



Annual Meeting of the Canadian Comparative Literature Association
Colloque annuel de l'Association Canadienne de Littérature Comparée

Keynote Address/ *Conférence d'honneur*

Re-imagining Encounters: Notes of a Comparatist in Postcolonial Hong Kong

Monday, 29 May 2023 - *Lundi 29 mai 2023*

12:30 – 14:00

Venue: Curtis Lecture Hall H, Central Square, Keele Campus, York University

Speaker: Professor Nicole Huang, the University of Hong Kong

In this keynote address, Professor Nicole Huang will present Hong Kong as a strategic site to re-examine colonial "encounters," to contribute to a collective "re-imagining of a new set of social relationships grounded in decoloniality, anti-racism, justice, and preservation of the earth." Huang speaks as a comparatist who recently left North American academia, relocated to the oldest tertiary institution in a former British colony, and has been working on a project that would require in-depth research into Hong Kong's colonial past. Through much of the pandemic, she rummaged through a body of archival material on the University of Hong Kong's first three decades (1911-1941). The key figure in Huang's study is the canonical Chinese writer Eileen Chang (1920-1995), who began her literary journey as a college student at HKU in 1939-1941, majoring in English and History. Huang's goal is to lift her out of a linear Chinese literary historiography and resituate her on a relational map of postcolonial literatures.

Professor Nicole Huang received her PhD in East Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of California, Los Angeles, and taught at the University of Wisconsin, Madison for seventeen years before joining the University of Hong Kong in 2017. She is the author of *Women, War, Domesticity: Shanghai Literature and Popular Culture of the 1940s* (Leiden, 2005) and *Hong Kong Connections: Eileen Chang and Worldmaking* (Hong Kong, 2022), and the co-editor of *Written on Water* (a collection of essays by Eileen Chang, New York, 2023). Her recent work engages visual and auditory culture of contemporary China, with a forthcoming monograph on a culture of listening in late-Mao China. She is currently working on a book project that situates the writer Eileen Chang on a relational map of world literature.

Financial support for this event was provided by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, York University's Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies, and the Canadian Comparative Literature Association.

Please register for a community pass at <https://www.federationhss.ca/en/congress/congress-2023/register> to attend this event and other open events of Congress 2023 at York University.