9, over 200 researchers from across North America, from several European countries, as well as from Australia and Singapore, gathered on the West Lafayette campus of Purdue University for the 35th annual conference of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, on the theme of **Artificial Intelligence, Neural Networks, and the Reading Human**. The papers and roundtables represented the fields of literary and film studies, visual and performing arts, machine learning, psychology, philosophy and ethics, environmental studies, history, media studies, computer graphics technology, the medical humanities, and more. The program chair for the conference was Dr. Paula Leverage (School of Languages and Cultures, Center for NeuroHumanities, and Comparative Literature). The three keynote speakers for the conference were Anna Ridler (artist), K Allado-McDowell (author with GPT-3 of *Pharmako-AI*) and Donald Spector (physicist). In conjunction with the conference, Professors Shannon McMullen and Fabian Winkler from the Rueff School curated an art exhibition “[At a Juncture](#)” which was integrated in the conference through a number of workshops. The program in Comparative Literature was well represented at the conference with several faculty and former students presenting their research:

- **Beate Allert** (professor of German and CMPL, director of Comparative Literature), “Horaz, Goethe, and Klee: On the Move from Optics to Chromatics.”
- **Tatevik “Tato” Gyulamiryan** (PhD alum in Comparative Literature, Spanish Literature, 2015), “Reading Emotions in Don Quixote.”
- **Paula Leverage** (faculty in French), “Affective Engagement with Birdsong: Beyond Anthropocentrism”; and participant in Roundtable: “Are you R(obotic)? Can Visiting an AI Mind Tell Us Anything About Our Own?”

RECENT EVENTS, cont.

- Howard Mancing** (professor emeritus of Spanish), “Embodied Cognition and AI: What AI Cannot Do.”
- Jen William** (professor of German, head of SLC), “On Banned Books and Measuring Readers’ Empathy in the Digital Era.”

The conference was co-sponsored by Comparative Literature in addition to the support from many departments and programs across the colleges of Liberal Arts, Science, Engineering, and Library Science. For a full list of the sponsors, and the conference program, please refer to the conference website: <https://litsciarts.org/slsa2022/>

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY AFFILIATED FACULTY

Dr. Hongjian Wang Route was promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor with tenure at Purdue University

Dr. Olga Lyanda Geller was promoted from Continuous Lecturer to tenure track Assistant Professor at Purdue University.

PUBLICATIONS

Prof. Hughes published the following articles: [“Who is Selkolla and what is she?': Disentangling Traditions in *Guðmundar sögur byskups*.”](#) *Sainthood, Scriptoria, and Secular Erudition in Medieval and Early Modern Scandinavia: Essays in Honor of Kirsten Wolf*, edited by Dario Bullitta and Natalie M. Van Deusen, *Acta Scandinavica* 13 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2022), 171-92 and “Some Thoughts on *The Northman* (2022),” *Arthuriana* 32.2 (2022): 89-101.

He also delivered the Inaugural Stephan Grundy Medieval Lecture, sponsored by the Dedman College of Humanities Medieval Matters Group, and the Medieval Studies Program at Southern Methodist University in April, 2022 with the title: “Stephan Grundy, *Rheingold* (1993) and *Beowulf* (2019): The Past on the Cusp of Tomorrow.”

Available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-x3wMROrj18>

In November 2022, he presented on “Heinrich Zschokke (1771-1848). and Race: Unresolved Contradictions,” at International Conference on Romanticism: Persuasions: The Rhetoric of Romanticism, held at the University of California Santa Barbara.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY OUR ALUMNI

Great news about our Alumnus **Dr. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo**, who in Spring 2022 spoke on campus on his book based on his dissertation, *[Children of Globalization: Diasporic Coming-of-Age Novels in Germany, England, and the United States](#)* (2020), who is very happy with his new tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of African and or Multicultural American Literatures at Rhode Island College since August 2022, after having completed his 2 year post doc at UNAM in Mexico City.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY CURRENT GRAD STUDENTS

Gwénäel Jouin and **Andrew Kroninger** did their prelims successfully this year and will both have their prospectus defense done, hence be advanced to candidacy status officially ABD (All But Dissertation) by the end of this semester. Thanks to Gwénäel who served as Comparative Literature representative on the Purdue University Senate until September 2022 and our new senator Marisa Bryans who joined our PhD program in Comparative Literature with a Ross-Lynn Fellowship in August 2022.

