

Introductory Note

The 2018 summer issue of *Interlitteraria* is the second volume of the proceedings of the conference “Comparative Literature, World Literature and Ethical Literary Criticism” held in Tartu in October 2016. Papers gathered in this volume are mostly case studies applying the specific framework of Ethical Literary Criticism as defined by Nie Zhenzhao to literary works or considering them from a broader ethical perspective.

The resulting selection not only adds to the interpretation of these literary works and hones the tools of ELC, but also offers an insight into the cultural diversity of critical thought. Scholars and critics from very different literary traditions and academic backgrounds explore works from their own cultural space and from others, from age-old classics to relatively recent literature. The two vast traditions represented here are those of East and West, a number of papers being from Chinese scholars, while others originate from Europe. Both traditions, obviously, are far from homogeneous themselves, and offer a variety of approaches to ethical issues in literature.

Comparative Literature is an essentially polyphonic discipline. *Interlitteraria* invites its readers to explore this polyphony in the conference proceedings, to consider well-known works of literature from a foreign perspective, discover perhaps less known works through the lens of ethical criticism, or explore yet another combination of familiar and unfamiliar in literary thought. Diversity is also at the core of the free-themed section where three papers explore phenomena related to popular culture that sometimes get overlooked by academic studies.

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