

Comparative Literature Program Newsletter June 2024



School of Languages and Cultures



A Word from Dr. Beate Allert, Director

In August 2023 the Comparative Literature Program moved from the School of Interdisciplinary Studies to the School of Languages and Cultures. In August 2024 all CMPL affiliated faculty from the English Department also moved together with the School of Languages and Cultures into Stanley Coulter Hall.

Prof. Beate Allert (allert@purdue.edu) continues to be Director of Comparative Literature and Professor of German, Comparative Literature, and Film Studies

Head of the School of Languages and Cultures is Professor Jen William (jmwilliam@purdue.edu).

School of Languages and Cultures Graduate Coordinator is Tatiana Elistratova (telistra@purdue.edu)

Our offices are in Stanley Coulter Hall, 640 Oval Drive, West Lafayette IN



Stanley Coulter Hall, 640 Oval Drive

We celebrated a wonderful Comparative Literature dinner at the Whittaker Inn in West Lafayette and had our current graduate students and affiliate faculty invited. In the first picture front you see to the right our School of Languages and Cultures Graduate Coordinator **Tatiana Elistratova**.



In the picture below to the right you see our **Prof. Jen William**, Head of the School of Languages and Cultures and front left you see **Prof. Elena Coda**, Associate Head of SLC, continuous member of the Comparative Literature Steering Committee.



Here at the table is a cheerful group of CMPL affiliates, colleagues and graduate students with Dr. Pedro Bassoe to the right.



School of Languages and Cultures

MAJOR IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE



The major is comprised of:

- A. Three required courses (**9 credits**):
 - **CMPL 23700**, Our Common Bond
 - **CMPL 266**, World Literature I, from the Beginnings to 1700 A.D.
 - **CMPL 267**, World Literature II: From 1700 A.D. to the Present
- B. Seven courses (**21 credits**) from the "selectives" Two courses must be chosen from category B, which focuses on "Languages, Literatures and Cultures in Other Languages". The remaining 15 credits can be tailored to students' individual interests, and they are drawn from areas B, C, D with at least 3 credits from both C and D.



Comparative Literature students must either achieve proficiency at the 200 level (intermediate) in a language other than English or demonstrate proficiency through a language test.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

- Dr. Elena Coda (ecoda@purdue.edu), SLC Associate Head
- Dr. Ahmed Idrissi Alami (aidrissi@purdue.edu), Comparative Literature Steering Committee
- Dr. Beate Allert (Allert@purdue.edu), Director, Comparative literature program



COMP LIT PREPARES INFORMED GLOBAL CITIZENS

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

CMPL Major offers the skills and competencies to navigate our interconnected world.

The comparative literature major prepares informed global citizens. Comp. Lit. fosters global cultures, transnational literatures, performance studies, music, film, and media studies through a wide range of genres and cultural expressions, including the integration of interdisciplinary studies and scientific discourses.

Students have control over their study plan and courses. You can select courses that respond to your interests and academic vision.

Comp. Lit. Major is Feasible: it requires 30 credits.

Students can count up to 2 courses from their primary major towards the Comp Lit Major.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

- New ways of evaluating ideas and assessing problems from an interdisciplinary and critical perspective
- Synthetic Critical Analysis
- Communication
- Cross Cultural competencies

CONTACTS

Dr. Elena Coda, Professor of Italian & Comparative Literature,
Associate Head of the School of Languages and Cultures
Steering Committee Member (ecoda@purdue.edu)

Dr. Ahmed Idrissi Alami
Associate Professor of Arabic & Comparative Literature,
Steering Committee Member (aidrissi@purdue.edu)

Dr. Beate I. Allert
Professor of German, Comparative Literature, and Film Studies
Director of Comparative Literature (allert@purdue.edu)



We in CMPL are allowed to accept (from among 30 applicants) five new graduate students into Comparative Literature Program. Four begin in August 2024 and one is among those to join us in fall 2025.

Welcome to the four Fall 2024 new Graduate Students in Comparative Literature:



Anurati Dutta joins us for the PhD in Comparative Literature at Purdue University. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University, India. Her research focuses on the intersections of food, gender, sexuality, culture, and politics. She is also a Citizen Historian with the 1947 Partition Archive. An advocate for women's and queer rights, Anurati has collaborated with multiple non-profits. Outside of academia and activism, she indulges her artistic passions through painting and photography, capturing moments that intrigue her. She will be a Teaching Assistant in the School of Languages and Cultures this coming year.



Diana Alejandra Torres Arias joins us with a Ross Fellowship for studies in Comparative Literature towards the PhD degree. She has her M.A. degree from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, and did her undergraduate studies in her home country, Ecuador. In addition to being a doctoral student, she is an editor and researcher. She is Managing Editor for Production for the academic journal, *Spanish and Portuguese Review*. Her work, both academic and literary, has been published in Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, and the United States. She taught in the Department of Languages, Linguistics, and Comparative Literature at Florida Atlantic, and was also a Librarian in the Boca Raton Public Library. Her research revolves around Disability Studies, posthumanism, ecocriticism, postmodernism, and film studies.



