

International Symposium
Intercultural Studies for a Global Age:
Principles, Methodology, Practice



April 12-14, 2018, University of Georgia, at Athens
Russell Special Collections Building, Room 285
300 S. Hull Street, Athens



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

This symposium explores the ways in which we can remap and reorganize a transdisciplinary field of intercultural studies that would go beyond the current field of cultural studies while preserving and reorienting some of its valuable insights within a global reference frame. Topics include: current concepts of culture operative in various academic and nonacademic fields; the main guiding principles of intercultural studies and practices and their cognitive and ethical implications; the mutual feedback loops between intercultural studies, comparative literature, translation studies, and other relevant fields in the humanities, arts and social sciences; the development of new institutional and curricular frameworks as well as new information and communication technological platforms for intercultural studies.



PROGRAM

Thursday, April 12

Room 285

4:00-4:15PM: Opening Remarks:

Suzanne Barbour, Dean of Graduate School, UGA

Martin Kagel, Associate Dean, Franklin College, UGA

4:15-6:15. Roundtable 1:

Intercultural Studies: Current State of the Field in North America and Overseas

Moderator: Mihai Spariosu, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Thomas Figueira, Classics and Ancient History, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Ilona Kiss, Comparative Literature, Moscow State Pedagogical University, Russia and
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

Dezso Benedek, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Dragan Kujundzic, Jewish, German and Slavic Studies, University of Florida, Gainesville

Sabnam Ghosh, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

6:30-8:00 PM. Reception





Friday, April 13

Room 285

8:45-10:45AM: Roundtable 2: Guiding Principles, Methodology and Practices of Intercultural Studies. Cognitive and Ethical Implications

Moderator: Marta Skwara, Faculty of Philology, University of Szczecin, Poland

Mihai Spariosu, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Robert Gafrik, World Literature, Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, The Slovak Republic

Carolyn Jones Medine, Religious Studies, University of Georgia, Athens

Carolyn Johnston, History, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg

Corina Beleaua, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

10:45-11AM: Coffee Break

11:00-1:00 PM: Roundtable 3. Intercultural Studies and Translation Studies

Moderator: Dorothy Figueira, University of Georgia, Athens

Francis Clooney, Comparative Theological Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

Florin Berindeanu, Department of Classics, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH

Jonathan Baillehache, Romance Languages, University of Georgia, Athens

Ari Lieberman, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Dong Yang, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

1:15-2:45 PM Lunch Break





Friday, April 13

Room 285

**2:45-4:45PM: Roundtable 4. Comparative Literature, World Literature,
and Cultural and Intercultural Studies**

Moderator: Ilona Kiss, Comparative Literature, Moscow and Budapest

Dorothy Figueira, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Satish Kumar, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

John W. Lowe, English, University of Georgia, Athens

Marta Skwara, Faculty of Philology, University of Szczecin, Poland

Petros Panaou, College of Education, University of Georgia, Athens

4:45-5:00: Coffee Break

**5:00-7:00PM: Roundtable 5. Innovative Information and Communication Technological
Platforms for Intercultural Studies**

Moderator: Mihai Spariosu, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Philip Gagner, Vice President and Chief Scientist, Schloer Consulting Group,
Washington DC and Munich, Germany

Adela Fofiu, Social Sciences and Journalism, Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Vlad Jecan, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

David Rando, English, Trinity University, San Antonio, Texas

7:30-9:30PM: Dinner for Invited Participants





Department of Comparative Literature
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Saturday, April 14

Room 277

9:00-11:00AM: Intercultural Studies: Institutional and Curricular Frameworks

Moderator: Carolyn Johnston, History, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

Mihai Spariosu, Comparative Literature, University of Georgia, Athens

Robert Gafrik, World Literature, Academy of Sciences, Bratislava

Heather Gerling, Sociology, Texas Woman's University

Dragan Kujundzic, Jewish, German and Slavic Studies,

University of Florida, Gainesville

Akinloye Ojo, Comparative Literature and African Studies Institute,

University of Georgia, Athens

11:45: Lunch for Invited Participants





About the participants

Jonathan Baillehache is Assistant Professor of French in the Department of Romance Languages at the University of Georgia. His scholarly publications are in the fields of translation, avant-garde and electronic poetry, and educational video games.

Corina Beleaua is teaching assistant and doctoral candidate in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. Her research interests and publications include Francophone literature, translation studies, philosophy of education, East Central European literature and culture, and literature and religion.

Florin Berindeanu teaches Comparative Literature in the Department of Classics at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. His scholarly interests and publications are in the fields of Italian literature and culture, intercultural studies, literary theory, semiotics, medieval studies and philosophy and literature.

Francis X. Clooney, S.J is Parkman Professor of Divinity and Professor of Comparative Theology at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass, as well as Former Director of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University. His scholarly research and numerous publications focus on the theological commentarial writings in the Sanskrit and Tamil traditions of Hindu India. He is also a leading figure globally in the developing field of comparative theology. Dr. Clooney has also written on the Jesuit missionary tradition, particularly in India, on the early Jesuit pan-Asian discourse on reincarnation, and on the dynamics of dialogue and interreligious learning in the contemporary world.





