Journals enrich comparative literature scholarship at IU

The comparative literature program at Indiana University has distinguished itself in the academic world in part through a long history of publication. Comparative literature faculty and students have created a vast body of scholarship which reflects the many and varied interests of the discipline. However, one especially rich area of publication within the department is the group of four academic journals edited and operated by IU comparative literature faculty and students. These four journals — The Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature, Chinese Literature: Essays, Articles, Reviews (CLEAR), Symphöko, and CINEFONDO — enjoy a readership stretching around the world and, as a group, cover much of the vast discursive arena comprised by comparative literature as a discipline.

The Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature is the most venerable of the four journals and has both reflected and actively shaped the changing interests of comparative literature as a discipline. Founded in 1952, the Yearbook moved to Indiana University from the University of North Carolina in 1961. Professor Horst Frenz, who was chairman of the comparative literature program from 1949 to 1977 and was associated with the Yearbook from its inception, served as editor-in-chief of the journal until his retirement. The Yearbook's original purpose was to inform comparative literature scholars about developments, issues, and events of interest or concern in this relatively new field. While this function is now filled primarily by the bulletins of comparative literature organizations such as the ACLA and ICLA, the Yearbook continues to offer news on conferences and the state of the field both in the US and abroad in its section on "Comparative Literature Around the World."

A variation on this journalistic function can be found in "Documents in the History of Comparative Literature," a section of each issue that presents papers on the state of the discipline or efforts to launch comparative literature scholarship here and in other countries. For example, the most recent issue featured three papers on the history of comparative literature in the Arabic-speaking world. The Yearbook frequently presents papers about the discipline that are more than 50 years old and otherwise largely unavailable to comparatists today. Two other important features are a book review section, typically offering 15-20 critical reviews of recent publications in the field, and the "Bibliography on the Relations of Literature and Other Arts," compiled by numerous comparatists around the United States under the direction of IU comparative literature Professor Claus Clüver.

Over the past 50 years, the articles published in the Yearbook have increased in importance. Contributors include faculty and student scholars from around the world. According to the current editor-in-chief, Professor Eugene Hoyang, who cofounded the journal in 1979 with Professor William H. Niehaus Jr., of the University of Wisconsin, CLEAR is the only scholarly journal in English devoted exclusively to Chinese literature. Consequently, CLEAR has enjoyed considerable success. Originally published biennially, the journal now comes out once a year, and a third editor, Robert E. Hegel, of Washington University, shares the responsibilities of principal editor. Twenty-two issues have been published in the journal's 16 years.

Each issue of the journal typically features five or six articles and 20-25 critical reviews of books. In addition to scholarship on specific literary works, articles may focus on the state of the field, exchanges between scholars, or occasionally current and pressing issues relevant to scholarship on Chinese literature (continued on page 2).
Comparative literature faculty organize international conferences

Faculty of the Indiana University comparative literature program were closely involved with two major academic conferences held at IU this past summer and fall. Comparative literature and East Asian languages and cultures Professor Sumie Jones chaired and organized a conference on "Sexuality and Edo Culture, 1750-1850," while the IU West European Studies National Resource Center, chaired by West European studies and comparative literature Professor Peter Bondanella, organized and hosted "European Cinemas, European Societies, 1895-1995," an international conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of the cinema.

"Sexuality and Edo Culture, 1750-1850," held August 17-20, focused on sexuality and urban culture in early modern Japanese culture from a wide range of disciplinary perspectives. More than 40 scholars from Europe, Japan, and the United States were invited to present papers and comments during the conference. The keynote address, "Edo Sexual Humor," was presented by Howard Hibben, a distinguished translator and critic of Japanese literature at Harvard University. In conjunction with the conference, a special exhibition of selected materials from the collections of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction and the Indiana University Art Museum was mounted, and an exhibit titled "The Erotic Art of Ukiyo-e" is up at the Indiana University Art Museum until Dec. 17, 1995. Related exhibits, titled "The Passionate Art of Uramaro" and "Kita no Ura Maro Exhibition," were mounted at the British Museum in London and the Chiba City (Japan) Museum of Art respectively. Sumie Jones chaired the conference as the culmination of a collaborative project sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"European Cinemas, European Societies, 1895-1995," held Sept. 28-Oct. 1 at IU, celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first public film screening by the Lumière brothers in Paris, and the subsequent impact of the cinema on 20th-century European culture. Conference participants included both film scholars and filmmakers, and several prominent American and European film directors, including Giansfranco Angelucci, Peter Bogdanovich, John Landis, and Ettore Scola, introduced screenings of their films. In conjunction with the conference, the Lilly Library mounted exhibitions from the archival collections of Peter Bogdanovich, Sergei Eisenstein, Upton Sinclair, Federico Fellini, John Ford, and Orson Welles. Both the comparative literature program and the film studies program were among the many co-sponsors of the conference, and several comparative literature faculty and graduate students presented papers at the conference.

