

A F F I L I A T I O N S

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

24-25 MAY 2024

Keynote speakers

Seeta Chaganti, Professor of English, University of California, Davis

Mark Currie, Professor of Contemporary Literature, Queen Mary,
University of London

Carla Freccero, Distinguished Professor of Literature and History of
Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz

Nicola Gardini, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature,
University of Oxford

Organised by

Joseph Hankinson
Career Development Lecturer in English, University of Oxford

Gareth Lloyd Evans
Rebecca Marsland Career Development Fellow in English,
University of Oxford



BCLA

British Comparative
Literature Association



oxford comparative
criticism + translation

In recent years, comparison and comparability have generated thorough critical discussion within the fields of cultural and literary studies. But despite the popularity of comparison as a critical methodology, it is nevertheless the case, as Rita Felski notes, that 'comparison across space—that is to say, across nations, cultures, or regions—has received far more attention in comparative literature than comparison across time.' To some extent, existing disciplinary distinctions produce this uneven distribution of attention. Period boundaries impose an often arbitrary temporal delimitation of inquiry, which in turn lends weight to reified and institutionalised categories of thought. Consequently, cross-temporal work is, as Felski argues, habitually 'seen as evidence of dilettantism or insufficient professionalization.'

But, we suggest, that which has been dismissed as dilettantism itself promises reinvigoration and expansion of the possibilities of literary criticism more generally. Xiaofan Amy Li's work on the 'three kinds of comparabilities' associated with the conventions of 'existing comparative literature' (the 'genealogical, temporal, and generic comparabilities') has provided a vocabulary for understanding the ways comparative thought makes assumptions about how texts might relate across time (2015, 14). Like the 'world' of world literature, which can serve, as Karima Laachir, Sara Marzagora, and Francesca Orsini have argued, as 'dominant explanatory grid' (2018, 291-2), time in 'existing comparative literature' tends to be either reduced to lines of inheritance or treated as a static frame or macro-category that justifies comparability in advance.

With this in mind, this conference seeks to provoke discussion of and experimentation with asynchronous encounters, to stage interactions between texts and fields of research routinely kept separate, and to develop collectively a theory of cross-temporal comparison.

DAY 1

Registration
09.00–09.35
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Opening Remarks
09.45–10.00
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

Opening Keynote
'On Comparison: Medieval Studies and Comparative Racialization'
Seeta Chaganti (University of California, Davis)
Chaired by Marion Turner (University of Oxford)
10.00–11.00
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

Coffee Break
11.00–11.25
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Parallel Panels 1, 2, and 3
11.30–13.00
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 1
Queer Entanglements
Chaired by Anna Wilson

Panel 2
**Redemption, Subversion,
Contemplation: Theology and
Comparison**
Chaired by Elisabeth Dutton

Panel 3
**(Dis)Member States:
European Divisions**
Chaired by Andrew Ginger

'The Poetry of Cruising'
Stephen Guy-Bray
(University of British Columbia)

**'Medieval Contemplation,
Modern Criticism:
A Comparative Approach to
Attentional Practice'**
Hannah Lucas
(University of Cambridge)

**'Writing Trauma: Language and
Dismemberment in Aleksandar
Hemon and Lucan'**
Esther Reichek
(Harvard University)

**'Seven Minutes in Heaven
Sodom'**
Zaccary Haney
(Loyola University Chicago)

**'Christ's Subversive Body and
Diachronic Comparison:
Toward a Three-Dimensional
Reading'**
Olga Solovieva (Nicolaus
Copernicus University, Torún)

**'"The Present is Not Only
What Happens Today":
Christa Wolf, Paul Fleming
and the Anachronicity of the
Work of Art'**
Catherine Smale
(King's College London)

**'Afterthought as a Form of
Queer Affiliation'**
Valentina Tibaldo
(University of Padua)

**'Redemptive Methodology:
Cross-Time Analysis of
Christian Persecution in India'**
Clara Joseph
(University of Calgary)

**'Historical-Typological
Analogies: A Model of Cross-
Temporal Comparison in
European Marxist Literary
Studies'**
Aleksandar Momčilović
(Independent Researcher)

Lunch
13.00–14.00
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer B

Parallel Panels 4, 5, and 6
14.05–15.05
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 4
Staging Cross-Temporality
Chaired by Kathleen Tonry

