



The 2018  
Texas Tech University  
Comparative Literature Symposium



*Comparative Literature at Texas Tech University*

**Celebrating 50 Years!**

1968 – 2018

April 6-7, 2018



# Comparative Literature Program

The Program in Comparative Literature at Texas Tech University has had a long history and a rich tradition. Starting in the late 1960s, with a few faculty members from different humanities disciplines meeting and exchanging their interests in comparative studies, the program has grown and evolved into one that encompasses both undergraduate minors and graduate specializations. It supports both Western and Third World studies, as well as organizes an annual symposium attracting scholars from across the region, the nation, and the globe.

<http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit>

## The TTU Comparative Literature Committee

Kanika Batra  
Chris Bains  
Curtis Bauer  
John Beusterien  
Roger McNamara  
Kenna Neitch  
Anita McChesney  
David Roach  
Yuan Shu  
Victoria Surliuga



*The Texas Tech Comparative Literature Program Presents*

**Human Rights Now**  
Texts, Contexts, Comparisons



*Comparative Literature at Texas Tech University*

**Celebrating 50 Years!**

1968 – 2018

English/Philosophy Building  
Texas Tech University Lubbock, Texas (USA)

**April 6-7, 2018**

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## CompLit Symposium 2018: Human Rights Now

Anti-apartheid activist, Bishop Desmond Tutu, explained the African concept of “Ubuntu” in this way: “My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours.” If connection is a way of being human, our actions impact others - human, animal, nature - and return to us in ways we cannot predict. The 50th Annual Texas Tech University Comparative Literature Symposium on April 6-7, 2018 explores the interconnectedness of humanity, humaneness, and human rights through texts, contexts, and comparisons

The moral and legal claims of people caught in situations of civil and military conflict, natural calamities, climate change, medical crises, governmental repression, and the vagaries of international finance on local economies, have long been the subject of literature. Claims for fairness, respect, and human dignity have been expressed in many forms and genres, including agitational propaganda theatre, performance poetry, the revisionary bildungsroman, narco-, petro and climate fiction, war narratives, prison writing, and the testimonio.

Human rights in its moral, political, social, and literary ramifications has been mired in debate. The generic variety of literature on the topic is matched by varying emphases in its theorizations. Early theories outlined the political conception of human rights in contemporary international practice. Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum delineate the “capabilities” approach, which focuses on the availability of opportunities, freedoms, abilities, and material factors responsible for human welfare and achievements. Another strand of scholarship based in the work of feminist philosophers has shown the racial and gender assumptions in the concept of the human and called for a critical evaluation of rights claims from these perspectives. For some the concept universalizes the “human” in Eurocentric terms to re-enact, the “coloniality of power.” Often nation-states grossly violate human rights under the pretext of national security imperatives disregarding international protocols and accepted understandings of the dignity, value, and worth of human life. The symposium seeks to understand whether dignity and worth are categorical rather than relative and contextualized imperatives to account for the contested terrain of human rights now.

**Symposium Director:** Kanika Batra

**Symposium Co-Director:** Kenna Neitch

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## Sponsor/Supporter Acknowledgements

The conference organizers wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to the 2018 symposium:

- Dr. Noel Zahler, Dr. Brian Steele, and the TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Dr. Brian Still, Dr. Rich Rice, Kenna Neitch, and the TTU English Department
- Dr. Ralph Ferguson and the TTU Ethics Center
- The TTU Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department
- The TTU Comparative Literature Committee
- Dr. Shannon Samson and the TTU Graduate School
- TTU Information Technology (keynotes are streamed and recorded)

## Suggested Restaurants Near Campus

- **Café J**, 2605 19<sup>th</sup> Street Lubbock, TX 79401  
806.743.5400 | <http://www.cafejlubbock.com>
- **McAlister's**, 2415 19<sup>th</sup> Street Lubbock, TX 79401  
806.740.0022 | <http://www.mcalistersdeli.com>
- **Chili's**, 607 University Avenue Lubbock, TX 79401  
806.744.2025 | <http://www.chilis.com>
- **Lubbock's Breakfast House**, 7006 University Avenue Lubbock, TX 79401  
806.701.5351 | <http://lubbockbreakfasthouse.com>



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## Guidelines for Presenters and Moderators

- Meetings are held in the TTU English Department.
- Sessions are 90 minutes in length, including Q/A.
- Individual presentations should be 15-20 minutes, with Q/A following.
- Moderators should introduce presenters and remind presenters of time.