Xiaoyang Guo joins us for his studies towards the PhD in Comparative Literature in August 2024. He earned his B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature from Soochow University and his M.A. in Comparative Literature from Sichuan University. His research interests lie in Chinese and Japanese literature and intellectual history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with a primary focus on issues of identity. Beyond his main field of study, he is also passionate about the visual arts and mass communication.



Rida Altaf with a Fulbright Fellowship from Pakistan for the MA in Comparative Literature at Purdue University. Here is how she introduces herself:

“Rida, from Karachi, Pakistan, likes books with speculative elements. Magic systems, djinn, and cults are welcome. One may argue that she has not ‘grown up’ yet but she firmly believes that speculative fiction tends to explore great, philosophical ideas that cannot be otherwise elucidated in ‘realistic’ terms. That’s why she wrote her undergraduate thesis on the Japanese grief-experience using only magical realist books for her arguments. Now, she is excited to delve further into this research interest. Her ambitions might take her into the more technical world of futuristic science fiction and its exploration of the occult. Some other facts: Rida also writes (mostly speculative fiction) and was part of the Salam Award Workshop in 2023. She teaches (sometimes, mostly middle-school kids) English. She’s also a slush reader for Diabolical Plots currently (which means she gets to read hundreds of spec-fic stories!). But don’t let that fool you: her interests are not that narrow. In truth, she will read almost anything if there’s a cup of tea next to her. In any case, she’s excited to geek out about books this year with the rest of CMPL batch!”

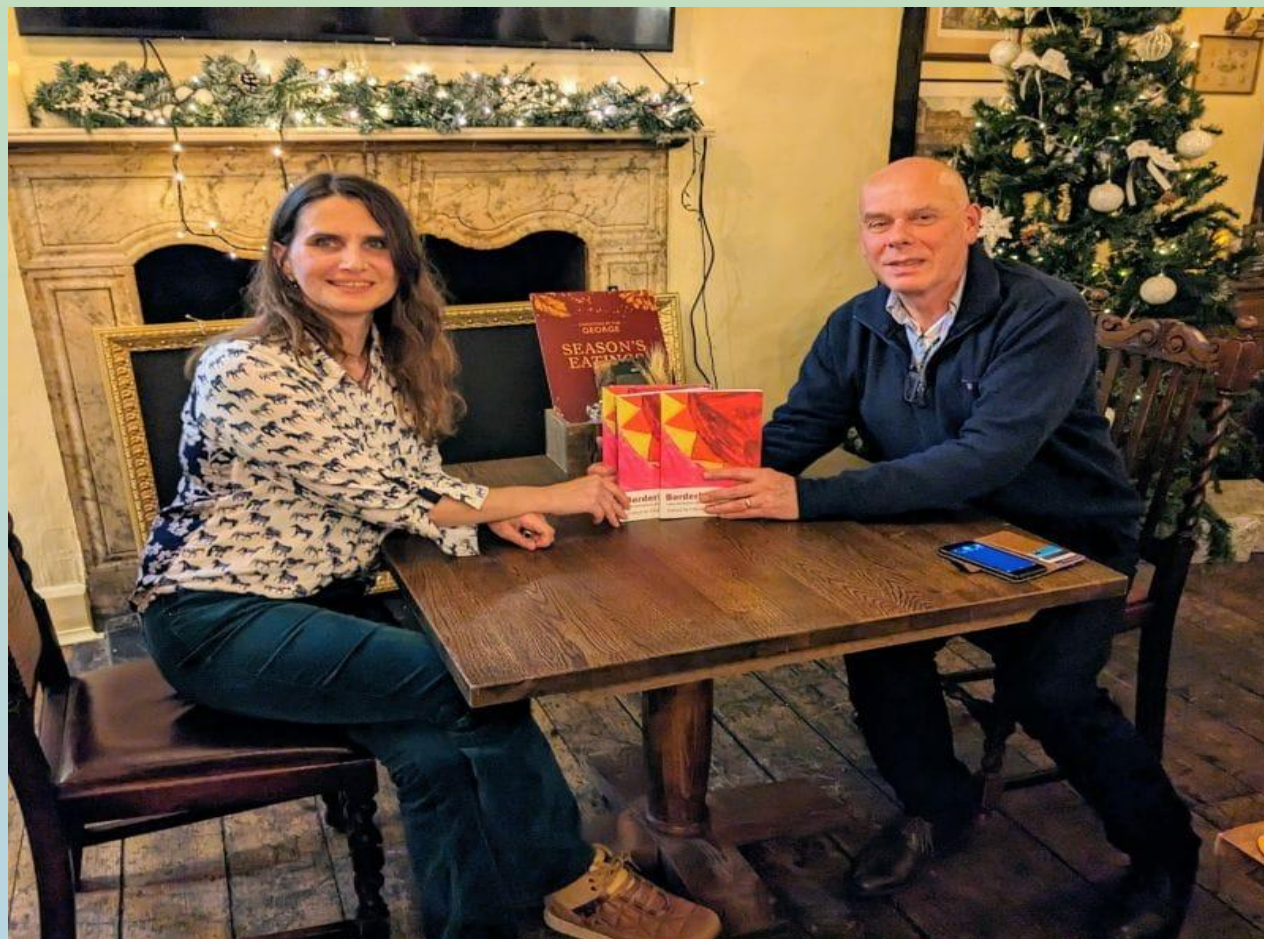
Graduations & Celebrations in 2023-24:

