



## Call for Papers

On

## Comparative Literature: Issues & Methods

### A National Conference

Organized by

- The CSL Master program
- The ROCSAE Research Group
- The Translation & Education Research Group
- The Moroccan Comparative Literature Association

12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2017  
Humanities Space, Faculty of Letters

### Rationale:

Issues on methodology occupy a central position in Comparative Literature given their cardinal importance in conceptualizing the paradigms, foundations and ideals of comparative work. Addressing the question of methodology is concomitant with the inception of the field, whose theorists have introduced a variety of approaches with different critical and epistemological premises. Since the question of methodology is indispensable in any other field, it has been strenuously discussed in the field of Comparative Literature along with other interdisciplinary and controversial issues. Some of these issues are epistemological in nature, concern the foundations of knowledge upon which Comparative Literature is predicated, while other issues are methodological in nature, and explore the approaches and theories of literary comparison. Three predominant schools have largely influenced Comparative Literature: the French School, the

American School and the Slavic School. During the second half of the twentieth century, the three schools engaged in polemical debate about adequate approaches to doing literary comparison. Two instances are René Wellek's fierce critique of the French School (1959) and the Russian critics' castigation of the French and American schools, namely in the 1960 and the 1962 international forums on Comparative Literature, in Moscow and in Budapest respectively. The Slavic School was strongly opposed to the methodology and vision of the French and American schools. Deploying historical materialism in understanding literature and culture, the Slavonic school denounced the positivism used by Western Europe, perceived as bourgeois philosophy and a capitalist mechanism of ensuring cultural colonialism. The polemic generated a sustained concern with the different theories and methods of doing comparative work. This concern may be conjured in the following questions:

What fields does Comparative Literature encompass? Is Comparative Literature merely concerned with comparing or juxtaposing national literatures? Is it possible to generate one single comparative methodology for all literatures? Is Comparative Literature able to generate approaches that differ from literary criticism, the history of literature and literary study? Can Comparative Literature be autonomous or does it have to borrow from other fields and disciplines? Can we define the measures and principles that Comparative Literature deploys in juxtaposing between two literatures? Is Comparative Literature limited only to exploring the literary, aesthetic and philosophical inter-influences between national literatures or does comparativism require a political agenda? What role does Translation have in Comparative Literature and, conversely, how does Comparative Literature change the course of Translation Studies? How does the development from classical to modern and contemporary approaches benefit the field? And how does Comparative Literature impact the current shift from the Human Sciences to Comparative Humanities?

Academics and doctoring students from the University of Ibn-Zohr and other Moroccan universities are welcome to explore the above range of questions. Papers are wanted in English, Arabic and French, on the following research areas:

- The epistemological foundations of Comparative Literature
- Approaches and methods of Comparative Literature

- Schools of Comparative Literature and issues on methodology
- Translation Studies and Comparative Literature
- Didactic and interdisciplinary comparative criticism
- Comparative Literature now and in the past.
- National & international experiences of methodology in Comparative Literature.
- From Comparative Literature to the Comparative Humanities

In the course of this conference, Professor Abdenbi Dakir will deliver a keynote speech; papers will be read in tribute to his long-standing commitment and prominent contributions to the Moroccan Comparative Literature field.

### **Participation Guidelines**

- Participants are requested to submit the following: Title of paper, area of research chosen, a 500-word abstract (TNR, 12, 1.5 Spacing), key words ( 5-6), name and surname, University title , institution of provenance.
- Participation is open in Arabic, English and French languages.
- October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017: Submission of abstracts via the following e-mails: [t.nakkouch@uiz.ac.ma](mailto:t.nakkouch@uiz.ac.ma) (Prof. Touria Nakkouch) and [hassan22taleb@yahoo.fr](mailto:hassan22taleb@yahoo.fr) (Prof. Hassan Taleb). **This deadline has been extended to October 15th.**
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Submission of full papers.
- December 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>: Date of the conference.
- For further information, please visit our MCLA Facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/1404679326495964/photos/1739272326369994/>

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