

World Literature and the Minor: Figuration, Circulation, Translation

KU Leuven, 6-7 May 2021 (online conference)

<https://www.arts.kuleuven.be/world-literature-and-the-minor-figuration-circulation-translation/call-for-papers>

World Literature in Unexpected Places: Displacement and the Minor in Global Urban Contexts

In the last few decades, metropolises have become the focus of many research fields that analysed them from several angles. However, the complexities of our societies and their expressions in urban contexts have not only provided fertile ground for research but also served as the basis for a number of literary works, which voice issues of marginality.

This panel, by looking at various urban contexts in countries other than European or North American, such as India and Japan, will highlight the literary representations of displacement, of people living at the margins, and struggling in the urban environment. These texts bear witness to what it means to be a “minor” in contemporary metropolises, emphasizing the intersectional nature of the identities considered as minor and bringing out the instances of marginalized individuals and communities. We will look at how the relations between displacement and the minor are articulated in the literary works under scrutiny and how the works are included, or resist inclusion in, the field of World Literature.

In doing so, the panel tries to answer the following questions:

- How is the relationship between displacement and minor articulated?
- How do these texts challenge or follow the canons of world literature?
- What is the role of translation for the inclusion of these texts in World Literature?
- How do translations affect the reception and the content itself of these works describing the struggles of the minor?

This panel invites papers that examine instances of displacement and the ‘minor’ in literature. Suggested perspectives include but are not limited to:

- Gender and the minor
- Environmental degradation and the minor
- Minority and/ or endangered languages

Abstract addressing the topic from the perspectives of minor literatures, outside Europe and North America are particularly welcome.

Please submit your paper abstracts (max. 300 words) and a short bio (max. 100 words) to the panel organizers (please send to both of us) valentina.barnabei@unive.it and giulia.baque@unive.it by **December 1st, 2020**.