Journals

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The remaining two journals associated with the IU Comparative Literature Program, Symploké and Cinefocus, were founded and are currently operated by graduate students. These journals give students not only the opportunity to experience the editorial and business processes of publishing a journal, but also to have their own valuable research and work made available to the academic community beyond their own institution.

For encouragement in the readership base and a wider circulation, both journals have also solicited and published articles by faculty and students, as well as invited guest editors from outside Indiana University. The result has been a rich and varied contribution to scholarship.

Cinefocus, which was first published in 1990, is produced primarily by students in the IU Film Studies Program. The journal has alternated between general issues or sections of issues devoted to specific topics, including silent cinema; early Russian cinema; and cinema, sexuality, and representation. The journal has more recently expanded to include critical reviews of film studies scholarship.

Cinefocus is operated by an editorial board and a coordinating editor, all graduate students, who carry out both the solicitation and editing of articles and reviews, as well as the business aspects of journal publishing. According to PhD student Cim Kearns, the current coordinating editor, the next issue of Cinefocus will be produced in collaboration with the international film conference "European Cinemas, European Societies, 1895-1995," held at IU this fall. Cinefocus will devote a special section that will include selected articles submitted and presented by professors and graduate students at the conference.

The youngest of the four journals is Symploké, whose name is a Greek word meaning "intermingling." Founded in 1993, Symploké seeks to incorporate its newness into its scholarly goals. The journal is especially interested in exploring the constantly changing and evolving identity of comparative literature as a discipline. According to PhD student Jeffrey DiLeo, editor of the journal, the function of Symploké is to occupy the space between comparative literature journals on the one hand, and philosophy, theory, cultural studies, and intellectual history journals on the other. Symploké endeavors to intermingle the interests of the comparatist with those of the philosopher, theorist, intellectual historian, and cultural critic, while demonstrating the continuing significance and relevance of comparative criticism.

In addition to presenting the scholarship of IU comparative literature faculty and graduate students, Symploké publishes the work of scholars from many other institutions. Symploké typically features articles on a broad selection of comparative topics, with a portion of each issue devoted to a specific theme. Topics explored in recent issues include the post-theory generation, Wiegman and art, the relationship of philosophy and literature, and presentations of the subjects.

All four journals associated with the IU comparative literature program enjoy subscriptions and circulation on an international scale. As with any academic journal, circulation and visibility have varied with changes in editorial direction and in the field of comparative literature in general, as well as in the technologies of publishing. The development of computer support for the comparative literature program over the past decade, especially in the form of a desktop publishing center readily accessible to faculty and students, has greatly enhanced the operation of these journals. However, the success of each journal, in terms of its academic goals and its continued publication, ultimately depends on subscriptions. The editors of Encyclopaedia urge comparative literature alumni to support these journals by encouraging their institutions to subscribe. More important, the editors of these journals invite alumni to explore, use, and enjoy the continuing scholarship that their journals have to offer.

For specific information about subscriptions or submissions, write to Comparative Literature, Ballantine Hall 402, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 47405-6060.
Graduate student Peter Bixby presented "Fictitious Intertextuality as a Contextualizing Device" at the Fourth Annual Graduate Student Conference at the University of Missouri, and "Are Science and Literature Studies Really 'Higher Superstition'" at the 1995 American Comparative Literature Association Conference.

Graduate student Christine Bolus-Reichefert presented "Beginnings in Vico and Carlyle" at the Second Annual Meeting of the Group for Early Modern Culture Studies, and "Cartography, Geography, and the West African Films of Ansuin, Demis and Tavernier" at the Kent State University Conference on Cinema and the Post-Modern, both in the fall of 1994.

While a visiting professor at the University of Rome in December 1994, Professor Peter Bondanella presented "The Critical (Mis)Fortunes of Luciano Visconti in America" and lectured on Federico Fellini at an international exhibition commemorating the late director's work. His book Cinema of Federico Fellini has recently been translated into Italian.


Graduate student Beau Case published articles on "The Second Annual Albert Bates International Conference on Oral Tradition: Writing and Oral Tradition" in the Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature 41, "PBS ONLINE: Linking Teachers and Students to Educational Television and Instructional Resources" in Indiana Media Journal 17, and "Guest Who's Coming to Dinner: A Note on Catalans at 13" in Lumen 54.

