

PNRR-III-C9-2023-I8-CF 22/27.07.2023

ORIENTALIST GENEALOGIES OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

WORKSHOP HELD WITHIN THE PROJECT “A GLOBAL HISTORY OF ROMANIAN COMPARATISM: A CASE STUDY IN INTER-IMPERIAL COMPARATIVE LITERATURE (1877-1944)”

INVITED SPEAKERS

Shu-mei Shih, University of California, Los Angeles

Settler of Color Critique and Comparative Literature

10 June, 16:00

Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters, Babeș-Bolyai University

Sujata Patel, Independent Researcher

Thinking from the Periphery. Some Observations

11 June, 16:00

Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters, Babeș-Bolyai University

10-12 | 2026
JUNE

Faculty of Letters
Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca
Room D. Popovici



INVITED SPEAKERS



SHU-MEI SHIH

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Shu-mei Shih, Professor of Comparative Literature, Asian Languages and Cultures, and Asian American Studies, is the Irving and Jean Stone Chair Professor in Humanities. She is also an Yu-shan Scholar and an honorary chair professor at National Taiwan Normal University. She was the inaugural holder of the Edward W. Said Professorship in Comparative Literature (2019-2022) and the past President of the American Comparative Literature Association (2021-2022). Her areas of research include comparative modernism, as in the monograph *The Lure of the Modern: Writing Modernism in Semicolonial China, 1917-1937* (2001; Mandarin translation 2007); theories of transnationalism, as in her co-edited *Minor Transnationalism* (2005; second printing, 2009); critical race studies, as in her guest-edited special issue of *PMLA* entitled “Comparative Racialization” (2008); critical theory, as in her co-edited *Creolization of Theory* (2011; second printing, 2014) and her essay collection, *Theorizing across Borders* 跨界理論 (2024); Taiwan studies, as in her guest-edited special issue of *Postcolonial Studies* entitled “Globalization and Taiwan’s (In)significance” (2003), the co-edited volumes *Comparatizing Taiwan* (2015; paperback, 2018) and *Knowledge Taiwan: On the Possibility of Theory in Taiwan* 知識台灣：台灣理論的可能性 (2016), *Keywords of Taiwan Theory* 台灣理論關鍵詞 (March, 2019; second printing May 2019), *Indigenous Knowledge in Taiwan and Beyond* (2021), and *Keywords of Taiwan Theory II* 台灣理論關鍵詞II (2025).



SUJATA PATEL

INDEPENDENT RESEARCHER

Sujata Patel is an independent researcher and scholar. She retired as Professor of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, and before that she taught sociology at the Universities of Pune and SNDT Women’s University. After retirement, she was appointed National Fellow at the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, and Distinguished Professor, Savitribai Phule Pune University. In 2021 she was awarded the Kerstin Hesselgren Visiting Professorship by the Swedish Research Council and in 2023 she was presented with an Honorary Doctorate by Uppsala University, Sweden. She has been recently bestowed with the Humboldt Research Award. Her work on modernity and global social theory, history of sociology/ social sciences, urbanization and city-formation, social movements, gender construction, and caste and class formation in India combines an historical sensibility with four perspectives-Marxism, feminism, spatial studies and post-structuralism. She has authored, edited and co-edited 16 books and published 80 peer reviewed papers/book chapters. Presently, she is the Series Editor for *Oxford Studies in Contemporary Indian Society* (Oxford, UK) and was, from 2007 to 2022, a Series Editor for *Cities and the Urban Imperative* (Routledge, India) and from 2010-2015, a Series Editor for *Sage Studies in International Sociology and Current Sociology Monographs* (Sage, London).



