

## **ICLA Research Committee on “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature” (2020)**

Due to the sudden outbreak of Covid-19, the Congress of Chinese Comparative Literature Association (CCLA) has to be postponed to 2021, and many other conferences planned for 2020 have all been cancelled or delayed. On the other hand, Chinese comparatists have quickly adapted to the new “normal” and got used to teaching and lecturing through virtual platforms. Members of the Research Committee on “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature” in Beijing and Shanghai organized virtual conferences and lectures to help to promote and foster the spirit of Scriptural Reasoning.

### **1. Virtual Conferences:**

- July 17-18, 2020, THE SR committee helped run the 2020 “China Studies Program” Ph.D. Online Forum. 42 Ph.D. candidates from 23 countries presented their papers in this two-night event, and 30 established scholars from China and other countries reviewed their paper and offered advices to the students. Once again, the Forum provided practical supports to these students on their academic writing.
- July 25, 2020, THE SR committee supported the 2020 Academic Annual Conference of Foreign Literature Committee of The Chinese Society of Higher Education, whose theme was “The Study of Chinese Foreign Literature at the Changing Era.”
- September 26-29, 2020, THE SR committee helped the Sixth Nishan Forum, whose theme was “World Civilizations as the Guide to the Future,” and hosted the “Roundtable for the New Era of Human Civilizations.”
- November 12, 2020, THE SR committee will help organize an online conference with Central and Eastern European scholars on the translation of Chinese literature, inviting Chinese writers and scholars to dialogue with European scholars and translators.

### **2. Lectures:** In the past year, THE SR Research Committee has invited many scholars to lecture at RUC. The spirit of THE SR can be seen clearly from their topics listed here:

- January 6-13, 2020, THE SR committee hosted the two-week intensive course on “Fresh Perspectives on Tang Literature” by Professor Paul Kroll (Colorado University Boulder).
- January 10 & 13, 2020, THE SR committee hosted Professor Xiaofei Tian (Harvard University) who lectured on “Chinese Modern Literature: Research Methods.”
- June 8-19, 2020, THE SR committee helped organize a two-week intensive study for Professor Martin Kern (Princeton University) under the theme of “Shijing (Book of Songs) and the Unearthed Chinese Literature.”
- August 18, 2020, the first lecture of CCLA Cloud Lecture Series was on. THE SR committee helped design the lecture series. It is planned that by the end of 2020, six high-level lectures will be offered through virtual platforms. The purpose of the cloud lecture series is to facilitate in-depth conversations between early career scholars and well-known scholars in this special and critical age. The virtual platform can overcome the difficulties of time and space, and more international comparatists will be invited to lecture through this platform.
- November 6, 2020, THE SR committee helped Professor David Jasper offer a cloud

lecture on the topic of “The Origins of Truth in Philosophy, Theology and Theory.”

**3. Publication:**

- THE SR Research Committee oversaw the edition and publication of issues 42 (theme: Between Heaven and Humankind) and 43 (theme: The Sacred and the Everyday) of the *Journal for the Study of Christian Culture*.
- THE SR committee keeps supporting the project related to *T'oung Pao*, one of the leading academic journals on sinology worldwide, trying to present some good-quality research materials for Chinese scholars so that the Chinese scholars in the area of humanities may find some inspirations after reading the “scriptural reasoning” activities in these foreigners’ writings about China.
- THE SR committee keeps supporting the following publication projects:
  - Book Series, “Literature and Intellectual History”
  - Book series by early-career scholars, “Chinese Comparative Literature Library” (with Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press)
- THE SR committee will supervise and guide the research project “Forty Years of Chinese Comparative Literature” supported by The National Social Science Fund of China.

**4. Plan:**

- Host at least one panel and one Roundtable at the Triennial Congress of Chinese Comparative Literature Association.
- Host several international conferences for comparatists in China and other parts of the world, such as the biennial World Conference on Sinology (<http://hantui.ruc.edu.cn>); biannual workshops on comparative antiquity studies for young scholars and Ph.D. students; symposium on translation of Chinese modern literature in European languages, etc.
- Invite key scholars in the field of comparative literature and world literature to lecture at the CCLA Cloud Lecture Series.
- Host Ph.D. student online forums for Chinese and International students in Chinese universities.

Drafted by

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**List of Research Committee Members:**

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