

Editorial Foreword

It is with great pleasure that we now present you the inaugural issue of *Comparative Literature & World Literature (CLWL)*. *CLWL* is a peer-reviewed academic journal which publishes articles and reviews in the field of literary studies in general and comparative and world literature in particular. It is co-sponsored by Beijing Normal University and the University of Arizona. *CLWL* aims at bringing Chinese comparatists into conversations with their peers in the rest of the world. While the editorial office is located in Beijing, our authors and reviewers are experts and scholars from around the globe. We welcome all submissions but published articles must undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process to ensure the quality of our journal. We are especially interested in East-West literary communications, i.e., literary contacts that cross the boundaries of nations, cultures and civilizations. We like articles that discuss recent trends and movements in research, and at the same time, we value studies of the historical development of the disciplines of comparative literature and world literature. While we look forward to receiving contributions from established scholars, we also encourage early-career scholars to submit their works.

The articles and review in the current issue explicate our missions well. Haun Saussy's article probes the often overlooked aspect of world literature—world poetry. By studying a series of interlinguistic contact and appropriation of poetic models across languages, he proposes a model for the circulation of poetry in international space. Drawing on case studies from Germany, the United States, China and Mongolia, Saussy's work demonstrates a truly global horizon, and a profound understanding of poetry as cross-cultural communications. Flair Donglai Shi's article on post-Mao Chinese literature enters a substantive dialogue with Saussy's article in ways more than their references to the same article by Franco Moretti. Shi considers post-Mao Chinese literature as world literature, making the point that the struggle between international mobility and intranational accessibility is ultimately the result of an ideological construction, to wit, the reinforcement of the expected. While these two articles present new perspectives on theoretical issues, Subha Chakraborty Dasgupta's overview of the development of comparative literature in India is a timely contribution to the history of the discipline. As the homeland of so many great works of literature, India is at a remarkable position to contribute to the field of comparative literature. Dasgupta's article illuminates both the past and present trends of the significant research undertaken in this vast nation.

Two articles collected in this issue are dialogues between Chinese and Anglo-American scholars. Yue Daiyun and Roger T. Ames's dialogue on multiculturalism begins with deep concerns over the clash of civilizations brought forth by the *Charlie's Weekly* Incident in Paris. In order to find a way to cope with the current crisis in cross-cultural communications, Yue and Ames discuss topics ranging from the concept of pluralism, individuality and objectivity, David Hall, to Kant and *Zhouyi*. It is both the hope of these two scholars and of our new journal to facilitate effective and fruitful cross-cultural dialogues to make our world a better place to live in. In a similar vein but with a disciplinary concern, Zhang Cha's interview with Susan Bassnett covers major changes in the history of comparative literature and predicts the future direction of development in the discipline. This issue also includes a review by Cao Shunqing on *Introducing Comparative Literature: New Trends and Applications*, ed-

ited by César Domínguez, Haun Saussy and Dario Villanueva. This book is without a doubt a significant work in recent times and the review introduces and analyzes it at length. It is our hope that more reviews of this kind can be published in future issues, bringing to the fore the latest and outstanding researches on comparative literature and world literature.

Liu Hongtao and Cao Shunqing