## Maps, Taxis, Uber, and Emergency Numbers

Additional TTU and Lubbock maps are available at the hotels and in the Student Union. Staybridge Suites is located on 19<sup>th</sup> street across from campus. Taxis to/from hotels/airport are ~\$25. Lubbock offers City Cab (806.765.7474), Yellow Cab (806.765.7777), and Uber. Call 911 if you have an emergency. Call Kanika Batra at [806.252.0086](tel:806.252.0086) for more information.



Art      English

Student Union

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## Program “At-A-Glance”

### Day 1: Friday (April 6, 2018)

- 8:15-8:30 Pick-up from Staybridge
- 8:30-9:00 Coffee / Tea and Registration (209)
- 9:00-9:30 Welcome Remarks (201)
- 9:30-10:45 **Keynote 1: Hopeton Dunn (201)**
- 11:00-12:30 Session 1A (303)
- 11:00-12:30 Session 1B (352)
- 12:30-1:45 Lunch (209)
- 2:00-3:15 **Keynote 2: Dayna Oscherwitz (201)**
- 3:15: 3:30 Coffee / Tea (209)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 2A (303)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 2B (352)
- 5:00-5:30 (Optional) Walk around campus (*meet outside 201*)
- 6:00-9:00 Dinner on your own (*keynote speakers treated*)



### Day 2: Saturday (April 7, 2018)

- 9:00-9:15 Pick-up from Staybridge
- 9:15-9:30 Coffee / Tea (209)
- 9:30-10:45 **Keynote 3: Justin Lawrence and Jill Patterson (201)**
- 11:00-12:30 Session 3A (303)
- 11:00-12:30 Session 3B (352)
- 12:30-1:30 Lunch (209)
- 1:30-2:30 **Keynote 4: Anuradha Marwah (201)**
- 2:30-3:30 Special Session—Creative Writers on Human Rights (201)
- 3:30-3:45 Coffee / Tea (209)
- 3:45-5:15 Session 4A (303)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 4B (352)
- 5:00-5:15 Symposium Wrap-Up (201)
- 6:30-9:00 Dinner at Triple J Chophouse  
1807 Buddy Holly Avenue Lubbock, TX 79401  
(*for keynote speakers, faculty, and invited conference volunteers only*)



**Day 1: Friday**  
**April 6, 2018**



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### 8:30-9:00: Coffee / Tea (209)

Please pickup folder upon arrival. See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit> for more information. If you have time, consider checking out TTU's Graduate School (see <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool> for more information).

### 9:00-9:30: Welcome Opening Remarks (201)

Please join us to meet new colleagues and friends.

Kanika Batra, Comparative Literature Symposium Director, will open the conference.



*TTU College of Arts & Sciences*

**THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** at Texas Tech offers a wide variety of courses and programs in the arts, humanities, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and communications. The largest of the Colleges at Texas Tech, it offers 120 degree programs in 15 departments.

**MAJORS** range from Anthropology to Zoology. With 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in the College, classes may range in size from large lower division lecture courses to more intimate upper division courses and graduate seminars. Whether the course enrollment is large or small, faculty are interested in their students as individuals and make an effort to be accessible for individual conferences or help-sessions outside of class.

**A BROAD RANGE OF INSTRUCTION**, Arts & Sciences faculty have a common purpose: impart the knowledge and skills, the values and attitudes that constitute a liberal education. To help students solve problems, think, and communicate are the primary and essential aims of the College.

Presenters can write up papers and publish them in a forthcoming, special issue of

*Journal of the Texas Tech University Ethics Center*

See <https://journals.tdl.org/ttuec> to see the journal, and for more information contact [kanika.batra@ttu.edu](mailto:kanika.batra@ttu.edu).



