



Professor Kitty Millet
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ICLA Research Committee on Religion, Ethics, and Literature

The research committee investigates the philosophical and theoretical roles of religion and ethics in relation to literature, as well as explores the fraught relationship between secularism and post-secularism. It examines global literary phenomena as instances of subject formation in order to think new relationships between these three disciplines. We are particularly concerned with the modern displacement of religion, and modernity's epistemological underpinnings as these aspects reflect judgments about the world, culture, and its relationship to a religious past. While the examination of religious imagery, symbolism and the role of myth will not be the purview of this committee, the signifiers of religion in as much as they motivate "an ethical turn" in the text is a key element of the committee's purview.

As a result, the committee has a wide-ranging concern with the interstitial space that literature makes visible, a space that is not reducible to the literary, religious, or ethical, and yet intersects with all of these nodes of expression. In other words, we question the epistemologies and categories that underwrite the ways that religion, literature, and ethics coalesce around an aesthetic object.

This year marks the third year of our operation and it has been a busy one. In addition to the ICLA Congress in Vienna in which we sponsored three streams, the committee also sponsors two seminars at the ACLA national conference in Utrecht, and two panels at the German Comparative Literature Association's national conference in Bochum (DGAVL). The committee thanks Linda Simonis and Monika Schmitz-Evans in particular for their invitation for the committee to participate in the DGAVL.

The committee's book with Bloomsbury is due to the publisher in December for copyediting. A collection of fifteen essays, the contributors represent early career researchers, graduate students and senior scholars in comparative literature as a discipline. The collection will be listed as part of the Religion, Philosophy, and Literature division for that press, and marketed not only to comparatists, but also scholars within religion and philosophy.

Recently, Professor Millet agreed in principle to edit a new journal on the research committee's themes for Brill. The journal will be peer-reviewed and Millet is currently assembling an editorial board as well as a staff with the projected first issue for 2019. Brill aims for two issues a year. The hope is that the journal will offer another mechanism for members to refine their research through peer-review as well as provide opportunities for publication.

The committee website contains a copy of our quarterly reports, lists our sponsored panels at different conferences, provides a list of our members, updates our publications progress, and offers instructions for membership (<http://online.sfsu.edu/kmillet1/faultlinesgrp.html>). Although Professor Kitty Millet (kmillet1@sfsu.edu) chairs the committee, committee members remain actively engaged in growing the committee, determining its next events, and targeting potential audiences.