Shiyu Zhang completed her PhD in August 2018 with Dr. Beate Allert and Dr. Hongjian Wang as co-chairs of her committee. Topic: “The Long Shadow: Literary and Cinematic Representation and Re-Imagination of Chinese Female Trauma in the Second Sino-Japanese War.” She had joined Purdue with an MA degree from King’s College in London and had a PRF grant at Purdue during her first and most recent years. Her languages are Mandarin, English, Cantonese, Japanese, and French. She also taught Chinese at Purdue University for several years. She is now back in China. We wish Dr. Shiyu Zhang the best for the future.

Our CMPL Purdue Alumna Dr. Catalina Florescu published a new book, *Female Playwrights and Applied Intersectionality in Romanian Theater* (New York: Routledge, 2023).



Along with her edited volume, *Borderless Thalia: A Multilingual, Pandemic Comic Collection* (Poole, Dorset: Solis Press, 2022). both titles were exhibited at the London Book Fair in March 2014.



Dr Florescu presents her book *Borderless Thalia: A Multilingual, Pandemic Comic Collection* at the London Book Fair.

More Congratulations in order:

Andrew Kroninger, Gwénäel Jouin, and Ching-Jen Sun completed their Prelims and their Prospectus Defense each and are now advanced to candidacy for the PhD titled “ABD” (all but dissertation). **Andrew Kroninger** received the prestigious 2024 CLA Excellence in Research Award in Spring 2024 to conduct research for his dissertation in German Archives (Marbach et al). He has a chapter in *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World* (Purdue UP 2023) published. **Gwénäel Jouin** received a PROMISE grant to give talks on his current research. **Ching-Jen Sun** is this summer doing research for his dissertation while spending time with his family and music band in Taiwan.

Rajaa Moini completed her M.A. in Comparative Literature at Purdue University in Spring 2024. She had a Fulbright scholarship from Pakistan for two years and Purdue U CLA support. Her dissertation was titled: “Ghosts at the Threshold: Disembodied Memory and Mourning in Post-War Violent Death in Contemporary Middle Eastern and South Asian Literatures,” The thesis defense took place on May 12, 2024, directed by Dr. Ahmed

Idrissi Alami. Other members of the committee were Drs. Sagar, Bhattacharya, and Allert. We wish her all the best now back in Pakistan and congratulations on yet being the successful recipient of another fellowship!



Rajaa Moini's MA thesis defense on May 12, 2024 (picture above)

Alumna Dr. Christina M. Weiler to the left is now Administrative Director in Residence of the Junior Year in Munich, the which is the oldest US study abroad program in Germany and affiliated with the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich). Her research focuses on German literature, culture, and philosophy of the long eighteenth century in a comparative and interdisciplinary framework. Particularly, she is interested in metaphor studies, philosophy of nature and the senses, and environmental studies. She has published on Herder, Novalis, Sophie Tieck, E.T.A. Hoffmann, Humboldt, and German film, and she co-edited a volume titled *Memory in German Romanticism: Imagination, Image, Reception* with Christopher Clason and Joseph Rockelmann (Routledge 2023).



This picture above was taken at the International Conference on Romanticism in Detroit in October 2023 where the three presented papers. See picture Dr. Christina M. Weiler, Dr. Beate I. Allert, and Gwénäel Jouin, ABD.

