

## 2022 IWL Politics, Poetics, and World Literature (II)



### **Colloquium leader: Juan Wu, University of Sydney**

IWL's interactive platform consists of colloquia on broader themes related to world literature that bring together graduate students and early-career researchers to present and discuss their research projects and receive feedback. At the 2022 IWL summer session, I led the colloquium group "Politics, Poetics, and World Literature II".

The first section, "Exilic Poetics: Cold War, Intertextuality and Hybrid Identity", aimed to bring together scholars whose work addresses exilic poetics and examines the cold war, intertextual narrative and hybrid identity. Alexander Strzelecki from Yale University posited that the constellation of stateless writers represents a different literary world and historical trajectory, calling for a combinatory and hybrid discursive approach in his "Cold War Emigration and World Literature: points of contact and difference". Isabelle Loréal from Université Paris X Nanterre France showed how Conrad should not only be regarded as a

translingual writer but how his experience as an exile is at the heart of his creative process in her presentation “Conrad’s polymorphous dumbness as exilic writing”. Wan Shun Yu from the City University of Hong Kong showed the worldliness of Hong Kong prose and poetry written from the 1950s till the twenty-first century to propose that Hong Kong writers can create their image through both local and global historical events in her “Establishing the Self and Acknowledging Others: The Worldliness of Hong Kong Literature”. Wu Juan from the University of Sydney examined how Hermann in Nabokov’s novel *Despair* establishes, consolidates, and justifies his delusional double to propose that *Despair* may reflect or foresee the clinic syndrome of the subjective double in her “Illusory Reduplication: Psychopathologic and Political Study of Hermann’s Subjective Double Syndrome in Nabokov’s *Despair*”.

The second session, “Poetical Politics: History, Capitalism and Memorialisation”, conjoined projects that examine the production and reception of poetical politics. Michael Franz from the University of Bern demonstrated how Seamus Heaney’s Bog Poems be a place of collapsing time and posthuman entanglement in his “Intersecting Temporalities and More-than-Human Encounters in Seamus Heaney’s Bog Poems”. Alexander Schmid from Louisiana State University investigated the connection between the Canonical, Scholastic, and even Franciscan arguments against usury to understand Dante’s thought on usury, his particular representations of it as a violent sin, its proximity to fraud in *Inferno*, and investigating its effect, if any, on the commercial revolution in Florence in “Usury, Dante, and the Birth of Capitalism: Or Would Dante Send One to Hell for Making Money?” Micol Bez from Northwestern University proposed reimagining monuments as provocations and memorialisation as a field of contingency, ambiguity, plurality, betrayal and bastardy in her “Someone who is going to look at me. For a non-pacificatory model of memorialisation.”

The third and fourth sections around the topic of “Cross-boundary Imagination: Modernity, Mobility and Transculturality”, which investigated the complicated interaction of modernity,

mobility and transculturality in the literature. Leonardo Nolé from the City University of New York showed that world novels transcend the boundaries of the imagination that capitalist culture has erected to perpetuate its socio-historical practices and deploy their collective protagonists to envision less individualistic and less-anthropocentric forms of relationship and resistance in his “The Collective Protagonist and the World-Novel”. Simão Valente from the University of Lisbon examined the case of literature written in Portuguese to present the relationship between national, language-specific, and international canons in his “A Cosmopolitan Canon: Portuguese national literature as world literature”. Jared Daniel Fagen from the City University of New York argued that Lispector’s novella structures are the worlding, and the act of writing is a form of action of worlding against worldlessness in his “Impoverished Aesthetics and the Metaphysics of the “in-between” in Clarice Lispector’s *The Hour of the Star*”. Michelle Stork from Goethe-Universität Frankfurt proposed that the social relations between the three Yolngu men and their adopted white brother undermine the narrative of modernity in her “Thinking Transculturality and Friction with/in the Global Road Narrative”.

Our colloquium group brought together PhD students and early researchers from the United States, France, Britain, Germany, Italy, Portuguese, Hong Kong and Australia. Our engagement with each other’s work in the colloquium group showed our common interests, contradictions, and discursive approach to world literature. As one of our participants, Alexander said, engaging with the participants in the colloquium and the IWL in Mainz this summer will allow us to situate our research within the current debates in the fields, including but not limited to comparative literature, translation studies, migration studies, world literature, cosmopolitanism. We sincerely appreciate the fantastic arrangement and supports of IWL and Johannes Gutenberg University!

**Juan Wu**  
**July 28, 2022**