

Taiwan Lectures on Chinese Studies

Center for Chinese Studies, National Central Library, R.O.C. (Taiwan)

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Taiwan Literature and World Literature

Professor Kuei-fen Chiu

Distinguished Professor of Taiwan Literature and Transnational Cultural Studies,

National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan (ROC)

Abstract

This talk situates Taiwan literature within the context of world literature. It takes as its starting point David Damrosch's definition of world literature as "a mode of circulation and of reading" rather than "an infinite, ungraspable canon of works." Understood in this light, world literature studies investigate how "works of world literature take on a new life as they move into the world at large" and how this new life is possible as these works become reframed in new cultural contexts. Taking the Taiwan-based Malaysian Chinese literature writer Li Yongping and the Taiwanese feminist writer Li Ang as our case studies, I try to demonstrate how the study of Taiwan literature as world literature departs from Sinophone literature studies and "world literature in Chinese" in its methodology. I also identify key issues for critical engagement. Instead of defining Li Yongping and Li Ang as "world literature writers" simply through subjective interpretations of their works, this talk argues for the need for what I call "international recognition index" in determining the world literature status of a writer. It draws upon the websites of Li Yongpin and Li Ang constructed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (<http://web.mit.edu/ccw/index.html>) and the digital archives of the two writers constructed by the National Chung Hsing University (<http://twlit.blogspot.tw/>) to substantiate the discussion.

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About the Speaker:

Prof. Chiu obtained her Ph. D. degree in Comparative Literature from the University of Washington—Seattle, USA. She is Distinguished Professor of Taiwan Literature and Transnational Cultural Studies at National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan. She has written extensively on postcolonial Taiwan literature and contemporary Taiwan documentaries. Her recent publications include *New Chinese-language Documentaries* (co-authored with Yingjin Zhang), *Taiwan Cinema, International Reception, and Social Change* (co-edited with Ming-yeh Rawnsley and Gary Rawnsley), and journal articles published in *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, *New Literary History*, *The China Quarterly*, and *The Journal of Asian Studies*. She is currently co-guest-editing a special issue of “Chinese Literature as World Literature” with Yingjin Zhang for *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* and is in charge of the “Taiwan Digital Literary History” project under the aegis of National Taiwan Literature Museum in Taiwan.

臺灣文學與世界文學

邱貴芬 教授

中興大學臺灣文學與跨國文化研究所特聘教授

摘要

本次演講以大衛丹姆洛什(David Damrosch)對於世界文學所提出的定義：「一種流通與閱讀的模式」，而非所謂「無邊際而難以掌握的經典作品」為出發點，將臺灣文學置於世界文學的脈絡中討論。在這樣的脈絡下，世界文學研究探討這些作品成為普及全世界的讀物後如何產生新的生命，以及在新的文化背景中被重新塑造而醞釀出新生命之可能性。

我以旅居臺灣的馬來西亞華文作家李永平，及臺灣女性主義作家李昂為例，在方法論的層面，解釋世界文學脈絡下的臺灣文學研究，與「華語語系文學」，以及「中文世界文學」研究之間的不同。同時，也將提出此領域研究的關鍵議題。我認為應該建立一套所謂「國際性認可指標」(international recognition index)來定義李永平與李昂為「世界文學作家」，而非只透過個別讀者對他們作品的主觀解讀。本演講將以麻省理工學院(Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT)建置的李永平與李昂網站(<http://web.mit.edu/ccw/index.html>)及國立中興大學建置的兩位作家的數位資料庫(<http://twlit.blogspot.tw/>)為佐證進行討論。

講者簡介：

邱貴芬教授為美國西雅圖華盛頓大學比較文學博士，目前為中興大學臺灣文學與跨國文化研究所特聘教授。她主要研究後殖民臺灣文學與當代臺灣紀錄片。她最近的著作包括專書《華語新紀錄片》(與張英進教授合著)、論文集《臺灣電影，國際閱覽，和社會變遷》(與 Ming-yeh Rawnsley and Gary Rawnsley 教授合編)，以及發表於知名國際期刊 *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*、*New Literary History*、

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The China Quarterly、*The Journal of Asian Studies* 的論文。她目前正與張英進教授共同擔任國際期刊《現代華文文學與文化》「作為世界文學的華文文學」專輯的客座編輯，並執行國立臺灣文學館文學史數位平台建置計畫。