

# A F F I L L I A T I O N S

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

24-25 MAY 2024

**Keynote speakers**

**Seeta Chaganti**, Professor of English, University of California, Davis

**Mark Currie**, Professor of Contemporary Literature, Queen Mary,  
University of London

**Carla Freccero**, Distinguished Professor of Literature and History of  
Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz

**Nicola Gardini**, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature,  
University of Oxford

**Organised by**

**Joseph Hankinson**  
Career Development Lecturer in English, University of Oxford

**Gareth Lloyd Evans**  
Rebecca Marsland Career Development Fellow in English,  
University of Oxford



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In recent years, comparison and comparability have generated thorough critical discussion within the fields of cultural and literary studies. But despite the popularity of comparison as a critical methodology, it is nevertheless the case, as Rita Felski notes, that 'comparison across space—that is to say, across nations, cultures, or regions—has received far more attention in comparative literature than comparison across time.' To some extent, existing disciplinary distinctions produce this uneven distribution of attention. Period boundaries impose an often arbitrary temporal delimitation of inquiry, which in turn lends weight to reified and institutionalised categories of thought. Consequently, cross-temporal work is, as Felski argues, habitually 'seen as evidence of dilettantism or insufficient professionalization.'

But, we suggest, that which has been dismissed as dilettantism itself promises reinvigoration and expansion of the possibilities of literary criticism more generally. Xiaofan Amy Li's work on the 'three kinds of comparabilities' associated with the conventions of 'existing comparative literature' (the 'genealogical, temporal, and generic comparabilities') has provided a vocabulary for understanding the ways comparative thought makes assumptions about how texts might relate across time (2015, 14). Like the 'world' of world literature, which can serve, as Karima Laachir, Sara Marzagora, and Francesca Orsini have argued, as 'dominant explanatory grid' (2018, 291-2), time in 'existing comparative literature' tends to be either reduced to lines of inheritance or treated as a static frame or macro-category that justifies comparability in advance.

With this in mind, this conference seeks to provoke discussion of and experimentation with asynchronous encounters, to stage interactions between texts and fields of research routinely kept separate, and to develop collectively a theory of cross-temporal comparison.

# DAY 1

## Registration

09.00–09.35

Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

## Opening Remarks

09.45–10.00

Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

## Opening Keynote

### 'On Comparison: Medieval Studies and Comparative Racialization'

Seeta Chaganti (University of California, Davis)

Chaired by Marion Turner (University of Oxford)

10.00–11.00

Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

## Coffee Break

11.00–11.25

Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

## Parallel Panels 1, 2, and 3

11.30–13.00

Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

### Panel 1

#### Queer Entanglements

Chaired by Anna Wilson

### Panel 2

#### Redemption, Subversion, Contemplation: Theology and Comparison

Chaired by Elisabeth Dutton

### Panel 3

#### (Dis)Member States: European Divisions

Chaired by Andrew Ginger

#### 'The Poetry of Cruising'

Stephen Guy-Bray  
(University of British Columbia)

#### 'Medieval Contemplation, Modern Criticism: A Comparative Approach to Attentional Practice'

Hannah Lucas  
(University of Cambridge)

#### 'Writing Trauma: Language and Dismemberment in Aleksandar Hemon and Lucan'

Esther Reichek  
(Harvard University)

#### 'Seven Minutes in Heaven Sodom'

Zaccary Haney  
(Loyola University Chicago)

#### 'Christ's Subversive Body and Diachronic Comparison: Toward a Three-Dimensional Reading'

Olga Solovieva (Nicolaus  
Copernicus University, Torún)

#### ' "The Present is Not Only What Happens Today": Christa Wolf, Paul Fleming and the Anachronicity of the Work of Art'

Catherine Smale  
(King's College London)

#### 'Afterthought as a Form of Queer Affiliation'

Valentina Tibaldo  
(University of Padua)

#### 'Redemptive Methodology: Cross-Time Analysis of Christian Persecution in India'

Clara Joseph  
(University of Calgary)

#### 'Historical-Typological Analogies: A Model of Cross- Temporal Comparison in European Marxist Literary Studies'

Aleksandar Momčilović  
(Independent Researcher)

**Lunch**  
13.00–14.00  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer B

**Parallel Panels 4, 5, and 6**  
14.05–15.05  
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

**Panel 4**  
**Staging Cross-Temporality**  
Chaired by Kathleen Tonry

**Panel 5**  
**Realisms, Speculative and Distant**  
Chaired by Julia Hartley

**Panel 6**  
**Collisions and Collusions:  
Reimagining Textual Precursors**  
Chaired by Luisa Coelho

**'Unmasking the Trans-  
Historical: The Medieval  
Mysteries and Iranian *Ta'ziyeh*  
Compared'**  
Elisabeth Dutton (University of  
Fribourg) and Lucy Deacon  
(University of Fribourg)

