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American Comparative Literature Association

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## *Letter from the President*

Dear ACLA members,

Last month we gathered in Montréal/Tiohtià:ke, on the unceded and traditional territories of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation, to share ideas and be in conversation about the intellectual, cultural, and political commitments that shape our work, about the disciplinary and institutional formations that both support and constrain it, and about ways of moving forward individually and collectively in our discipline and in our organization. For many of us, coming together in person after the years of the pandemic still feels like a particular pleasure, still not to be taken for granted. Indeed, at a moment when the ongoing military assault on Gaza by the state of Israel has brought about a devastating loss of life and the destruction of countless cultural and educational sites—including all 12 institutions of higher education in Gaza—our pleasure in gathering and learning from one another is also colored with grief and dismay that so many others are being denied this same experience. Our work and our community, and how we conceive of our work and community, take on heightened significance in such times.

In that light, I want to thank ACLA's Chief Administrative Officer Danielle Fanucci, our Communications & Development Officer Brigid Kennedy, and our Secretary-Treasurer Dina Al- Kassim for their tireless work throughout the year to keep the organization running, and particularly for their work in making our annual conference the success it was this year. The entire ACLA Board also

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the Program Committee, headed by Jim Kim Watson, and the Conference Committee, headed by E.K. Tan. Last but not least, many thanks are due to Ranjanna Khanna, our outgoing president, for her years of service to the organization on the presidential ladder, for her thoughtful and elegant leadership, and for her moving and timely presidential address, “On Sex and Death, *or* the Problem of Thinking Comparatively.”

I also want to make special note of ACLA past president Wail Hassan’s efforts in bringing together the States of Comparison Seminar, which highlighted some of the work that has gone into the State of the Discipline Report, for which Wail and his fellow past president Shu-mei Shih are serving as co-chairs of the editorial committee. The State of the Discipline Report is compiled once every decade; past reports have become important historical records tracing the development of the field both intellectually and institutionally. The current report, which will be released in fall 2024, is still accepting submissions of 1,000-5,000 words, aimed at addressing a series of topics: “Languages, grounds, translation,” “Theories, paradigms, methods, keywords,” “Worlds, regions, minorities, geopolitics,” “Histories, temporalities, periodization,” “Power, justice, ethics,” and “Institutions, pedagogy, employment.”

Submissions will be accepted until May 1, 2024, and scholars of all ranks are encouraged to submit through the link provided on the report’s website, [stateofthediscipline.acla.org](http://stateofthediscipline.acla.org).

During my year as president, I will be focused largely on continuing the ACLA’s recent efforts at internationalization by increasing the profile of translation, and particularly the translation of critical and theoretical works from the Global South, in our organization and discipline. These efforts will be in keeping with the Vice Presidential Seminar I organized for the conference in Montréal, “Translation and Epistemic Justice in a Comparative Literature Context.” They will also continue Ranji Khanna’s work in organizing online events outside the space of the annual conference, as I plan to host a handful of translation-focused discussions and workshops over the course of this coming year.

One last reminder: our 2025 conference will be held virtually. The Executive

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third year in order to increase the accessibility of the conference to those for whom travel is prohibitive, as well as for environmental and financial reasons. We will continue in our signature seminar format, and given the success of our two previous virtual conferences (in 2021 and 2022), we have high hopes for next year's annual meeting as well.

Sincerely,

**Karen Emmerich**

ACLA President

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## **State of the Discipline Report**

You are invited to share your perspective on the developments, transformations, continuities, challenges, opportunities, and any other aspect of significance for Comparative Literature at the present time. For detailed information on the submission process, guidelines, and thematic considerations, please visit the [State of the Discipline Report website](#). To submit a contribution, just click on [Submit an Entry](#) at the upper right-hand corner of the home page (see also the [instructions](#) for submission).

**The State of the Discipline submission deadline is May 1, 2024.**

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## **Welcome to the new members of the ACLA Board:**

Second Vice President: **B. Venkat Mani**

Conference Committee Chair: **Tze-Lan Sang**

Publications Committee Chair: **Harris Feinsod**

Graduate Student Committee Representative: **Lilika Kukiela**

Graduate Student Committee Representative: **Ipek Sahinler**

ADPCL Representative: **Dane Johnson**

## Congratulations to the winners of the 2023–2024 prizes!

### Aldridge Prize:

**Winner:** Lara Norgaard, *Between Bandung and Havana: Emergent Solidarities and the Forgotten Poetry of Viva Cuba*

**Honorable Mention:** Tianyun Hua, *Body, Dream, and Poetic Justice: Migrant Labor in Late Qing Anti-Exclusion Novels Bitter Society (1905) and Golden World (1907)*