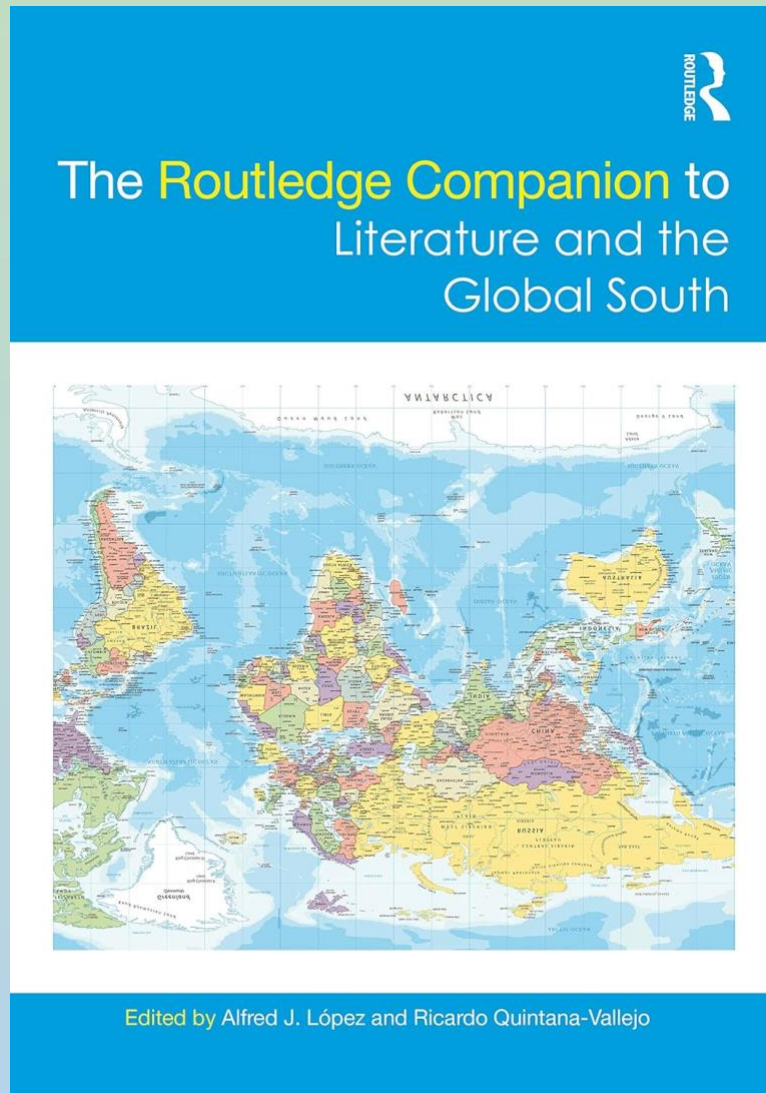
Dr. Catriona MacLeod, Distinguished Professor “Frank Curtis Springer and Gertrude Melchior Springer Professor” at University of Chicago presented a fascinating guest lecture to our Comparative Literature program and open to the public on April 24, 2023 at Purdue University on the artwork of paper cuttings in the eighteenth century. She raised the question “How are scissors connected with writing in German Romanticism?” One of the Early Romantic Fragments offers a profile of Friedrich Schlegel as a genial cutter of silhouettes, embedding the materiality of paper within a conceptual discourse of fragments. However, scissors and papercuts have generally been relegated to the margins of Romanticism.



