

## ACLA 2024 René Wellek Prize, Edited Collection: Winner

PRESIDENT  
Ranjana Khanna  
Duke University

VICE-PRESIDENT  
Karen Emmerich  
Princeton University

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
Karyn Ball  
University of Alberta

SECRETARY-TREASURER  
Dina Al-Kassim  
University of British Columbia

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER  
Danielle Fanucchi

PAST PRESIDENT  
Rei Terada  
University of California, Irvine

NOMINATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Jennifer Wenzel  
Columbia University

FINANCE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Robert Meister  
University of California, Santa Cruz

PROGRAM  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Jini Kim Watson  
New York University

PUBLICATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Michael Allan  
University of Oregon

CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
E.K. Tan  
Stony Brook University

ADPCL REPRESENTATIVE  
Luis Fernando Restrepo

GRADUATE STUDENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Zeena Yasmine Fuleihan  
Duke University

GRADUATE  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
Xena Amro  
Northwestern University

### Committee:

Chair, Kamran Rastegar (Tufts University)  
Simona Bertacco (University of Louisville)  
Jeremy Glick (Hunter College): 2023-2026

***Thinking with an Accent: Toward a New Object, Method, and Practice*, edited by Pooja Rangan, Akshya Saxena, Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, Pavitra Sundar, Foreword by John Baugh, University of California Press**

Anyone who speaks with an accent and has felt self-conscious about it will feel vindicated after reading this book. Everyone, the book contends, speaks with an accent. Accents do more than just denote identity: they negotiate power, enable discrimination but they also charm and generate desire.

What, exactly, is an accent and why it should represent a new object, method, and practice in the humanities are the questions the editors and contributors of this ambitious, capacious, and creative volume of essays set out to explore. Starting from the primacy of the accent in ordinary life, the essays in this book explore the ramifications of the accent as a coded mode of perception. “The accented voice of the other emerges in perception,” that is to say, the accent is embedded in our ways of hearing, reading, and speaking. On a deeper level, as this book shows us, “the accent is what we *think* we hear, read, and say” (emphasis added), hence the need to examine all that is taken for granted when we use the word accent to describe people and their way of speaking, reading, and writing.

*Thinking with an Accent* gathers scholars of literature, linguistics, education, law, sound and media studies to theorize the accent as an object of inquiry, an interdisciplinary method, and an embodied practice. Taken together, these essays invite us to hear and own our own accent and to think with an accent—to practice an embodied, relational and interdisciplinary mode of inquiry that promises to yield transformative forms of knowledge, action, and care.

The timeliness of this book cannot be overstated. It is as if the past fifty years of scholarship in the humanities, from the linguistic, cultural, gender, and media sides, had come to fruition in the conceptualization of this volume. Indeed, the impact of this approach to literary, language, and cultural studies promises to be field-changing. For a discipline such as comparative literature that puts the rigorous study of as well as the respect and care for languages and literatures at the center of its intellectual pursuit, this book exemplifies the relevance of the humanities as a way of knowing, of being in the world, and as a powerful tool for good.

PRESIDENT  
Ranjana Khanna  
Duke University

VICE-PRESIDENT  
Karen Emmerich  
Princeton University

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT  
Karyn Ball  
University of Alberta

SECRETARY-TREASURER  
Dina Al-Kassim  
University of British Columbia

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE  
OFFICER  
Danielle Fanucchi

PAST PRESIDENT  
Rei Terada  
University of California, Irvine

NOMINATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Jennifer Wenzel  
Columbia University

FINANCE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Robert Meister  
University of California, Santa Cruz

PROGRAM  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Jini Kim Watson  
New York University

PUBLICATIONS  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Michael Allan  
University of Oregon

CONFERENCE  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
E.K. Tan  
Stony Brook University

ADPCL REPRESENTATIVE  
Luis Fernando Restrepo

GRADUATE STUDENT  
COMMITTEE CHAIR  
Zeena Yasmine Fuleihan  
Duke University

GRADUATE  
STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
Xena Amro  
Northwestern University

It is with great joy that we award the ACLA René Wellek Prize to *Thinking with an Accent: Toward a New Object, Method, and Practice*, edited by Pooja Rangan, Akshya Saxena, Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan, and Pavitra Sundar.