Panel 5
Realisms, Speculative and Distant
Chaired by Julia Hartley

Panel 6
**Collisions and Collusions:
Reimagining Textual Precursors**
Chaired by Luisa Coelho

**'Unmasking the Trans-
Historical: The Medieval
Mysteries and Iranian *Ta'ziyeh*
Compared'**
Elisabeth Dutton (University of
Fribourg) and Lucy Deacon
(University of Fribourg)

'Distant Realisms'
Nicholas Paige
(University of California, Berkeley)

**'Borges and His Precursors:
Constructing Comparisons'**
Georgina Fooks
(University of Oxford)

**'Recognizing the World: Some
Precolonial Conversations in a
Postcolonial World'**
Radhika Koul
(Claremont McKenna College)

**'Cross-Temporal Comparative
Literature: The Dynamics of
Belonging and Difference
from Hermeneutics to
Speculative Realism'**
Laila Sougri
(Cadi Ayyad University)

**'Imagining the Unimaginable:
Glissant's Relation Theory as a
Methodology for Cross-Temporal
Comparisons'**
Daniel Whittle
(University of Oxford)

Parallel Panels 7, 8, and 9
15.15–16.45
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 7
Object-Oriented Comparisons
Chaired by Hannah Lucas

Panel 8
**Theorising the Cross-Temporal
Encounter**
Chaired by Daniel Reeve

Panel 9
Figuring Comparison
Chaired by Georgina Fooks

**'The Book Across Time:
Technology, Labor, and a
Cross-Temporal Approach to
the History of the Book'**
Kathleen Tonry
(University of Connecticut)

**'Writing Her Self: The Old
English *Wife's Lament* and
écriture féminine'**
Grace O'Duffy
(University of Oxford)

**'Reading after the End of the
World: Cross Temporal
Comparative Approaches to
the Romanesque'**
Meg Bernstein (Alfred
University) and Meg Boulton
(University of York)

**'Early Itineraries of "Japanese-
Chinese Comparative
Literature"'**
Jeffrey Niedermaier
(Brown University)

**'Asynchronous Fidelity in the
Philosophical Politics of
Cicero and Alain Badiou'**
Andres Matlock
(University of Georgia)

**'Portraits and Portrait Poems:
A Cross-Temporal
Perspective'**
Valentina Monateri
(University of Turin)

**'Heterochronology in a
Comparative and
Interdisciplinary Analysis of a
Canonical Epic Poem and Two
Contemporary Artworks'**
Luisa Coelho
(University of Oxford)

**'Anaracialism and the Ruse of
Logisticality'**
Wan-Chuan Kao
(Washington and Lee University)

**'On the Comparative Literary
Aspect of the Phenomenon of
Temporality'**
Marton Hoványi
(Eötvös Loránd University)

Coffee Break
16.45–17.10
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Roundtable: Temporalities
Mark Currie (QMUL) with Daniel Reeve (UC Santa Barbara), Kathleen Tonry (Conneticut),
Julia Hartley (Glasgow), and Kate McLoughlin (Oxford)
17.10–18.10
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

Dinner
19.30–21.30
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer B

DAY 2

Coffee Reception
09.25–09.55
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Roundtable: Comparabilities
Nicola Gardini (Oxford) with Rowan Anderson (Oxford), Valentina Monateri (Torino),
Danielle Stephenson (Berkeley), Trevin Corsiglia (Washington, St. Louis), and Nicholas Paige (Berkeley)
10.00–11.00
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

Parallel Panels 10, 11, and 12
11.10–12.10
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 10
Resonance Patterns
Chaired by Rowan Anderson

Panel 11
**Reassembling the Social,
Rethinking Affinity**
Chaired by Zaccary Haney

Panel 12
Affiliative Pedagogies
Chaired by Ryan Hintzman

**'From Silence to Sound and
Back to Nature'**
Sarker Hasan Al Zayed
(Independent University, Bangladesh)

**'Considering Ants and ANT:
Traherne and Latour's
Relational Ecologies'**
Olivia Leonard
(Arizona State University)

**' "Then and Back Again":
Asynchronous Encounters
and their Epistemological
Issues for Literature Teachers-
to-be in France'**
Claudine Le Blanc (Université
Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Tristan
Mauffrey (Université Sorbonne
Nouvelle)