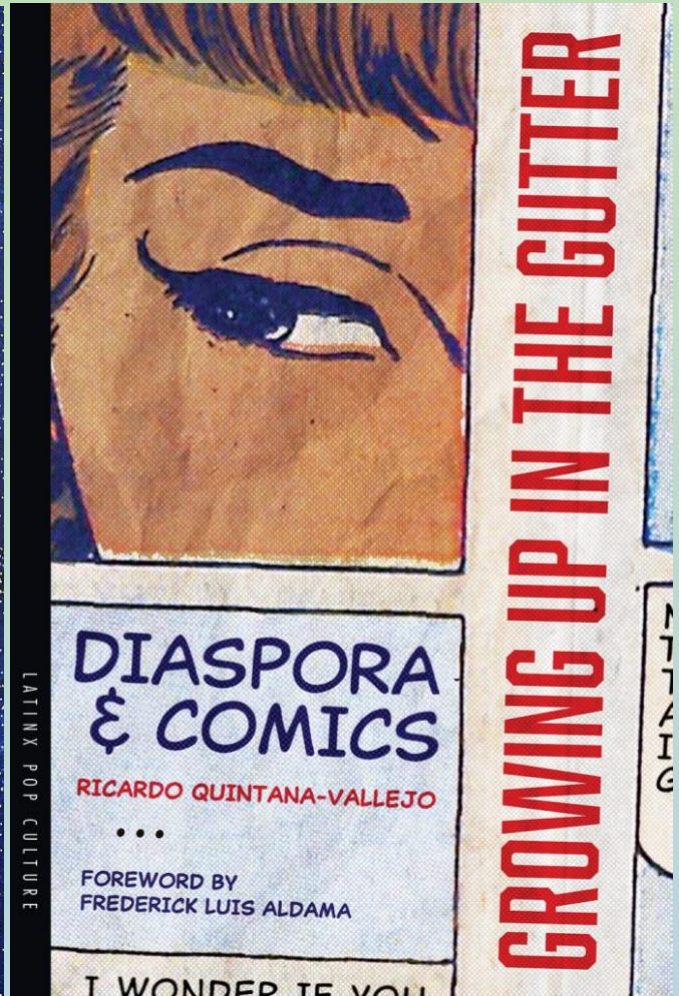
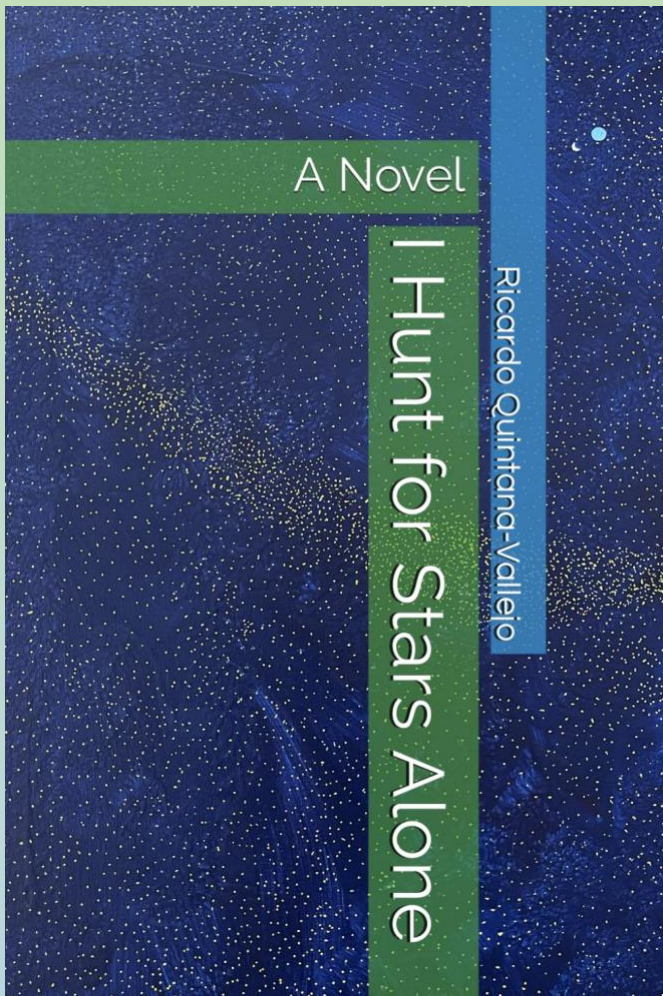
Prof. Catriona MacLeod: “My talk will highlight what I see as the critical potency of paper and scissors via a brother and sister who both theorized and crafted papercuts: Karl Varnhagen von Ense and Rosa Maria Assing. It also identifies a tension between what Varnhagen von Ense describes as an ephemeral and ‘fluttering’ salon art, and what emerges in his writing as an occult, violent practice directed against women.”



Dr. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo and Professor Alfred J. Lopez, Head of the Department of English have edited a major reference work, *The Routledge Companion to Literature and the Global South* (New York: Routledge, 2023).



Dr. Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo, now a tenure track Assistant Professor of English at Rhode Island College, has also published a novel, *I Hunt for Stars Alone* (Jacksonville, AL: North Meridian Press, 2024), and a second single-authored monograph, *Growing up in the Gutter: Diaspora and Comics* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2024). He visited Purdue in April 2024 and offered numerous talks and presentations in various classes and contexts based not only on his contribution and co-editing to the *Alexander von Humboldt* volume (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2023), but also on his first monograph, based on his revised PhD dissertation, *Children of Globalization* (New York: Routledge 2020), and his novel, *I Hunt for Stars Alone*.



Guest Lecture by

DR. NIALL PEACH

SEPTEMBER 26 | 10:30-11:45AM | SC G008

IMPLICATIONS OF HUMBOLDT'S WORK

Dr. Niall Peach is an Assistant Professor of Spanish and Environmental Studies at Coe College and Coeditor of *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World* (Purdue UP, 2023).

His work focuses on the relationship between race, plants, water, and nationhood in (neo)imperial spaces.

His talk will address the implications of Humboldt's work for intra-imperial relations across the Spanish Empire and water's role in negotiating power at the beginning of the 19th century.

This event is co-sponsored by the School of Languages and Cultures and the Comparative Literature Program at Purdue University.

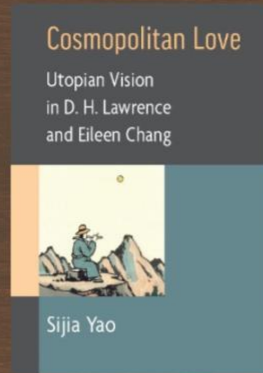
It is open to all interested audiences (beyond the COSMOS seminar!)



