



Institute for World Literature, University of Tokyo, 2 July –26 July 2018

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. Therefore, 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 that will be uploaded onto the application form.

Colloquia are groups led by one of our 2018 participants. Between February 25, 2018 and March 15, 2018, 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, 2017. 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. The report must be sent in no later than September 1, 2018.

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. The IWL Executive Committee will then select the group leaders by April 1.

Once the colloquium groups are announced in mid-April, we will create groups hosted on Groupspaces.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. The group leader should assign respondents for each paper beforehand from among the other participants, but no more than five-minutes each so that the general forum format of a free discussion opened to the entire group is maintained. They can bring in handouts or PowerPoints if they 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. Participants 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 participants want to show a PowerPoint they'll have to bring their own computer and an A/V laptop adapter. If participants decide to give handouts, they should have these signed with their name, affiliation, and email address so that they can stay in contact with those who are interested in their topic and can further help them refine your work. Please note that if they wish to distribute handouts, they should make themselves the copies and there is no budget for that.

3. Outcome

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