Graduate student Jeffrey DiLeo presented three papers at conferences in 1994-95, including "The Literary Turn in Ethics" at the 1995 National Association for Humanities Education Conference and "Rhetoric in Exile" at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Semiotic Society of America. He published five articles in 1994-95, including "The Divine Structure of Gottfried von Strassburg's Tristan: God, Reality, and Coincidentia Oppositorum" in Trespass 20, articles in Southern Review 27 and Semiotics 93, and articles on Charles S. Peirce in Semiotics 94 and Studies in the Logic of Charles Sanders Peirce (Indiana University Press, 1995). He also received an Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences dissertation year fellowship for 1995-96.

Graduate student Huang Chia-Yia published an English-to-Chinese translation of Bernard Duyfhuizcn's "Epistolarity Narratives of Transmission and Transgression" in the Chung Wai Literary Monthly 22.11.

Graduate students Margaret Ervin and Cim Kearn presented "Under the Sway of the Image" at the 1995 annual conference of the Society for Cinema Studies.

Professor Eugene Boyang presented "Metaphor in Science and Literature: Logic, Rhetoric, Heuristics" at the 1995 annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association, where he also assumed the duties of president of the ACLA, and "Neglected Ancestors: Bilingual Pioneers in U.S. History" to a meeting of the Association of College and Research Libraries, Rare Book and Manuscript Section. Beijing University invited him to give two lectures in May 1995, one on East-West comparative literature, the other on translation studies. He also gave several radio interviews about his book Coat of Many Colors.

Professor Peter Herzberg's book Frank Lloyd Wright: In Word and Form was recently published by G.K. Hall/Macmillan.

Professor Harry Geduld published a chapter of his autobiography-in-progress in a volume of autobiographical essays. Geduld's essay is titled "Yes, Virginia, I really did see the Battle of Britain." Graduate student Zhijie Jia presented "Erudition against Pleasure: The Paradox of the Representation of Sexuality and Body in Fei Du and Bai La Tou" at the 1994 South Atlantic Modern Language Association Annual Convention.

Professor Carol Kensing's keynote lecture for a conference on Pierre Bayle at the Ecole Normale Superieure de Fontenay-St Cloud in Paris was published earlier this year under the title "Sincerité oblique chez Bayle: Le scepticisme et la foi dans le Dictionnaire." He also delivered papers to the Society for Literature and Science in November 1994; the 1995 American Comparative Literature Association Conference; and the 1995 American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, as well as two papers at the New York Academy of Science's special conference on "The Flight from Science and Reason" in spring 1995.


Graduate student Colin Landrum was awarded a fellowship by the Japanese Ministry of Education to write his dissertation at the University of Tokyo in 1995-96.

Graduate Resident Monique LaRocque presented four conference papers in 1994-95, including "The Aesthetic Space of the Late 19th-Century Aesthetic/Dandy in Huysmans' Against the Grain and Wilde's A Picture of Dorian Gray" at the 1995 Florida State University Conference on Literature and Film; "The Vision of Women's Space in Three 19th-Century French Plays" at the Graduate Student Organization Colloquium of the Indiana University Department of French and Italian; "The Solipsistic World of Des Essenines in Huysmans' Against the Grain: An Ecofeminist Reading" at the First Graduate Student-Colloquium on the Study of Literature and the Environment in June 1995; and a paper on cultural identity in women's autobiographies at Northern Illinois University's 1995 Graduate Conference on Language and Literature.

Graduate student Neela Majumdar received a dissertation fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies for 1995-96 to do research in India. She presented "The Self as Other: Ethnography and Self-Representation in Popular Indian Cinema" at the 1995 annual conference of the Society for Cinema Studies.

Graduate student Millcent Mangis was elected to be graduate student representative to the Society for Cinema Studies for 1995-97, as well as chair of the film studies section of the Midwest Modern Language Association for 1995. She also co-chaired a panel on "Periodizing the '80s: Thatcher and the Politics of Representation" with graduate student William Elliott, from the English department, and presented "The Politics of Paratom Post-Hitchcock: Brian DePalma's Dressed to Kill in the Context of Reaganism" at the 1995 annual conference of the Society for Cinema Studies.

Graduate student Eric Metzler presented "The Power and Danger of Interpretation: The Case of the Guglielmi Heretics" at the Eighth Annual Medieval Symposium at Indiana University in March 1995, and on "Masmed Birth Rites in the Pregnant Abess" at the 1995 International Congress on Medieval Studies. The latter paper was presented in honor of the late C. Clifford Flanagan.