**'Distant Realisms'**  
Nicholas Paige  
(University of California, Berkeley)

**'Borges and His Precursors:  
Constructing Comparisons'**  
Georgina Fooks  
(University of Oxford)

**'Recognizing the World: Some  
Precolonial Conversations in a  
Postcolonial World'**  
Radhika Koul  
(Claremont McKenna College)

**'Cross-Temporal Comparative  
Literature: The Dynamics of  
Belonging and Difference  
from Hermeneutics to  
Speculative Realism'**  
Laila Sougri  
(Cadi Ayyad University)

**'Imagining the Unimaginable:  
Glissant's Relation Theory as a  
Methodology for Cross-Temporal  
Comparisons'**  
Daniel Whittle  
(University of Oxford)

**Parallel Panels 7, 8, and 9**  
15.15–16.45  
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

**Panel 7**  
**Object-Oriented Comparisons**  
Chaired by Hannah Lucas

**Panel 8**  
**Theorising the Cross-Temporal  
Encounter**  
Chaired by Daniel Reeve

**Panel 9**  
**Figuring Comparison**  
Chaired by Georgina Fooks

**'The Book Across Time:  
Technology, Labor, and a  
Cross-Temporal Approach to  
the History of the Book'**  
Kathleen Tonry  
(University of Connecticut)

**'Writing Her Self: The Old  
English *Wife's Lament* and  
*écriture féminine*'**  
Grace O'Duffy  
(University of Oxford)

**'Reading after the End of the  
World: Cross Temporal  
Comparative Approaches to  
the Romanesque'**  
Meg Bernstein (Alfred  
University) and Meg Boulton  
(University of York)

**'Early Itineraries of "Japanese-  
Chinese Comparative  
Literature"'**  
Jeffrey Niedermaier  
(Brown University)

**'Asynchronous Fidelity in the  
Philosophical Politics of  
Cicero and Alain Badiou'**  
Andres Matlock  
(University of Georgia)

**'Portraits and Portrait Poems:  
A Cross-Temporal  
Perspective'**  
Valentina Monateri  
(University of Turin)

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**'Heterochronology in a  
Comparative and  
Interdisciplinary Analysis of a  
Canonical Epic Poem and Two  
Contemporary Artworks'**  
Luisa Coelho  
(University of Oxford)

**'Anaracialism and the Ruse of  
Logisticality'**  
Wan-Chuan Kao  
(Washington and Lee University)

**'On the Comparative Literary  
Aspect of the Phenomenon of  
Temporality'**  
Marton Hoványi  
(Eötvös Loránd University)

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**Coffee Break**  
16.45–17.10  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

**Roundtable: Temporalities**  
Mark Currie (QMUL) with Daniel Reeve (UC Santa Barbara), Kathleen Tonry (Conneticut),  
Julia Hartley (Glasgow), and Kate McLoughlin (Oxford)  
17.10–18.10  
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

**Dinner**  
19.30–21.30  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer B

# DAY 2

**Coffee Reception**  
09.25–09.55  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

**Roundtable: Comparabilities**  
Nicola Gardini (Oxford) with Rowan Anderson (Oxford), Valentina Monateri (Torino),  
Danielle Stephenson (Berkeley), Trevin Corsiglia (Washington, St. Louis), and Nicholas Paige (Berkeley)  
10.00–11.00  
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

**Parallel Panels 10, 11, and 12**  
11.10–12.10  
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

**Panel 10**  
**Resonance Patterns**  
Chaired by Rowan Anderson

**Panel 11**  
**Reassembling the Social,  
Rethinking Affinity**  
Chaired by Zaccary Haney

**Panel 12**  
**Affiliative Pedagogies**  
Chaired by Ryan Hintzman

**'From Silence to Sound and  
Back to Nature'**  
Sarker Hasan Al Zayed  
(Independent University, Bangladesh)

**'Considering Ants and ANT:  
Traherne and Latour's  
Relational Ecologies'**  
Olivia Leonard  
(Arizona State University)

**' "Then and Back Again":  
Asynchronous Encounters  
and their Epistemological  
Issues for Literature Teachers-  
to-be in France'**  
Claudine Le Blanc (Université  
Sorbonne Nouvelle) and Tristan  
Mauffrey (Université Sorbonne  
Nouvelle)

**'Affiliation through  
Amplification'**  
Emily Pillinger (King's College  
London) and Miranda Stanyon  
(University of Melbourne)