**Honorable Mention:** Varol Kahveci, *Homes in Crisis: Exploring Narratives of Loss and Homelessness in Leo Spitzer's "En Apprenant le Turc"*

### Bernheimer Prize:

**Winner:** Jessica Copley, *Forms of War: Capitalism, Representation and the State in Post-45 Literatures from France, Japan, and the United States*

**Honorable Mention:** Aurélien Bellucci, *Democratic Performances: How Theater Creates The People*

**Honorable Mention:** Allison Leigh Kanner-Botan, *Maddening Love: Islamic Thought and the Ethics of Desire in the Legend of Layla and Majnun*

### Frenz Prize:

**Winner:** Viola Bao, *Diasporic Cultural Revolutions: Talks at Yan'an in the Black Arts Movement*

### Presidential Undergraduate Prize:

**Winner:** Dominic Pham, *The Struggle Continues: Cosmopolitan Encounters and Spatial Disjunctions in Singaporean and Vietnamese Literature*

### Presidential Master's Prize:

**Winner:** Camellia Pham, *Colonial Translation Turned Vietnamization: Pham Quỳnh and the Discourse of Transculturation*

### Wellek Prize:

**Winner, Monograph:** Moira Fradinger, *Antígonas: Writing from Latin America*

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**Honorable Mention, Monograph:** Eduardo Cadava and Sara Naudai-Meisio,

*Politically Red*

**Winner, Edited Collection:** Pooja Rangan, Akshya Saxena, Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, and Pavitra Sundar, *Thinking with an Accent: Toward a New Object, Method, and Practice*

**Levin Prize:**

**Winner:** Isabel C. Gómez, *Cannibal Translation: Literary Reciprocity in Contemporary Latin America*

**Tartar Subvention:**

**Winner:** Joseph Albernaz, *Common Measures: Romanticism and the Groundlessness of Community*

**Winner:** Rose Casey, *Aesthetic Impropriety: Property Law and Postcolonial Style*

**Winner:** Yoon Jeong Oh, *Translingual Interventions: The Melancholic Space of Japanese Colonialism, Postcolonial Korea, and Transpacific Cosmopolitanism*

**If you heard an outstanding presentation by a graduate student at the 2024 Annual Meeting, consider nominating the paper for the Horst Frenz Prize, awarded to the best paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA. You'll find [additional details and the nomination form on our website](#). If you're unsure of a name or paper title, please check the [online schedule](#) or [program PDF](#).**

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In 2005, Palestinian civil society issued a call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) against Israel. ACLA joins other academic organizations in endorsing this call from our Palestinian colleagues. We note identity is not complicity and that the Palestinian-led BDS campaign against Israel is one that targets institutions and not individuals, and we recognize the right of all scholars to academic freedom as well as the right of all scholars to choose whether or not to participate in an academic boycott. Since the ACLA engages in socially responsible investment practices, it is our best understanding that the organization is already divested from corporations that benefit from Israeli apartheid and occupation, and we call upon other academic

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boycott, and will give effect to this commitment in a manner consistent with ACLA's bylaws as well as relevant US federal, state, and local laws. We urge other scholarly organizations to do the same.

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## *Remembering Monica Popescu*



Monica Popescu and Sheila Giffen, Research Trip, 2011

Monica Popescu, Professor and William Dawson Scholar of African Literatures in the Department of English at McGill University, began a different journey on February 24, 2024. A leading voice in African and Cold War literary studies, her most recent monograph, *At Penpoint* (2020), won numerous prestigious awards, including an honorable mention for the MLA's Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies. Her ongoing projects at the time of her death reflected her continued commitment to comparative literature and the comparative method. She was working on at least three books, including a monograph on the rise of the world literature paradigm, a scholarly biography of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, and an edited collection on the Global South. Monica was also a dedicated member of the ACLA, serving on its board as chair of the Publications Committee. Under her leadership, the committee adjudicated the Helen Tartar First Book Subvention Award and held workshops on publishing first (and then second) books. Monica demonstrated her dedication to the success of junior faculty working on comparative literature through her work with the ACLA.

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introducing them to all aspects of research, at home and also abroad in South African archives. Teaching students to read across diverse geographies, Monica's comparative approach illuminated the cross cultural influence of a Soviet imaginary in South Africa. Raised in Romania, Monica was uniquely positioned to retrieve the weave of Soviet and postcolonial entanglement and to follow it in the archive as in its literary manifestations.