We had three students successfully **complete their MA thesis: Rachel Hackett, Hassan Muhammed Butt, and Han Hao**. Rachel's thesis was selected as the best MA thesis for SIS in 2021-22, Hassan went back to Pakistan after his 2 year Fulbright Fellowship while completing his MA with us, and Han Hao accepted a fellowship offer in Comparative Literature at the University of California in Santa Barbara beginning August 2022 after he received his MA on CMPL at Purdue University. Congratulations all around!

Our graduate student **Ching-Jen Sun**, who is currently preparing his Prelims and working towards his PhD in Comparative Literature with a focus in Transpacific Literature, writes:

“I am attaching the links to my works in this email.

There are three separate online streaming platforms; you probably have to pay to listen to them on Apple music, but Spotify and Streetvoice (this is a good website full of Taiwanese music) are free.

Apple Music: <https://reurl.cc/Q7eKOb>

Spotify: <https://reurl.cc/3N7n5l>

Streetvoice: <https://reurl.cc/0D9q2K>

The name of my band is called The Strangers.

I'm the mastermind of the four-people band. It's a post-rock band; think of it as a symphony but played with guitars, bass, and drums without vocals and lyrics.

A good portion of my songs are written during my worst years of depression; others talk about the Taiwanese's alienation from our native land.

Either way, these songs are the children of my soul.

Please enjoy them and do share them around!

Ching-Jen Sun, Ph.D. Student in Comparative Literature
Purdue University”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Chinese Studies Colloquium, Monday, March 20, 2023 3:00 pm-4:15 pm, WALC 3154
Spring 2023 by the School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University, Co-sponsored by Asian Studies and Comparative Literature programs.

Dr. Yuhan Huang, “Literature in the Age of #MeToo: Retelling Sexual Violence in Fang Si-chi’s *First Love Paradise* and its Reception”

Dr. Yuhan Huang (Alumna in CMPL from Purdue U), is an Assistant Professor in Modern Languages and Cultures at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York. She earned her Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at Purdue University in 2018. Her dissertation was on childhood memories of the Maoist era in China, *Remembrance and Ruminations: the 1.5 Generation of the Chinese Cultural Revolution*. Her current research interests include Gender Studies, Film Studies, and Youth Culture. She is working on a book project, *Narrating Puberty: Sex, Love, and Violence in Chinese Coming-of-Age Narratives*.



Abstract: The 2017 novel Fang Si-chi’s *First Love Paradise* by Taiwanese author Lin Yi-han (1991-2017) is not only an important literary work on sexual violence, but also an influential resource for grassroots gender movements in mainland China. The name of the book’s protagonist, Fang Si-chi, has become a commonly used hashtag on Chinese social media, an intriguing phenomenon requiring critical attention. This talk will provide a contextualized reading of the novel by combining literary studies with analysis of social media data. By conducting a close reading of the book, I analyze the ways in which the novel creates a compelling narrative about the mental struggles of making sense of and speaking about sexual violence in a culture with heavy taboos on sex. The book, zooming in on a relationship initiated and induced by a sexual violation, questions the patriarchal discourse that normalizes rape in the name of romantic love. In addition to literary analysis, I examine social media data of specific #MeToo cases that reference this novel on Weibo, explicating how this novel serves as a valuable resource for understanding and discussing issues of sexual violence.

We are also **planning a guest lecture by Dr. Dr. Eulalia Piñero Gil** who will be visiting Purdue University in April 2023 to present a talk on Monday April 20, 5:30-6:30 pm. She is a Purdue Alumna in Comparative Literature, and has had a very successful career at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and internationally. Her lecture will be organized by the Spanish Department in SLC but also co-sponsored by Comparative Literature. Looking forward to that!

