



American Comparative Literature Association

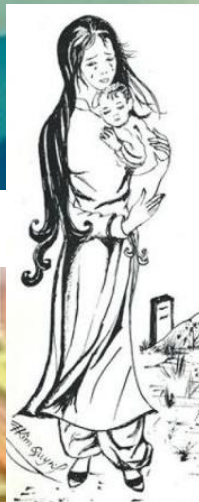
Southeast Asian Literature and Cultural Politics in the Diaspora

Organizer: Hao Jun Tam

Co-Organizer: Catherine H. Nguyen

#B037 | 10:30am - 12:15pm | Bunche 2174

Friday, March 30th
Saturday, March 31st
Sunday, April 1st



This seminar seeks to examine diasporic literature in a comparative context. Taking as our literary frame Southeast Asian literature in the diaspora, we invite proposals that address the diaspora as the “dispersion” into many and multiple places. Whereas U.S. and French mainstream cultural productions have relegated the past to the Others (Arjun Appadurai, *Modernity at Large* 1996: 31), Southeast Asian diasporic cultural productions often work creatively against the dominant cultures in which they operate. Southeast Asian diasporic formations, while multiple in their origins, can be deterritorialized sites of robust critical thought about the legacy of the devastating Asian Pacific theater of the global Cold War. In this sense, they represent more than imagined communities: they are imagined worlds which work through what Appadurai calls the disjuncture between an ethnoscapes and an ideoscapes—not simply transnational populations but also powerful political communities unsettling dominant narratives both in their homelands and host countries. One may speak of these formations as imbued with “a diasporic intimacy that is not opposed to uprootedness and defamiliarization but constituted by it” (Svetlana Boym, “On Diasporic Intimacy” 1998: 499).

Friday, March 30, 2018

Focus: Visual cultures, migration and economic forces

Sinophone Burmese Documentary: Examining Aesthetic Intersections in Midi Z's *Jade Miners*

Melissa Chan, University of Southern California

Diasporic Graphic Representations: Vietnamese French and Vietnamese American Graphic Memoirs

Catherine H. Nguyen, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA)

Marriage, Migration, and the Postcolonial Body: Clément Baloup's *Les Mariées de Taïwan*

Leslie Barnes, Australian National University

Saturday, March 31, 2018

Focus: nationalism, exilic belonging

A Different Kind of Belonging: Diaspora and Identity in Tan Twan Eng's *The Garden of Evening Mists*

Cheng Fai Zach Goh, Hong Kong Baptist University

Ambiguity and Nationalism in Exile: The Literature of Vietnamese Refugees, 1975-1980

Tuan Hoang, Pepperdine University

Diasporic South Vietnam: Nationalism and Its Perversions in Novels by Ly Thu Ho and Lan Cao

Hao Tam, University of Pennsylvania

Sunday, April 1, 2018

Focus: narrative mobility through time and space

Identifying Going and Returning in Vietnamese Travel Writing

Yen Vu, Cornell University

Transdiasporic Reappropriation of the Historiographical Metanarrative in Contemporary Vietnamese Francophone and American Literature

Alxandra Kurmann, Macquarie University