

A Special Issue of the *Journal of World Literature*  
“Trans-Regional Asia”

Call for Papers

Title and Synopsis Due: September 31, 2017

Full Paper Due: March 31, 2018

Scheduled Publication: November 2018

**Background**

Comparative literary studies have long contributed crucial knowledge to our understanding of how literature functions across national boundaries. Originating at a particular geo-historical juncture, this area of inquiry has taken European literatures as its primary subject, while also inspiring pivotal studies of Asian literatures. However, the overwhelming majority of studies of Asian literatures in comparative perspective continue to focus on the relationships of these literatures to European literatures; very little has been done to explore Asian literatures in trans-regional perspective. Given that Asia is home to more than half of the world’s population, this has created a conspicuous gap in our understanding of both comparative and world literature, one that is even more essential to address in today’s interconnected world.

**Objective**

This special issue, tentatively entitled “Trans-Regional Asia,” solicits original research on interaction, broadly defined, among Asian literatures. The topics it seeks to explore include, but are not limited to:

- Modes of translation and intertextualization among Asian literatures, both modern and premodern;
- Legacies of premodern transnational literary languages — such as classical Chinese, Sanskrit, Arabic, Persian — in modern national literatures;
- Articulation of literary identity in Asia in a multilayered context, vis-à-vis (an)other Asian tradition(s) and/or other parts of the world including Europe, Africa, and Latin America;
- Network of multiple literatures in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and/or other parts of the Global South broadly configured;
- Comparative (post)colonial literatures in Asia;
- Asian imperial powers and literary production, both modern and premodern;
- Connecting minor literatures in Asia;
- Asian literary criticism on Asian literatures;
- Theories and practices of “world literature” in Asia;
- Revisiting of theoretical premises of comparative literature and/or world literature, from a perspective of comparative Asian literature.

## **Timeline**

- If you are interested in contributing, please send an expression of interest, together with a 200-word synopsis of your proposed essay and 1-2pp. CV, to the Special Issue Editors by September 30, 2017.
- Decisions on the submitted abstracts will be notified within two weeks. Full papers are due on March 31, 2018. Papers should be between 5,000 and 6,000 words in length, including notes and references, and strictly conform to the Journal's style guidelines: [http://www.brill.com/sites/default/files/ftp/authors\\_instructions/JWL.pdf](http://www.brill.com/sites/default/files/ftp/authors_instructions/JWL.pdf).
- The submitted papers will undergo peer-review. Final revision of the accepted papers will be due early August 2018.
- Publication is scheduled for November 2018.

## **Special Issue Editors**

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