



Comparative Literature in Morocco: Aspects and Orientations

International Conference

The Moroccan Comparative Literature Association

In coordination with

**The Master's in Comparative Studies in Literature and the Master's
in General Literature and Comparative Poetics**

24-26 March 2016

Ibn-Zohr University, Agadir

OVERVIEW & RATIONALE

Comparative Literature has ultimately survived the crises which predicted its demise. It has successfully overcome the challenges and constraints of globalization thanks to the discipline's self revision and its reassessment of its tools and methods. The expansion of Comparative Literary studies across geographic and linguistic borders has allowed the discipline to open up on and engage dialogue with other humanist disciplines which have been perceived as rival or substitute fields : Ethnic Studies, Area Studies, Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies and Gender Studies.

Such cross-national and interdisciplinary openness contributed not only to a revitalization of the epistemological character and the political engagements of Comparative Literature, but also to a renewal of the meaning of literary comparisons. Comparative Literature has thus proved to be able to address the questions that engage different systems of knowledge and different forms of artistic productions with one another. It has equally capitalized on the current debates about cultural identities in the third millennium, in order to have a say and to oppose globalization's strategies to perpetuate hegemony and domination between cultures and languages.

In parallel with this ongoing universal growth of Comparative Literature, a growth evidenced by the yearly conventions and forums held by Comparative Literature leagues and associations all over the world, units of training and research in Comparative Literature have been introduced in the Moroccan university since the sixties. To be sure, the continuity of the discipline in the Moroccan university is largely due to the efforts of a few arabophone , francophone and Anglophone scholars who believe together in the crucial impact of comparative literary studies on the Human Sciences. These scholars' chief concern is to provide Moroccan students and researchers with a solid education in the Humanities; one based on a sense of symbiosis in spaces of cultural difference and on what Gayatri Spivak calls " reproductive heteronormativity" , one's ability to "translate anyone to everyone" in the mapping of the cultural world order. It is these two criteria rather than those

based on rational choice theory which would, in Spivak's view and ours, instate a sound normativity in world literature and culture.

Thus, to reflect on the dynamism of Comparative Literature in Morocco with regards to this international comparative dynamism, the Moroccan Association of Comparative Literature holds its first international conference in Agadir, on the aspects and orientations of Comparative Literature in Morocco. To inventory, discuss and analyze the achievements – and limitations- of Comparative Literary Studies in Morocco as these have taken shape from diverse platforms, such as forums, University study days and conferences, individual and collective publications, we invite proposals on any of the following sections. Papers are welcome in English, Arabic and French.

CONFERENCE SECTIONS:

I. History of Comparative Literature in Morocco

- Comparative Literature in the Moroccan University from the 1960's to the end of the 20th century: impact of literary and linguistic comparisons.
- The institution and growth of Comparative Literature in Morocco: leagues, associations, groups...etc.
- Moroccan comparatists and their works.
- The status of Moroccan Comparative Literature in the third millennium.

II. Comparatists at Work

- Comparative Literature and the restructuring of the Human Sciences in the Moroccan university.
- Comparative Literature and social change in Morocco.
- Teaching Comparative Literature: programs, theories and methods.

III. Moroccan Comparative Literature and World Literature Theory

- Moroccan and foreign/other literatures (aspects of contact, influence and interaction).
- World Moroccan Literature across languages: Arabic, Berber, Dutch, French and English (cross-linguistic and cross-cultural fertilization; publishing; circulation).
- Theories of "World" in Moroccan World literature.

- The themes of comparative literature across the arts: literary genres; the verbal, performing and visual arts.
- Comparative Literature and Translation Studies: theory and practice.
- Moroccan literature and comparative poetics.

IV. Comparative Literature and Identity Politics in Morocco

- Postcolonial Studies in Morocco: new postcolonial theories, comparativism.
- Women & Gender Writings: their role in theories of alterity.
- Gender Studies and Comparative Literature.

V. Panel Discussion

- The challenges and prospects of Comparative Literature in Morocco.
- Moroccan Comparative Literature and globalization.

PROPOSALS AND DEADLINES

Proposal submission deadline: November 15th, 2015.

(Title of presentation, first name, surname, title, affiliation, email address, a 300 word abstract, 5-6 keywords; Times New Roman, 12)

Proposal acceptance notification: December 31st, 2015

Full conference papers (oral, PP) should be sent in by **February 29th, 2016**. Not to exceed 15 pages, Works Cited included. Editorial guidelines will be shared in due course.

CONFERENCE VENUE & FACILITATION

The conference will take place in the Humanities Space Conference Room, the Espace Culturel, and nearby buildings of The Faculty of Letters & Human Sciences, Ibn-Zohr University, Agadir. The registration and information desk situated in the Entrance Hall of the Humanities Space Building is also the location for coffee breaks.

The organizing committee will coordinate with the sponsors of the conference and see that accommodation and half board are offered to participants coming from outside.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

The MCLA membership fees have been fixed at 200 DH for scholars and academics, and 100 DH for master and doctoring students. Both are payable at the registration and information desk in the Entrance Hall of the Humanities Space building before the conference proceedings.

CONTACT

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