**'The Sapphinity as Moratory  
Hauntology: Spectral Archives  
in *After Sappho*'**  
Andreea Moise  
(University of Bucharest)

**'Beyond Boxes: Rethinking  
Periodization and Genre in the  
International Baccalaureate  
Language A Curricular  
Framework'**  
Shelby Knighten (University of  
Oxford) and Leah Yates  
(University of Denver)

**Lunch**  
12.10–13.10  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

**Parallel Panels 13, 14, and 15**  
13.15–14.45  
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

**Panel 13**  
**Preterite Present**  
Chaired by Grace O'Duffy

**Panel 14**  
**Poetry and Poetics**  
Chaired by Stephen Guy-Bray

**Panel 15**  
**East-West Affiliations**  
Chaired by Danielle Stephenson

**' "They're not fanfics, mother":  
Reading Medieval Literature  
with Fanfiction'**  
Anna Wilson  
(Harvard University)

**'On Emergent Occasions:  
Toward a Comparative  
Pragmatics of Poem-Making'**  
Ryan Hintzman  
(Yale University)

**'Comparison as a Practice of  
Return'**  
Philipp Sperner  
(University of Konstanz)

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**'Intermittent Imagos and Malfunctioning Memory Chips: Roman Funerary Culture and Discontinuous Intertextuality in Bujold, Leckie and Martine'**  
Helen Lovatt  
(University of Nottingham)

**'A Perspective on Cross-Temporal Comparison: Innovation of 'Lyrical Forms' in the *Bridesmaid* (1851) and the *Marienleich of Frauenlob* (Heinrich von Meißen, 1250/1260- 1318)'**  
Simone Kügeler-Race  
(University of Cambridge)

**'Reframing the Aesthetics and Politics of Difference: A Comparative Analysis of Twentieth-Century Western and Classical Indian Aesthetic and Philosophical Ideas of 'Knowledge' and 'Power' '**  
Nishtha Dev (Sophia College for Women, Mumbai)

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**'Rejecting "Medievalism"? Comparing *The Wanderer* and *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*'**  
Catrin Haberfield  
(Stanford University)

**'Expansive Solipsists: Petrarch, Whitman, and the Poetics of Selfhood'**  
Trevin Corsiglia (Washington University in St. Louis)

**'A Mesopotamian Haunted House? Narrating Domestic Anxieties in the Anglo-American Gothic and a Mesopotamian Ritual Against Demons'**  
Jane Gordon (University of Chicago) and Adam Howe (Philipps-Universität Marburg)

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**Parallel Panels 16, 17, and 18**  
14.55-16.25  
Seminar Rooms 7, 8, and 9

**Panel 16**  
**Patterns, Networks, Groups**  
Chaired by Kate McLoughlin

**Panel 17**  
**Dream Time**  
Chaired by Olivia Leonard

**Panel 18**  
**Dante and/or Proust**  
Chaired by Valentina Tbaldo

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**'Rereading Jhumpa Lahiri'**  
Ushashi Dasgupta  
(University of Oxford)

**'The New Predestination: Boethius, Climate Time, and the Singularity'**  
Daniel Reeve (University of California, Santa Barbara)

**'On Higher Ground: Dante, Amiri Baraka, and the "System" of Time'**  
Danielle Stephenson  
(University of California, Berkeley)

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**'Affiliations and the Aesthetic Appreciation of History's Patterns'**  
Andrew Ginger  
(Northeastern University)

**'History as Dreaming: Assembling Time'**  
Meghan Quinlan (Uppsala University) and Andreas Keller (Swedish Psychoanalytical Association)

**'Translation as Cross-Temporal Comparison: The Case of Proust's *A la recherche du temps perdu*'**  
Rowan Anderson  
(University of Oxford) and Nicole Wong (University of Oxford)

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**'Transhistoric Coterie'**  
Michelle Alexis Taylor  
(Emory University)

**'Time and the Mystic Writing-Pad: Freud, Hegel, and a Phenomenology of Time'**  
Samuel Himmelfarb  
(University of Oxford)

**'Reading by Analogy: Dante and Proust, Dante and Hafez'**  
Julia Hartley  
(University of Glasgow)

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**Coffee Break**  
16.25-16.50  
Ruth Deech Building, Foyer A

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**Closing Keynote**  
**'Hauntologies, Figural Historiography, and Other Unruly Ways to Think Transtemporality'**  
Carla Freccero (University of California, Santa Cruz)  
Chaired by TBC  
16.55-17.55  
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

**Closing Remarks**  
17.55-18.00  
Tsuzuki Lecture Theatre

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