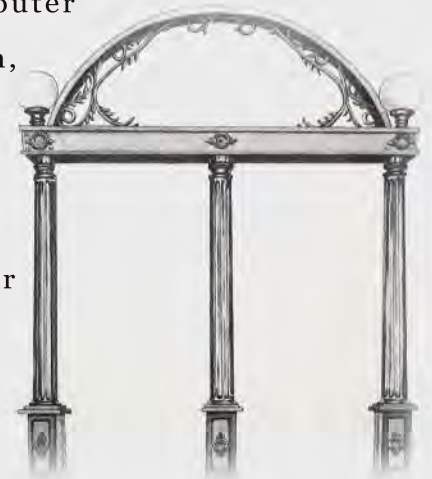
Dorothy Figueira is Distinguished Research Professor and Graduate Coordinator in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. Her research interests and numerous publications are in the fields of literary and translation theory, literature and religion, postcolonial studies, exoticism, myth theory, and travel narratives.

Thomas Figueira is Professor of Classics and Ancient History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. His research interests and numerous publications are in the fields of Greek history and literature, the history of the cities of Aegina, Athens, Megara, and Sparta, as well as coinage, colonization, demography, trade and the genesis of the democratic mind.

Adela Fofiu teaches in the Department of Journalism at Babeş-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. Her research interests and scholarly publications are in the fields of cultural identity dynamics, globalization, social movements, new communication technologies and social communication.

Robert Gafrik is Senior Researcher at the Institute of World Literature, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava and teaches German language, literature and culture at the University of Trnava in Slovakia. His research interests and publications focus on East-West cultural encounters, comparative literature, comparative poetics and image studies. Dr. Gafrik is currently conducting scholarly research in Bangalore, India.

Philip Gagner has more than 30 years of experience in the computer and technology fields, including robotics, digital hardware design, software development, data communications, finance, and intellectual property law. Dr. Gagner is founder of Legal Data Systems, a software solutions company, and was Senior Software Engineer at Digital Equipment Corporation and Senior Researcher at the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C.





Heather Gerling is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Texas Woman's University. Her research interests lie in the fields of globalization, human rights, intercultural studies, global health, and gender equality.

Sabnam Ghosh is a teaching assistant and doctoral candidate in the Comparative Literature Department, at University of Georgia. Her research interests include intercultural and memory studies, postcolonial literature and theory, Asian American literature, and the politics of modern folklore and storytelling.

Vlad Jecan holds a PhD in political science and is a teaching assistant in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia, where he is working on a second doctoral degree. His research interests are in the fields of cyber cultures, cyberpunk and speculative fiction, media history and philosophy, cyber conflict, and Platonic studies.

Carolyn Johnston is Professor of American Studies and History and Elie Wiesel Professor of Human Letters at Eckerd College, Florida. Her scholarly research and numerous publications are in the fields of American intellectual history, history of radical and working-class movements, and history of women in America.

Ilna Kiss is Professor of World Literatures, Moscow Pedagogical State University in Russia. She is also a Senior Researcher at Eötvös Loránd University and Editor-in-chief of the magazine "Russian Quarter," at the Institute of Russian Studies, Budapest. Dr. Kiss is former Ambassador of Hungary to Russia, and her scholarly research and publications focus on the history of Russian literature, philosophy and culture.





Dragan Kujundzic is Professor of Jewish, Germanic and Slavic Studies at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He has authored or co-authored numerous scholarly works on critical theory, deconstruction, intercultural studies, and literary criticism, published in fifteen countries and translated into eight languages.

Satish Kumar is a teaching assistant and doctoral candidate in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. His research interests include world literature, literature and the other arts, cross-cultural literary studies, literary theory and criticism, African literatures and cultures.

Ari Lieberman teaches Comparative Literature and is Undergraduate Coordinator in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. His scholarly interests include Modern Hebrew literature, twentieth-century Anglophone, Hispanophone, and Francophone literature, theories of humor and laughter, Holocaust literature and film, and Biblical themes in Western literature.

John W. Lowe is Barbara Methvin Professor in the Department of English at the University of Georgia. He is the recipient of the MELUS Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Ethnic American Literatures. Dr. Lowe has authored and edited numerous works on Ethnic American and Southern literature, and presented over eighty papers in North America, Europe, and Asia.

Carolyn Jones Medine is Professor in the Department of Religion and the Institute of African American Studies at the University of Georgia. Her research interests and numerous publications include Southern American literature and religion, women's literature, theories of religion, and postmodern and postcolonial theory.





Akinloye Ojo is Director of the African Studies Institute and Associate Professor in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. His research interests and publications include poetry studies, Yoruba language and linguistics, applied linguistics and language education.

Petros Panaou is Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education, College of Education at the University of Georgia. His research interests include play studies and children's literature in a global context.

David Rando is Associate Professor of English at Trinity University, Texas. His research interests and publications focus on music technologies and online sharing platforms, British literature, literary methods, experimental fiction, modernism and women studies.

Marta Skwara is Professor of Polish and Comparative Literature as well as the Head of the Comparative Literature Section in the Polish and Cultural Studies Department at the University of Szczecin, Poland. Her research interests include translation and reception studies, European and transatlantic romanticism, and modernism/postmodernism. Dr. Skwara has written extensively on global authors of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as on Polish writers in a world-literature context and on the reception of Walt Whitman in Polish culture.

Dezso Benedek is Associate Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at the University of Georgia. His research interests include Asian literature, world mythology, literature and cultural anthropology, and comparative folklore.





Mihai Spariosu is Distinguished Research Professor and Head in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. His research interests and publications include literary theory, philosophy and literature, conceptual history of play, exile and utopia, global and intercultural studies, and digital humanities.

Dong Yang is doctoral candidate and teaching assistant in Chinese in the Comparative Literature Department at the University of Georgia. His primary research interests include twentieth-century French philosophy, affect theory, transnational cultural interactions, postcolonial African and Chinese literature and cinema.