School of Languages and Cultures



Chinese Studies Colloquium



AFFECT AS ENGAGEMENT IN CHINA AND THE WEST

Love as a feeling is universal. Since we all have a sense for what it means, this default understanding of love is as deeply rooted and unconsciously ingrained in us as our relationship to our own family. Consequently, we are too familiar with it to be able to step back and really observe its form and significance. To really see what love is would require us to step outside of ourselves, as if we had been born in a different time and place. It is only through approaching love in a drastically different cultural system that we can truly see the real picture of love in our own mind as well as the other's. To understand love requires a comparison, and to understand the ideas of Chinese love and Western love we need to step out of the confines of each tradition to compare how the concept of love emerged and developed in distinct ways in each context.

Sijia Yao (Ph. D. Purdue University) Assistant Professor of Chinese Language and Culture at Soka University of America and has previously taught at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

She has published articles on Sinophone literature, film, music, and culture in journals such as *The Comparatist*, *Comparative Literature Studies*, *Tamkang Review*, and *Telos*. Her forthcoming book, *Cosmopolitan Love: Utopian Vision in D. H. Lawrence and Eileen Chang* will be published by the University of Michigan Press.

OCTOBER 4, 2023 | 4:30PM | WALC 1121



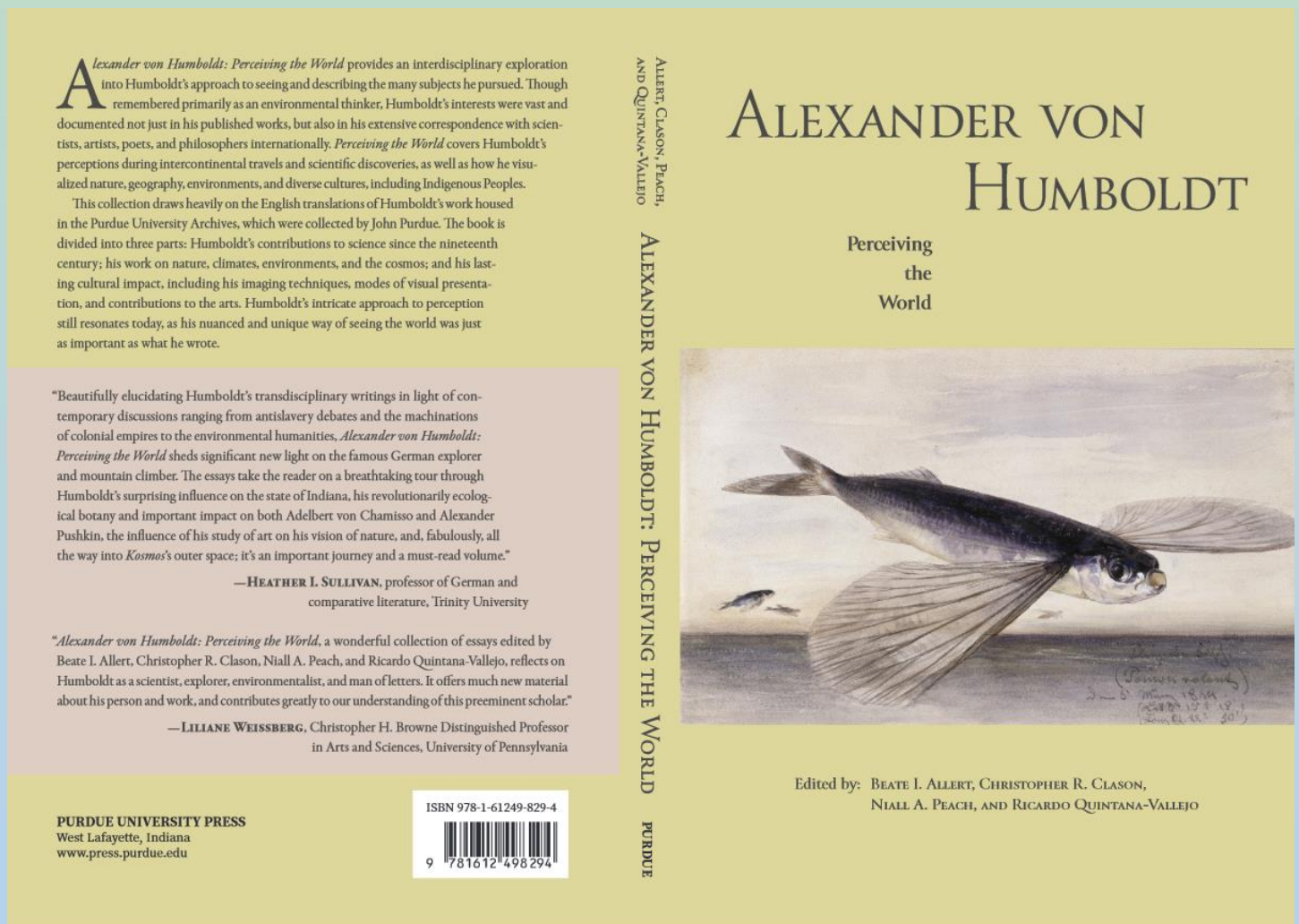
Asian Studies
Chinese Studies
Comparative Literature
School of Languages and Cultures

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Beate Allert, Professor of German, Comparative Literature and Film

Director of Comparative Literature

The book *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, edited by Beate I. Allert, Christopher Clason, Niall Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo (West Lafayette: Purdue University, 2023), was published in fall 2023 and meanwhile received numerous excellent reviews. In it is her essay: Beate I. Allert's "Art and Aesthetics in Alexander von Humboldt: The Subterranean Tree and Other images," pp. 227-256.