Thanks go to Victoria-Oana Lapascu and Sheila Giffen for this tribute.

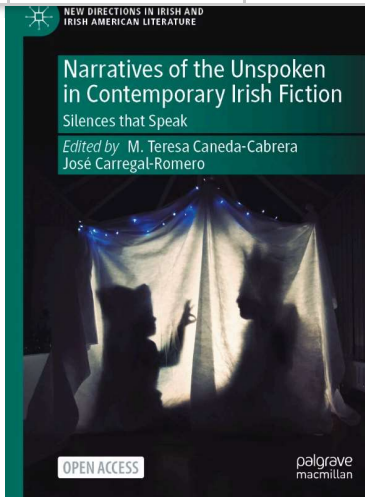
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## Recent Publications

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We are excited to announce the following recent publications by members of the American Comparative Literature Association! If you have published a book in the past year and want to be featured in an upcoming ACLA newsletter, please send a brief description & cover photo to [info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org).



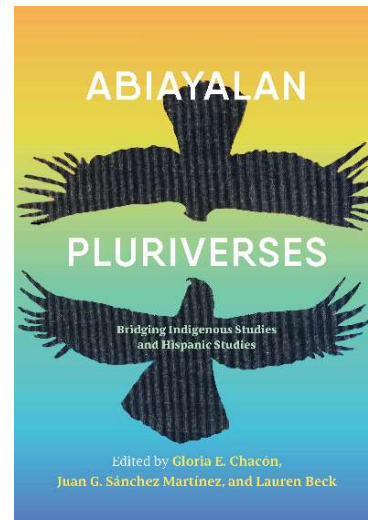
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Fiction: "Silences that Speak," edited by M. Teresa Caneda-Cabrera & José Carregal-Romero

"Narratives of the Unspoken" is an [open access collection of essays](#). This volume offers an in-depth analysis of silence as an aesthetic practice and a textual strategy which paradoxically speaks of the unspoken nature of many inconvenient hidden truths of Irish society in the work of contemporary fiction writers. The book's attention to silence provides a rich vocabulary for understanding what unfolds in the quiet interstices of Irish writing from recent decades. This study also invokes the past to understand the present and, thus, demonstrates the continuities and discontinuities that define how silence operates in Irish culture.

"Abiayalan Pluriverses: Bridging Indigenous Studies and Hispanic Studies," edited by Gloria E. Chacón, Juan G. Sánchez Martínez, & Lauren Beck

"[Abiayalan Pluriverses](#)" looks for pathways that better connect two often siloed disciplines. This edited collection brings together different disciplinary experiences and perspectives to this objective, weaving together researchers, artists, instructors, and authors who have found ways of bridging Indigenous and Hispanic studies through trans-Indigenous reading methods, intercultural dialogues, and reflections on translation and epistemology.




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## Calls for Papers

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- [Call for proposals](#) for the *Humanities Bulletin Journal* (due April 25).



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fiction in East-Central Europe (due April 30).

- [Call for proposals](#) for the 4th International Colloquium of *Intermídia: Estudos sobre a Intermidialidade*, "Word, Sound, Image: Materialities in Question," held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, at the Pontificia Universidade Católica de Minas Gerais (PUC Minas) September 10-13, 2024 (due April 30).
- [Call for proposals](#) for the 2024 Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference, held in Chicago, October 4-6, 2024 (due May 15).
- [Call for proposals](#) for a special issue of *TRANS- Journal of General and Comparative Literature*, "Hybridity" (due June 1).
- [Call for proposals](#) for a special issue of *English Language Notes*, "Metaphors of Compilation" (due June 1).
- [Call for proposals](#) for the University of Minnesota Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (AMES) 2024 Graduate Student Conference, held at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Oct. 25-26th, 2024 (due June 1).
- [Call for proposals](#) for *Kremenets Comparative Studies* (due June 1).

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

## Job Announcements

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- [German Lecturer](#), Princeton University, apply by April 25.
- [Assistant Professor, Soviet and Post-Soviet Cultural Studies](#), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, application deadline ongoing.
- [Associate or Full Professor of Asian/Pacific/American Studies](#), American University, application deadline ongoing.

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

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The Princeton Center for Language Study is running a [summer session in June and July of 2024](#) for intensive courses in French, German, and Latin. Each course aims to provide graduate students from a variety of disciplines enough reading proficiency in the target language to be able to read journal articles or conduct archival work. Applications are due by April 19.

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