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## 9:30-10:45: Keynote 1 (201)

**Hopeton S. Dunn**, Professor and Director, Caribbean School of Media and Communication (University of the West Indies, Jamaica)

“Human Rights and Human Wrongs: Reflections on Selected Discourses of Peter Abrahams, Stuart Hall and Marcus Garvey”

*Introduction: Rich Rice*

## 11:00-12:30: Session I

### 1A: Writing/Righting Women and Culture (303)

*Moderator: Kanika Batra*

Dolan Wells Gallagher (Purchase College, SUNY)

“Assia Djebbar and Veiling in Algeria”

Rashi Narayan (Washington University, St. Louis)

“The Mother of the Nation”

Smita Jha (Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India)

“Literature and Culture”

Kenna Neitch (ITU)

“International Peasant Mobilization and Transnational Feminist Organization”

### 1B: Speculating on the Human (352)

*Moderator: Roger McNamara*

Emily Reiff (University of New Mexico)

“The Othering of Emiko: Dynamics of Power and Sexuality in Paolo Bacigalupi’s *The Wind-up Girl*”

Jonelle Frazier (ITU)

“Worlds of Resistance: Post-Cyberpunk as an Exploration of Societal Unrest”

Maggie Zebracka (ITU)

“‘The Children Disappear’: An Excerpt from *Dark, Almost Night* by Joanna Bator”



## 12:30-1:45: Lunch (209)

## 2:00-3:15: Keynote 2 (201)

**Dayna Oscherwitz**, Professor and Chair, World Languages and Literatures (Southern Methodist University)

“Projecting Equality: Cinema, Human Rights, and Africa”

*Introduction: Chris Bains*

## 3:15-3:30: Coffee / Tea (209)



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### 3:30-5:00: Session II

#### 2A: Contexts of Domination, Texts of Resistance (303)

Moderator: Yuan Shu

Deniz Gundogan-Ibrisim (Washington University, St. Louis)

“Displaying Human Rights through Storytelling in Achmat Dangor’s *Kafka’s Curse* and Burhan Sonmez’s *Istanbul Istanbul*”

MaryAnn Widerburg (TTU)

“False Terms: Freedom, Patriotism, and Invented Realities in Billy Lynn’s *Long Halftime Walk*”

Apryl Lewis (TTU)

“Reconsidering Native American Autobiography: Representations of Trauma and Healing in William Apess’s *A Son of the Forest*”

Ryan Donovan (Florida State University)

“Two Conceptions of Conscience in Human Rights Discourse: Johannes Morinsk and Hannah Arendt”

#### 2B: Docile Bodies, Willful Sexualities (352)

Moderator: Anita McChesney

Thaddeus Masthay (University of New Mexico)

“Bodies Made Complicit: The Secondary Displacement of Diasporic Military Personnel through Colonial Warfare in Nguyen’s *The Sympathizer* and Silko’s *Ceremony*”

Chrysta Carson Wilson (University of New Mexico)

“Akin to Violence: The Sexual Politics of White Supremacy”

Dylan Lewis (TTU)

“Queer Clones: Reproduction and Human Rights in Ishiguro’s *Never Let Me Go*”

### 5:00-5:30: (Optional) Walk around campus

Meet outside 201 if you’d like to join us for the walk.

### 6:00-9:00: Dinner on your own



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Are you planning to contribute to the special issue of the *Journal of the Texas Tech University Ethics Center*?

- See <https://journals.tdl.org/ttuec>
- Contact [kanika.batra@ttu.edu](mailto:kanika.batra@ttu.edu)

**Day 2: Saturday**  
**April 7, 2018**

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## 9:00-9:15: Registration and Coffee / Tea (209)

Have you had a chance yet to walk around campus? Mornings are cool. Take a stroll to the TTU Library and check out Groupworks stations, or view the 1688 Coronelli Globe in the Southwest Collections Library.



