
This conference focuses on canonical or “sacred” texts—from Homer’s *Odyssey* to Murakami’s *Genji*, from Cervantes to Mayan hieroglyphs, from Dante to Coetzee, from Goethe to Glissant, from the *Thousand and One Nights* to Jorge Luis Borges—in a global perspective: how they are translated, appropriated, transformed, how they travel across different cultures and languages, their foundational status evolving accordingly in a post-European world.

Organized by Dominique Jullien (Department of French & Italian; Director, Series in Contemporary Literature).
Friday, November 20th, 2009
University Center, UCSB
Flying A Studio (1st Level)

9:30-11a.m.  Chair: Wolf Kittler (UCSB)

Gerardo Aldana (UCSB) “Cosmic Sacrifice: hieroglyphic, alphabetic, and
iconographic translations of a Mesoamerican Creation narrative”

Ulrich Marzolph (Göttingen University): “The repercussion of the Alexander-
Romance in the languages and literatures of the Near East”

Azadeh Yamin Hamedani (Simon Fraser University): “The Inception of a
World Literature: On Goethe’s Life with Hafez”

11:00 – 11:30  Break

11:30-12:30  Closing remarks and Future Projects: Aboubakr Chraïbi, Paulo Lemos Horta
& Dominique Jullien

* * *

Sponsored By:

UCSB Series in Contemporary Literature
UCLA Comparative Literature Department
French Cultural Services
UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center
UCSB Consortium for Literature, Culture, & Theory
UCSB English Department
UCSB East Asian Languages & Cultural Studies Department
UCSB Chicana/Chicano Studies Department
UCSB German, Slavic & Semitic Department & Program in Comparative Literature
UCSB Center for Middle Eastern Studies
UCSB Spanish & Portuguese Department
UCSB Classics Department

Promotional Materials and Organizational Assistant: Skye Paine
Wednesday, November 18th, 2009
HSSB Building, UCSB
McCune Conference Room (6th Floor)

9:30-11:00: Chair: Francis Dunn (UCSB)

Piero Boitani (Università La Sapienza, Rome): “World Literature 2000 Years Ago and After”

Suzanne Saïd (Columbia University): “Homer: a world writer and his creature”

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30-1:00 Chair: Stefania Tutino (UCSB)

Peter Madsen (Copenhagen University): “Liberating Jerusalem - defending Europe: Torquato Tasso’s Gerusalemme liberata and its role in Central and Eastern Europe in the age of the Turkish Fear”

Jon Snyder (UCSB): “The Writing of the World: the Baroque as planetary aesthetic”

3:00-5:00 p.m. Chair: Rita Raley (UCSB)

Stefan Helgesson (Uppsala University): “The Wondrous Travels of the Post-Europeans, or, Can there be “Foundational Texts” in World Literature?”


Mads Rosendahl Thomsen (University of Aarhus): “Subversive Foundations: Cervantes, Montaigne, Shakespeare and the Imported Canon”

5:00 – 5:30 Break

5:30 Keynote Address # 1
“In the light of Translation: Some Insights from Dante’s Commedia”
Sandra Bermann (Princeton University)

Thursday, November 19th, 2009
HSSB Building, UCSB
McCune Conference Room (6th Floor)

10:00-11:15 Chair: Paulo Lemos Horta (Simon Fraser University)

Efrain Kristal (UCLA) & Suzanne Jill Levine (UCSB): “Borges and/on Translation”

Juan Pablo Lupi (UCSB): “Lezama Lima and the Allegories of World Literature”

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45-1:00 Chair: Ron Egan (UCSB)

Michael Emmerich (UCSB): “A New Planet: The Tale of Genji as World Literature”

Evangelhelia Stead (Université de Reims, France): “East and West of Arachne: Worldwide Tales with respect to the Latin Tradition”

3:00-4:30 Chair: Dwight Reynolds (UCSB)

Wen-chin Ouyang (SOAS, London): “Tammuz in love: travels and transformations of an ancient myth in modern Arabic poetry”

Richard Van Leeuwen (Amsterdam University): “The Thousand and One Nights as a canonical text”

430- 5:00 Break

5:00 Keynote Address # 2
“Foundational Translations: The Worldly Origins of National Classics”
David Damrosch (Harvard University)