Prof. Beate Allert taught a graduate seminar titled based on this book and related materials which had 12 graduate students from several departments across Purdue University in Fall of 2023.

She also published three articles and two reviews this academic year:

"Art and Aesthetics in Alexander von Humboldt: The Subterranean Tree and Other images," in *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, pp. 227-256.

“Images for Memories: From Ekphrasis to an Excess of Memory in German Romantic Literature.” in *Memory in German Romanticism: Imagination, Image, Reception*, ed. Christopher R. Clason, Joseph D. Rockelmann, and Christina M. Weiler (New York: Routledge, 2023), 157-180.

“From the Crystal to Fluid: Goethe’s Morphology and Fichte’s *Wissenschaftslehre*,” in *Assembly and its Other in German Romantic Literature and Thought: The Inexhaustible Gathering*, ed. Robert E. Mottram and Christopher R. Clason (Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2023), 19-42.

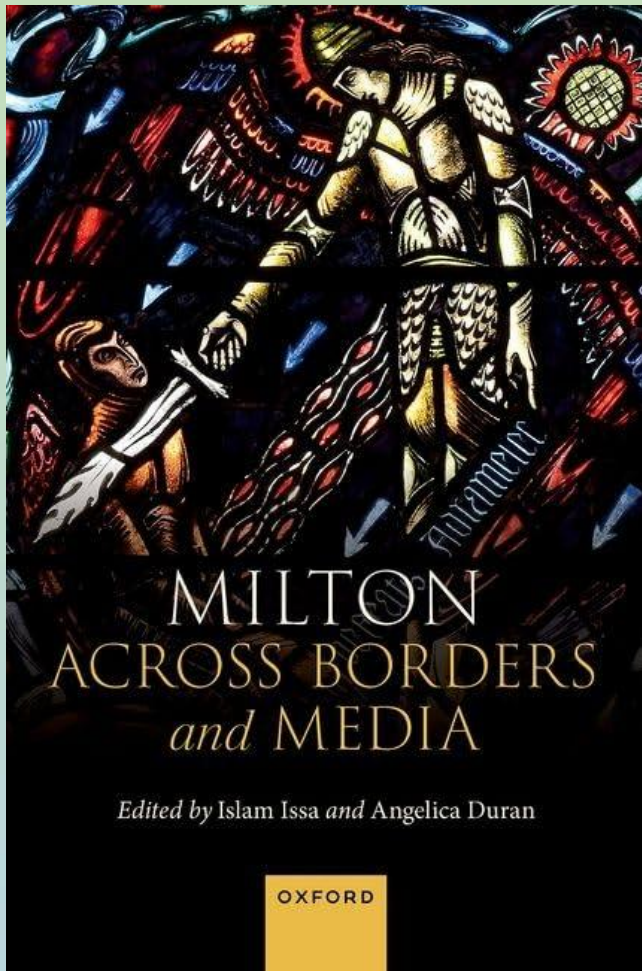
Two Reviews “Todd Kontje, *Georg Forster: German Cosmopolitan* Penn State UP, 2022) in *GQ* 96.3 (2023); and “Alois Wierlacher, *Hingabe und Vertragsstiftung. Lessings Emilia Galotti und Goethes Iphigenie auf Tauris als Dramen bibelkritischer bzw. rechtspolitischer Sicherung menschlichen Lebens und Zusammenlebens*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter (2020) in *Lessing Yearbook* 50 (2023): 201-203 (published in June 2024).

Beate I. Allert presented the papers: “Humor and Jean Paul” at the Annual American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS) Conference in St Louis March 2023; “How does Herder write about diversity in his Bückeberg publications?” or “Wer kann die *verschiedene* Befriedigung *verschiedener* Sinne in *verschiedenen* Welten vergleichen? Zur Auseinandersetzung mit Herder im Streit um Universalgeschichte, Epochenstil, und der abwegigen Idee, die Menschheit ‚bilden‘ zu wollen,” 250 Jahre Johann Gottfried Herder in Bückeberg: Konferenz der Internationalen Herder-Gesellschaft, Das Niedersächsische Landesarchiv, Bückeberg, Germany, August-September 2023 (supported by a CLA ASPIRE Grant).



**Dr. Angelica Duran, Professor of English,
Comparative Literature, and Religious Studies**

Angelica Duran has published a sibling volume to her award-winning multi-author volume. *Milton in Translation* (Oxford University Press, 2017): Islam Issa and Angelica Duran, eds. *Milton Across Borders and Media* (Oxford University Press, 2023).