Graduate student Christian Moscati published "Mimesis and Anamnesis: Deconstruction of Metaphysics and Reconstruction of Psyche" in The Play of the Self (SUNY Press), "The Collapse of Distance: (continued on page 4)"
Alumni news

Poet Michael J. Phillips, MA ‘64, PhD ‘71, is recognized in the recently published Dictionary of the Avant-Garde as an innovator in the concrete poetry movement. More than 1,700 of Phillips’s works have been published, including his master’s thesis and doctoral dissertation. A full-time poet for the last 15 years, he has done post-doctoral work at Oxford, Harvard, and Cambridge Universities. He lives in Bloomington.

Linda Becker Weinstein, BA ’67, is the library director for Bunker Hill Community College, Boston. She writes: “I’m looking for James Kretz, who was at IU 1963-71. If he sees this, please get in touch.” Weinstein can be reached by e-mail at (weinstein@noble.mass.edu).

John K. Gillespie, MA ’70, PhD ‘79, is director of the New York office of the Clarke Consulting Group, a company “engaged in the strategic management of culture in business.” He is also the author of a chapter on Japanese theater in Japan: A Literary Overview and is co-author, with Sugita Yoichi, of the bilingual book Nihon bunko o eigo de shokuninru iten (Traditional Japanese Culture and Modern Japan).

Helen Fogarassy, BA ’72, is a free-lance writer based in New York. She has been writing for the U.N. since 1990 and was recently assigned to Somalia as head of the print and special projects unit of the media department.

Geta LeSeur-Brown, MA ’75, PhD ’85, is an associate professor of English and women’s studies at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. She is the author of a book about Caribbean women writers and also of an account of the history of a black town in Arizona. In 1993, she spent two weeks in South Africa as part of an exchange program between the University of Missouri and the University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa. She and her husband, Edward, live in Columbia, Mo.

Nancy Ann Watanabe, PhD ’75, has taught French, English, and comparative literature at IU, Boise State University, the University of Alaska at Fairbanks, and the University of Oklahoma at Norman. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded her a faculty fellowship to help her finish an academic monograph, Beloved Image: The Drama of W.B. Yeats 1865-1939. Watanabe lives in Seattle.

In October 1994, as part of the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College Colloquium Series, Nancy A. Jones, BA ’77, spoke about her research on female lament in St. Augustine’s Confessions and the correspondence of Abelard and Heloise. Jones is the author of Embodied Voices: Representing Female Voice in Western Culture, published by Cambridge University Press.

Jeremy Hobart Smith, BA ’76, MA ’79, PhD ’85, is a professor of English at Otterbein College, Westerville, Ohio.

The Radical Faces of Godard and Bertolucci is a new book by Yosefa Loshitzky, PhD ’87, a lecturer at Hebrew University, Jerusalem.

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Postmodern Reality and the Politics of Disenchchantment in Baudrillard and Lyotard” in Euphorion 5.1-2; and “Time, Writing, and Ecology in “Sensory, Memory: Dramatizing the Proustian Project” in Nabokov Studies (Spring 1995), as well as several book reviews. He also presented “Inappropriate Splendor” at the 1994 Modern Language Association Convention, “Zonal Ethics: Cruelty’s Rainbow and Infernal Technology” at the 1995 American Comparative Literature Association Convention, and “William Burroughs and the Technology of Reading” at the 1995 College Language Association Annual Conference.


Graduate student Liedeke Plate’s article “From Reading ‘Against’ to Reading ‘With’: Feminism and the Subject of Reading” was published in Reader 30. She presented “Re-writing Robinson Crusoe: The Female Castaway Post-Master Narrative” at the 1994 American Comparative Literature Association Conference; “Towards a vêtement féminin: Feminine Writing and Rewriting in the Work of Hélène Cixous” at the 14th Annual Conference on Romance Languages and Literatures; and “Is There an Author in This Text? Hélène Cixous’s The Book of Promethea” at the 1994 Midwest Modern Language Association Conference.

Graduate student Veronica Pravadelli presented “Becoming Woman: Nomadic Trajectories in Chantal Akerman’s Les rendez-vous d’Anna and Nuit et Jour” at the “m., f., pl: sexes et sexualités” conference at Duke University in February 1995. She also received the Indiana University Film Studies Dissertation Fellowship for 1995-96.

Graduate student John Stone-Mediator presented “Sound, Sense, and Psychology: Cognitive Poetics versus Psychoanalysis” at the 1995 American Comparative Literature Association Conference.