



## Institute for World Literature, July 5-27, 2023

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

#### Meeting times:

10:00am-noon on Thurs July 6, Fri July 7, Mon July 24, and Tues July 25

10:00am-2:00pm on Fri July 14 and Fri July 21

#### 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 eight World Literature topics:

- **Politics, Poetics and World Literature**
- **Postcolonialism and World Literature**
- **Premodern Literature and World Literature**
- **Sociology and World Literature**
- **World Literature and Production**
- **World Literature and Translation**
- **World Literature and Circulation**
- **World Cinema 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 2023 participants. Between February 25, 2023 and March 15, 2023, 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 Associate Director no later than June 1, 2023. 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, 2023.

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 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 to five 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 15 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.

## **3. Outcome**

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