COURSE OFFERINGS 2022-2023

Check out other recent course offerings:

<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html>

FALL SEMESTER 2022

CMPL 26600, ENGL 26600, WORLD LITERATURE



CMPL 26600 World Literature
Part 1L From Antiquity to the
18th Century.
FALL 2022
Gwénaél Jouin

Learning Outcomes:
Demonstrate Knowledge of World Literature
Compare works issued from different literary traditions
Explain the relationship between works of World Literature and secondary sources theorizing World Literature
Transfer knowledge of the influence of World Literature works on other pieces of art to a live audience
Evaluate the relevance of theories in literary criticism
Develop a theory in a research paper

COURSE OFFERINGS 2022-2023, cont.

Check out other recent course offerings:

<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html>

SPRING SEMESTER 2023

FVS33000, CMPL33000, ENGL 39600

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA

TTh 12:30-1:20, W 6:30-9:20

Professor Shaun Hughes

sfdh@purdue.edu

It is not the intention of this course to duplicate any of the material available current National Cinema Courses. The emphasis here is on those cinematic traditions not touched on by such

offerings and includes two major traditions not otherwise available, namely the cinema of Africa and that of India. Some major traditions will still be omitted like Scandinavian Cinema, for example, and the lectures and viewings will be at best only an introduction. The emphasis will be on what one might want to call “minor cinema” to adapt a term used by Giles Deleuze and Felix Guattari. Among the films to be shown will be representatives of First Nations Cinema, Pacific Cinema, Middle Eastern Cinema, and Other Asians Cinema (here Malaysian and Korean). The semester will close with a consideration of Transnational Cinema or Global Cinema in the Digital age.

Skills Delivered:

At the end of this course you will appreciate cinema as a global phenomenon. You will have interacted with some unusual and unappreciated movies. You will be practiced in processing the film experience in culturally diverse contexts.




COURSE OFFERINGS 2022-2023, cont.

Check out other recent course offerings:

<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html>

SPRING SEMESTER 2023


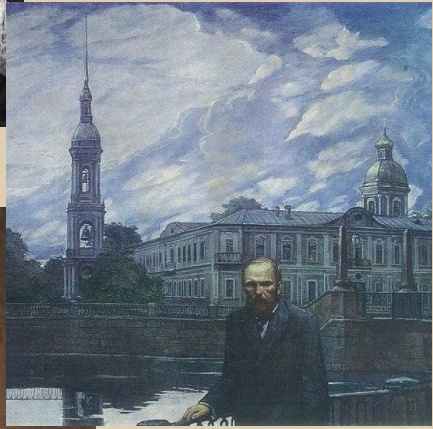

CMPL 26700, ENGL 26000, World Literature II




World Literature II: 1700 - Present

Spring 2023


CRN: 26142



Objectives: Read, discuss, and analyze examples of world literature in larger international contexts & write effectively about these texts.



Instructor:
Andrew
Kroninger



COURSE OFFERINGS 2022-2023, cont.

Check out other recent course offerings:

<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html>

FALL SEMESTER 2023

CMPL 65000, LC 59400, ENGL 67300

Cosmos: Postcolonial

Environmentalism

Professor Allert



This course is inspired by the forthcoming book *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, ed. Beate I. Allert, Christopher R. Clason, Niall A. Peach, and Ricardo Quintana Vallejo

(Purdue University Press, 2023)


Alexander von Humboldt was a European who travelled from Germany, Spain, France, to the United States, South America, Mexico, Cuba, Peru, Berlin, Siberia, etc, speaking numerous languages and especially interested in Indigenous People and their natural environment. His travelogue and scientific book *Cosmos* will serve as case study in the contexts of

- postcolonial discourses
- scientific discovery (biology, geology, botany, cartography, aerodynamics, hydrology)
- environmentalism
- visual art imaging techniques

Course Description:

An exploration on how Alexander von Humboldt and subsequent related international scholarship offers new insights to current postcolonial studies, environmentalism, and imaging techniques from the Romanticism era to the present. It will be taught in English with texts available in English, German, French, Spanish, etc. according to students' choices.

Grades: Individual Research presentations and participations in class 40%; Midterm 30 %; Final Paper 30%



*Thank you everyone
for your interest and support.
Wishing you a wonderful
end of fall 2022 semester,
a great upcoming holiday season,
and the best for 2023!*