**'Affiliation through
Amplification'**
Emily Pillinger (King's College
London) and Miranda Stanyon
(University of Melbourne)

**'The Sapphinity as Moratory
Hauntology: Spectral Archives
in *After Sappho*'**
Andreea Moise
(University of Bucharest)

**'Beyond Boxes: Rethinking
Periodization and Genre in the
International Baccalaureate
Language A Curricular
Framework'**
Shelby Knighten (University of
Oxford) and Leah Yates
(University of Denver)

Lunch
12.10–13.10
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Parallel Panels 13, 14, and 15
13.15–14.45
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 13
Preterite Present
Chaired by Grace O'Duffy

Panel 14
Poetry and Poetics
Chaired by Stephen Guy-Bray

Panel 15
East-West Affiliations
Chaired by Danielle Stephenson

**' "They're not fanfics, mother":
Reading Medieval Literature
with Fanfiction'**
Anna Wilson
(Harvard University)

**'On Emergent Occasions:
Toward a Comparative
Pragmatics of Poem-Making'**
Ryan Hintzman
(Yale University)

**'Comparison as a Practice of
Return'**
Philipp Sperner
(University of Konstanz)

'Intermittent Imagos and Malfunctioning Memory Chips: Roman Funerary Culture and Discontinuous Intertextuality in Bujold, Leckie and Martine'
Helen Lovatt
(University of Nottingham)

'A Perspective on Cross-Temporal Comparison: Innovation of 'Lyrical Forms' in the *Bridesmaid* (1851) and the *Marienleich of Frauenlob* (Heinrich von Meißen, 1250/1260- 1318)'
Simone Kügeler-Race
(University of Cambridge)

'Reframing the Aesthetics and Politics of Difference: A Comparative Analysis of Twentieth-Century Western and Classical Indian Aesthetic and Philosophical Ideas of 'Knowledge' and 'Power' '
Nishtha Dev (Sophia College for Women, Mumbai)

'Rejecting "Medievalism"? Comparing *The Wanderer* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*'
Catrin Haberfield
(Stanford University)

'Expansive Solipsists: Petrarch, Whitman, and the Poetics of Selfhood'
Trevin Corsiglia (Washington University in St. Louis)

'A Mesopotamian Haunted House? Narrating Domestic Anxieties in the Anglo-American Gothic and a Mesopotamian Ritual Against Demons'
Jane Gordon (University of Chicago) and Adam Howe (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

Parallel Panels 16, 17, and 18
14.55-16.25
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

Panel 16
Patterns, Networks, Groups
Chaired by Kate McLoughlin

Panel 17
Dream Time
Chaired by Olivia Leonard

Panel 18
Dante and/or Proust
Chaired by TBC

'Rereading Jhumpa Lahiri'
Ushashi Dasgupta
(University of Oxford)

'The New Predestination: Boethius, Climate Time, and the Singularity'
Daniel Reeve (University of California, Santa Barbara)

'On Higher Ground: Dante, Amiri Baraka, and the "System" of Time'
Danielle Stephenson
(University of California, Berkeley)

'Affiliations and the Aesthetic Appreciation of History's Patterns'
Andrew Ginger
(Northeastern University)

'History as Dreaming: Assembling Time'
Meghan Quinlan (Uppsala University) and Andreas Keller (Swedish Psychoanalytical Association)

'Translation as Cross-Temporal Comparison: The Case of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu*'
Rowan Anderson
(University of Oxford) and Nicole Wong (Independent Researcher)

'Transhistoric Coterie'
Michelle Alexis Taylor
(Emory University)

'Time and the Mystic Writing-Pad: Freud, Hegel, and a Phenomenology of Time'
Samuel Himmelfarb
(University of Oxford)

'Reading by Analogy: Dante and Proust, Dante and Hafez'
Julia Hartley
(University of Glasgow)

Coffee Break
16.25-16.50
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

Closing Keynote
'Hauntologies, Figural Historiography, and Other Unruly Ways to Think Transtemporality'
Carla Freccero (University of California, Santa Cruz)
Chaired by TBC
16.55-17.55
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

Closing Remarks
17.55-18.00
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

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