



Invitation

“Worlding Literature. Living-With Tiger Spirits”

Public Keynote Lecture as Part of the International Workshop
“The World, the Text, and the Critic in the Posthuman Era”


Friday, May 12, 2017, 17:00

Contact and Information

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The representatives of early-career researchers of the Faculty of Humanities 2 (Language and Literature), University of Innsbruck, cordially invite you to the public keynote lecture:

Worlding Literature. Living-With Tiger Spirits

Prof. Dr. Pheng Cheah

Friday, May 12, 2017

Claudiana, Herzog-Friedrich-Straße 3, 6020 Innsbruck

Abstract

This lecture takes issue with the banalization of world literature in the past decade in North American literary studies. By this, I mean the axiomatic equation of the world with human intercourse that stretches across global space that takes market exchange as the paradigm of human relations. The study of world literature on this basis levels off the deep normative horizon it had in earlier formulations that drew their inspiration from Goethe's classical account. Extant normative accounts of world literature are, however, grounded in an inadequate conception of the world. Because they define the world through the anthropologicist frame of the self-actualization of universal humanity through historical progress, they presuppose a Eurocentric modern secular subject of humanity. They envision a world that cannot hospitably admit cultures that have not been completely disenchanting and purged of magic, worlds in which non-human spirits dwell with human beings.

A fuller normative account of world literature appropriate to late capitalist globalization should take its bearings from the phenomenological idea of worlding. I call this "worlding literature". I discuss *Lelaki Harimau* (2004), a novel by the contemporary Indonesian writer Eka Kurniawan, recently published in English as *Man Tiger* (2015) by Verso, as an example.

We would be very pleased to welcome you to this opening lecture and the ensuing reception.

Alessandro Bosco, Ariane de Waal, Monika Raič

Program

Friday, May 12, 2017

17:00 Welcome Address

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Birgit Mertz-Baumgartner

Head of the Research Focus "Cultures in Contact" ("Kulturen in Kontakt")

17:15 Keynote Lecture "Worlding Literature. Living-With Tiger Spirits"

Prof. Dr. Pheng Cheah, UC Berkeley

18:30 Discussion

19:00 Reception, Türringsaal

Saturday, May 13, 2017

9:30 - 18:30 Postgraduate Workshop
"The World, the Text, and the Critic in the Posthuman Era"