ORIENTALIST GENEALOGIES OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

10-12 JUNE 2026

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE, 9:45-18:00

OPENING REMARKS, ROOM D. POPOVICI 09:45

PANEL 1: INTER-IMPERIAL CONTACT AND SEMI-PERIPHERAL IMAGINARIES 10:00-11:00

Chair: T. Szabó Levente
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

Rareş Moldovan
The “Imaginative Whirlpool”: Orientalism, Inter-Imperiality, Zemiperiphery from Dracula to Romania in the 19th Century

Emanuel Modoc
Riverine Modernities: Levantinism and Inter-Imperial Contact in East-Central Europe

Discussion

Coffee break

PANEL 2: COMPARATISM, ORIENTALISMS, AND IMPERIAL FORMATIONS 11:30-13:00

Chair: Adriana Stan
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

Mihaela Ursa, Teona Farmatu
Building Romanian Comparatism under the Spell of Imperial Velvet

Anca Parvulescu, Manuela Boatcă
Bridging Orientalisms: East Europe, World Literature, and the Global East

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK

13:30-15:30





ORIENTALIST GENEALOGIES OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

DAY 1

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE, 9:45-18:00

INVITED SPEAKER

16:00

Shu-mei Shih

Settler of Color Critique and Comparative Literature

Chair: Anca Parvulescu

Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

DINNER

19:30

DAY 2

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE, 10:00-18:00

PANEL 3: COSMOPOLITANISM, MEDIATION, AND MINORITY BELONGING

10:00-11:30

Chair: Mihnea Bâlici

Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

Gianina Druță

Connecting Literary Worlds: The Cosmopolitan Rasmus Bjørn Anderson and Acta Comparationis Litterarum Universarum

Maria Irimia

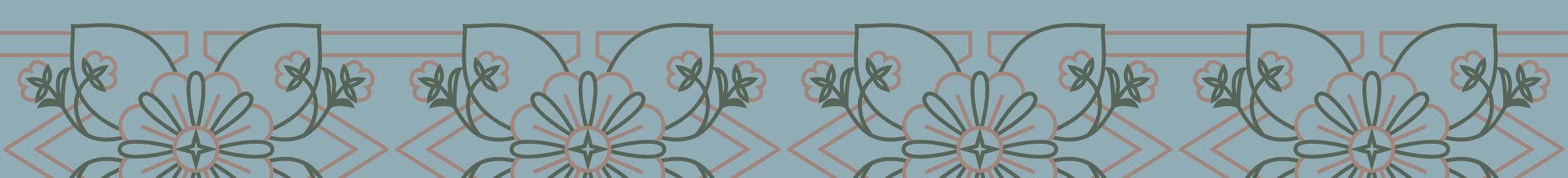
Speaking the Language of the Country without Citizenship: The Romanian Israelite

Teona Farmatu

Vasile Alecsandri in Africa: Situated Orientalism and Romanian Nation-Building

Discussion

Coffee break





ORIENTALIST GENEALOGIES OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

DAY 2

THURSDAY, 11 JUNE, 10:00-18:00

PANEL 4: ORIENTALISM, GENDER, AND RACIALIZED REPRESENTATION

12:00-13:30

Chair: Teona Farmatu
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

Luiza Medeleanu
Enslaved Roma Women as Inner Orientals in Radu Rosetti's Work

Adriana Stan, Alex Goldiș
Strange Objects of Desire: Orient and the Women in Romanian Modern Fiction

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK

13:30-15:30

INVITED SPEAKER

16:00

Sujata Patel
Thinking from the Periphery. Some Observations

Chair: Manuela Boatcă
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

DINNER

19:30





ORIENTALIST GENEALOGIES OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

DAY 3

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE, 10:00-18:00

PANEL 5: EXTRACTION, NARODISM, AND REGIONAL LITERARY MODERNITIES 10:00-11:30

Chair: Emanuel Modoc
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

T. Szabó Levente

Visions of Ecocide: Coal, Oil, and the Emergence of Nineteenth-Century Central and Eastern European Extraction Fiction

Mihnea Bâlici, Cosmin Borza

Emancipatory Orientalism? Constantin Stere and the Literary Legacy of Russian Narodism

Discussion

Coffee break

PANEL 6: FILM, POLYGLOTISM, AND IMPERIAL MEDIA 12:00-13:30

Chair: Cosmin Borza
Room D. Popovici, Faculty of Letters

Claudiu Turcuş

Jenő Janovics as Homo Oeconomicus

Mircea Minică

Lexicographical Comparatism in the Activity of the Transylvanian School: The Buda Lexicon

Discussion

LUNCH BREAK 13:30-15:30

EARLY COMPARATIVE LITERATURE IN ROMANIA: EXPLORING MATERIALS FROM THE BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES 16:00-18:00

CLOSING DINNER AND PROJECT WRAP-UP 19:30

