



Letter from the President

Dear ACLA community:

One of the many ways our academic community has been affected by the pandemic is in the perpetual delay of any hope we might have for its end and the constant need to be flexible and make adjustments to how we live and work. We had envisioned the first-ever ACLA conference *in* Asia for 2022, and indeed, up to a couple of months ago, we still expected that this would be in-person and on-site. The significance of having our first Asian conference, and Taiwan as the specific location, cannot be overstated. Taiwan, a geopolitically marginalized country, is where “comparative literature,” in its field-specific sense, was first taught in Asia in the 1940s under Japanese colonialism. The site was to serve as an embodied point of departure to help us consider our field’s locations and itineraries as well as its colonial entanglements, but the shift to a virtual platform calls for an adjustment in our consideration of these issues, now perhaps more conceptually and theoretically. Indeed, the work of internationalizing and decolonizing comparative literature continues, on whatever “sites.”

For the past six months, ACLA’s conference committee has held monthly meetings with the local organizing committee in Taiwan, consisting of representatives from National Taiwan Normal University

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(Taiwan), and has made a lot of progress in preparatory work. Much of this work will now be incorporated into the virtual platform and we will make every effort to keep the spirit of internationalism and collaboration alive. While some plenary events will be held in person at NTNU and will be streamed, all seminars will be on the same virtual platform as the 2021 conference. In the meantime, the ACLA Secretariat has been working on improving the virtual platform; conference registration fees are halved; paper submission deadlines are extended to January 15th, 2022; and travel grants, now increased to \$25,000, are converted into registration waivers.

The pandemic has also affected the day-to-day running of our association in terms of a transition in the Secretariat, problems with our email address and physical phone, which now have all been resolved. I am delighted to introduce our new CAO, Danielle Fanucchi, who has a master's degree in Comparative Literature and comes to us with a background in board management. Please read her self-introduction in this newsletter, get acquainted with her, and feel welcome to communicate with not only the Secretariat but also the Board. Although our office is virtual and all of the board members are strictly voluntary, we are here to serve the ACLA community. Please consider nominating others or yourselves during the call for nominations for the positions open on the Board every Fall, and making a tax-deductible donation to ACLA to support scholars in need before the year's end. Finally, please also consider attending ACLA's roundtable, entitled "Decolonizing Comparative Literature," at the MLA convention on Friday January 7th at 3:30 pm. This roundtable has been moved online due to the new Covid spike, but the conversation continues. I hope to see many of you "there"!

Sincerely yours,

Shu-mei Shih, ACLA President (2021-2022)

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The ACLA welcomes donations to sustain the organization and to support scholars in our community. Donations to the Support a Scholar fund continue our tradition of providing financial support for contingent faculty and graduate students who wish to attend the Annual Meeting. These grants help support our most vulnerable members at a time when we see increasing cutbacks in university budgets and the effects of economic downturn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your donation will help ensure the highest and most diverse participation at our annual conference. Donations to the General Operating Fund help to sustain the organization. Any donations will go toward our general operating budget and support our conference planning, prize awards, and membership program.

DONATE NOW

Danielle Fanucchi joined the ACLA in early November 2021 as Chief Administrative Officer. With over a decade of nonprofit board management, project management, and administrative experience, and an MA in Comparative Literature, Danielle hopes to use her skills and experience to further the mission of the ACLA. Originally from San Francisco, CA, Danielle now resides outside of Wichita, KS, and when she and her spouse are not chasing after their four-year-old, she loves to read, write, play music, and explore the outdoors.

Upcoming at the ACLA

- The 2022 Annual Meeting is now virtual. The deadline for abstract submission is now January 15, 2022. Registration fees will be halved, in addition to this year's even lower fees for

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- Elections will take place in the new year. ACLA members will receive information in January regarding the election process.
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In Memoriam

The ACLA marks with deep sadness the death of an esteemed colleague in this period of great loss.

bell hooks, 1952-2021, Distinguished Professor in Residence in Appalachian Studies, Berea College.

- *And There We Wept* (Golemics, 1978).
- *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (South End Press, 1981).
- *Belonging: A Culture of Place* (Routledge, 2009).
- *Appalachian Elegy: Poetry and Place* (University Press of Kentucky, 2012).

The ACLA continues to recognize our colleagues here for their contributions to our field and to our community, and we know that we have missed many. Please send us their names so that we may mark their passing.

Calls for Papers

- [Call for papers](#) for the 2022 Symposium on Disinformation Studies (SDS), due December 20.
- [Call for papers](#) for "Dramatizing Difference: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in Modern European Theatre," a special issue of *European Drama and Performance Studies*, due December 31.
- [Call for papers](#) for Taiwan Studies in Application, the 27th annual conference of the North American Taiwan Studies Association, due December 31.
- [Call for papers](#) for Race and Racism: Beyond the Spectacular, a special issue of TAPA, the journal of the Society for Classical Studies, due January 1.
- [Call for papers](#) for a special issue of *ARIEL: Postcolonial Affect*, due January 15.
- [Call for contributions](#) to *A Character Named Cervantes: On Screen, on Stage, and on the Page*, due January 15.
- [Call for papers](#) for special issue of new humanities journal, *Literature*: "Environmental Literature, Climate Crises, and Pandemics," due January 30.
- [Call for papers](#) for topical issue The Relevance of Anne Brontë in the English-Speaking World and Elsewhere: Current Perspectives, for *Open Cultural Studies*, due January 31.
- [Call for papers](#) for *The Journal Abusões'* Gothic Studies Special Issue N. 19, "Ibero-American Gothic: Gothic productions in the Iberian Peninsula and in Latin America," due February 21.
- [Call for papers](#) for the 2022 Conference for the American Studies Association of Norway (ASANOR): "Appalling Ocean, Verdant Land: America and the Sea," due April 8.

To post a call for papers to the [ACLA website](#), email info@acla.org with the deadline and your CFP in PDF format.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies](#), Bates College, apply by January 3.
- [Open Rank Post in Comparative Literature](#), Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, apply by January 15.
- [Literature - Visiting Professor \(Open Rank\)](#), New York University: NYU - Global: Abu Dhabi, apply by January 15.

To post a job announcement to the [ACLA website](#), email info@acla.org with the deadline, application link, and any additional information.

Is your ACLA membership expiring soon? [Check](#) your membership status and [renew](#) today!

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