



**Institute for World Literature, Harvard, June 20 – July 14, 2016**

**Colloquia: Concept, Structure, Organization, and Outcome**

## **1. Concept and Structure**

As our annual survey shows, IWL participants appreciate the unique opportunity to create intellectual networks with colleagues working on world literature all around the world. In prior years, we created optional “**Affinity Groups**” that typically met twice a week for the four weeks of the session. Many who participated in the Affinity Groups were enthusiastic about the opportunity they provided for intellectual networking and exchange, but others found it difficult to commit so much time to these groups. As of this year, we’ve developed the concept of **Colloquia**, which will meet just once a week during the session (with three or four papers presented each time). **The Colloquia are now set as a required component of our program**, ensuring that every participant will have the opportunity to present their work and actively engage with their fellow participants.

The Institute’s Colloquia will provide the opportunity for our participants to present a paper within the general framework of one of seven World Literature topics:

- **Sociology of World Literature**
- **World Literature and Production**
- **World Literature and Translation**
- **World Literature and Circulation**
- **Postcolonialism and World Literature**
- **World Cinema and World Literature**
- **Politics, Poetics and World Literature.**

Participants will be placed in an appropriate colloquium group based on their preferences and on abstracts of the work they would like to present that will be uploaded onto the application form.

Colloquia are groups led by one of our 2016 participants. Between February 15, 2016 and March 15, 2016, IWL invites applications from our postdoctoral and faculty participants to act as colloquium group leader for the duration of our summer session. The group leader will be in charge of collecting the abstracts from the participants in the colloquium, organizing the weekly meetings, and sending the schedule to the group and to the IWL Assistant Director no later than



June 1, 2016. After the program ends, the group leader will write a report about the group's activity and send it to IWL to be posted online for the use of next year's participants. Colloquium group leaders will receive \$250 for their work organizing and chairing the weekly meetings of the colloquia. Those interested are invited to send their CV and cover letter to [iwl@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:iwl@fas.harvard.edu). The IWL Executive Committee will then select the group leaders by April 1.

Once the colloquium groups are announced in early April, we will create groups hosted on Groupsaces.com for each colloquium group.

In the past, participants in such groups continued to work together on projects, including proposing a panel for the next ACLA conference.

## **2. Organization**

At each group meeting, three or four participants present a paper related to the group's topic, followed by a group discussion. You can bring in handouts or powerpoints if you think they are relevant, but make sure not to run over 20 minutes. The colloquium group leader must keep good track of the time during these meetings to allow all the presenters the same amount of time. You are expected to attend all of your group's meetings, both out of professional courtesy to those who listen to your own presentation and because the discussion will build over the course of the group's meetings.

Please note that if you want to show a powerpoint you'll have to bring your own computer and an A/V laptop adapter. If you decide to give handouts, please have these signed with your name, affiliation and email address so that you can stay in contact with those who are interested in your topic and can further help you refine your work.

## **3. Outcome**

The group's work can also lead to future collaboration, for example to propose a seminar for the next ACLA conference.