Her shorter publications from 2023 are as follows:

“An Edition of Ambrosio Nieto’s *Paradise Lost: A Drama in Four Acts* (c. 1920–50),” introduction, Spanish transcription, and English co-translation. *Milton Quarterly* 57, no. 3 (2023): 51–88. It is worth noting that Professor Duran’s co-translator is Brenae Newhard Samuelsen, who earned her B.A. in Purdue’s Comparative Literature Program and was awarded the Program’s Outstanding Senior award; “Emilia Pardo Bazán’s Milton,” in *Women (Re)Writing Milton*, ed. Sharihan Al-Akhras and Mandy Green (New York: Routledge, 2021, pb. 2023), 91–105; “Juan Escóiquiz. *México Conquistada*,” *World Epics*, edited by Jo Ann Cavallo,

<<https://edblogs.columbia.edu/worldpics/project/escoiquiz-mexico-conquistada/>>, 2023.

“‘Thou Hast Seen One World Begin and End’: Worldmaking with *Paradise Lost*,” in *Teaching World Epics*, ed. Jo Ann Cavallo (New York: MLA Press, 2023), 191–202; Angelica Duran and Islam Issa, “Introduction: ‘The Meaning not the Name’,” in *Milton Across Borders and Media*, ed. by Islam Issa and Angelica Duran (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023), , 3–21; “Seeing, Hearing, and Feeling Milton’s Works with Prosthetic Sign Systems,” in *Milton Across Borders and Media*, ed. Islam Issa and Angelica Duran (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023), 387–404.; Richard Kenton Webb, chard Kenton, Islam Issa, and Angelica Duran. “An Artist’s Response to the Synergies of Drawing and Painting *Paradise Lost*.” *Milton Across Borders and Media*, ed. Islam Issa and Angelica Duran (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023), 317–32. Professor Duran continues serving on the chair of the dissertation committee for Comparative Literature doctoral student Gwénaél Jouin; and as the Interim Director (May 2022–May 2024) of the Purdue Creative Writing Program. She is also the Conference Chair (2022–2024) of the ~4,000-member Renaissance Society of America. In January–March 2023, she served as the Huntington Library Francis Bacon Fellow; and in April–May 2023, she completed her role as Fulbright Specialist in Xalapa, Mexico. She has stepped down from being a member of the Comparative Literature Steering Committee on which she served for many years.

This is to express a heartfelt **Thank You** to a wonderful colleague!!!

Dr Shaun F. D. Hughes, Professor of English, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, and Film.



Dr Hughes served as *Fyrsti andmæli* (first opponent) in the Viva Voce (Final Oral examination) for Yelena Sesselja Helgadóttir Yershova who defended her dissertation, *Íslenskar þulur síðari alda*. in September 2020 in front of the Íslensku- og menningardeild, Hugvísindasvið, Háskóli Íslands (Icelandic and Cultural Studies Department, Humanities Section, University of Iceland). The major professor was Vésteinn Ólason.

He has presented the following papers at international conferences: “John Pinkerton’s Homeric Medievalism in the Pursuit of a Lowland Identity,” 53rd ASECS Annual Meeting, St Louis, MO, March 2023; “*Clári saga* and its Continental Resonances” and “The Circulation of Continental Narrative: The Case of *Tiódels saga*,” In Honor of Ray Wakefield: Norse Continental Comparative Medievalisms (A Round Table), 58th Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 2023; “Herder and the Politics of Ossian,” 250 Jahre Johann Gottfried Herder in Bückeberg: Konferenz der Internationalen Herder-Gesellschaft, Das Niedersächsische Landesarchiv, Bückeberg, Germany, August-September 2023; “Two Versions of ‘Der zerbrochene Krug’ (1811-1813),” International Conference on Romanticism: The Romantic Underground, Detroit, MI, October 2023.

He recently published “The Failure of Social Memory to Validate the Icelandic Translation of “Der blonde Eckbert” (1835)” in *Memory in German Romanticism: Imagination, Image, Reception*, ed. Christopher R. Clason, Joseph D. Rockelmann and Christina M. Weiler (New York: Routledge, 2023), 183-209.

This is the formal entrance portal to Schloß Bückeberg where the International Herder Society celebrated the 250th Anniversary of Johann Gottfried Herder's arrival in that city.



Tatiana Elistratova – SLC Graduate Coordinator telistra@purdue.edu

Professor Beate Allert – CMPL Program Director allert@purdue.edu

Professor Jen William – SLC Head jmwilliam@purdue.edu

*Thank you for your interest and ongoing support
Wishing you, all our Comparative Literature
Alumni, Grads, Colleagues and Friends, a
wonderful summer and the very best for the new
academic year 2024-2025!*



School of Languages and Cultures