## 9:30-10:45: Keynote 3 (201): Law and Human Rights

**Jill Patterson**, Professor of English (TTU)

“I Have Failed to Tell this Story Fifty Times”

**Justin Lawrence**, Professor and Associate Dean (Wayland Baptist University)

“EnTitleXment”

*Introduction: Yuan Shu*

## 11:00-12:30: Session III

### Session 3A: Urban Forms and Rights of Expression (303)

*Moderator: Kanika Batra*

Susanna Bender (TTU)

“*Passing Through This Side of Paradise*: New York City through the Eyes of the Gilded Age”

Wesley Jones (TTU)

“Urban Structures and Homosexuality: An Analysis of Place in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and *Chocolate and Other Writings on Male Homoeroticism*”

Melissa Miller (TTU)

“Theatre: A Means of Oppression and Escape”

### Session 3B: Mediated Representations (352)

*Moderator: Mary-Ann Widerburg*

Harlan D. Whatley (Odessa College)

“Films About the Troubles in Northern Ireland.”

Lance Lomax (TTU)

“The Other Side of Progress: Neglected Figures in Ozu’s *Tokyo Story*”

Andrew Fields (TTU)

“Radio and the Value of Human Life”

## 12:30-1:30: Lunch (209)

## 1:30-2:30: Keynote 4 (201)

**Anuradha Marwah**, Associate Professor of English  
(Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi)

“Ismat Chughtai, Women’s Rights, and Activist Journeys”

*Introduction: Kanika Batra*

## 2:30-3:30: Special Session—Creative Writers on Human Rights (201)

**Katie Cortese, D. Gilson, and Jacqueline Kolosov** (TTU)

“Ongoing Work”

*Introduction: Curtis Bauer*

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3:30-3:45: Coffee / Tea (209)

3:45-5:15: Session IV

**4A: Graphic Humanity (303)**

*Moderator: Roger McNamara*

Amie Hunter (TTU)

“Graphic Novels and the City”

Belinda Kleinhans (TTU)

“Losing Sight of Human Rights: Barbara Yelin’s *Irmina*”

Charlotte Colon-Velez (TTU)

“Re-defining the Urban Subject: Replica of the Self in *Ghost in The Shell*”

**4B: Hispanospheric Communities (352)**

*Moderator: John Beusterien*

Maximillian Vis III (University of Texas, Permian Basin)

“A Definition and Disruption of Community within Mario Bellatin’s *Salón de Belleza*”

Jennifer Buentello (TTU)

“Walking the Line with Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa: Hybridity, Transculturation, and Religion in *Heroes and Saints* and *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza*”

Dora G. Aranda (TTU)

“The Trujillo Dictatorship’s Repercussions on Immigrant Masculinities in Junot Diaz’s Works”

5:15-5:30: Symposium Wrap-Up (201)

Join us for a quick wrap-up of this year’s symposium, as well as a special invitation to next year’s event! Rides to/from TTU/hotel/dinner provided.

6:30-8:30: Dinner at Triple J Chophouse

1807 Buddy Holly Avenue Lubbock, Texas 79401

*(for keynote speakers, faculty, and invited conference volunteers only)*



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## Conference Participants and Supporters

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## Thanks for attending! Join us next year!

### *Supporters*

- TTU Graduate School: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool>
- TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/cvpa>
- TTU Department of English: <http://www.english.ttu.edu>
- TTU Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures: [http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic\\_modern](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern)
- TTU Ethics Center: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ethics>

### *Comparative Literature Symposium 2019*

See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit> for next year's symposium!

Contact [john.beusterien@ttu.edu](mailto:john.beusterien@ttu.edu) for more information.

### *TTU's Quality Enhancement Plan*

*Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society* is a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) designed to improve the communication skills and global awareness of Texas Tech University undergraduate students.

See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/qep> for more information.

### *TTU Undergraduate Minor in Comparative Literature*

Comparative literature is designed for students who are interested in critical studies of literatures and cultures across national boundaries. The program provides a minor for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The minor consists of 18 hours of courses, 3 hours of which must be at the 4000 level. Students may apply 6 hours of sophomore-level course work from either the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures or the Department of English if such course work is not in the student's major field. Students not majoring in a foreign language must complete at least 3 hours at the junior or senior level in a foreign language.

See <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit/undergradminor.php>.

