



Contactless Comparison

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[Register to attend on Zoom.](#)

It's easy to compare things that are produced near each other, by people who are able to influence each other. Traditionally, comparative literature has therefore compared literatures in close contact with each other: at first European literatures; later literatures in European languages around the world, and sometimes even contemporary literatures in non-European languages where the influence of European literature is clear. But what about comparisons where contact was minimal or nonexistent? Is that something we should try to do at all? And if so, how do we do it without getting caught in hopeless arguments about basic terms?

This lecture is part of the UCLA [Program in Experimental Critical Theory](#) (ECT), hosted by the Department of Comparative Literature, and co-directed by Giulia Sissa (Political Science/Classics) and Zrinka Stahuljak (Comparative Literature/ELTS). Generously sponsored by the Dean of Humanities and the Dean of Social Sciences and co-sponsored by the CMRS Center for Early Global Studies.

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