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ACLA HARRY LEVIN PRIZE 2023 CITATION

Gal Gvili for *Imagining India in Modern China: Literary Decolonization and the Imperial Unconscious, 1895-1962*. Columbia University Press, 2022.

Imagining India in Modern China is an eloquently written and compelling intervention in the field of comparative literature through translation studies that provides a nuanced historical account of how Chinese intellectuals and translators read and translated Indian authors in the first half of the 20th century. In so doing, it presents readers with a rich and multilayered account of South-North-South literary interactions by tracing historical, archival, and geographical connections, as well as those between Chinese, Indian, and English languages that interacted with one another. In the process, Gvili argues, Indian authors became key interlocutors to broaden the networks that enriched modern Chinese literature. As a whole, *Imagining India in Modern China* is an erudite study that provides an outstanding account of the institutional history of literary studies and translation practices in and between China and India. It is most impressive in its attention to translation studies as a way of engaging comparative literature and the never-absent colonial specter. In its historical and geographically surprising routes, it traces the possibilities of decolonial, anti-colonial, and Third World solidarities in literary practice and reception. The concept and problems of the comparative infuse every chapter and analysis, with attention paid to not just the difficulties and violences of translation, but to their nascent progressive and transgressive political hopes across Asian borders in an era of imperialism, war, and the rise of global capital.

Committee: Tsitsi Jaji (chair), Samantha Pinto, Juan Ramos