



Presentation Details
Title: Translational Digital Humanities: Networking Orientalism in World Literature after Goethe
Speaker: Prof. David D. KIM (University of California, Los Angeles)
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>When Goethe made his legendary reference to world literature in 1827, the example on the basis of which he elaborated his neologism was a Chinese novel. Although this historical fact is widely known, hardly any scholar of world literature has taken a more careful look at its identity. In this presentation, I will explain how WorldLiterature@UCLA — a digital humanities project I have built with a scholarly team — addresses the oversight by combining faculty research and student learning, close reading and “distant reading”, disciplinary expertise and interdisciplinary scholarship. As I will demonstrate, at stake here is not the variety of methodological approaches to reading and studying world literature, but a nuanced postcolonial inquiry into Orientalism as a social network for Goethe's world literary imagination.</p>
<p>Biography</p> <p>David D. Kim is Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages at the University of California, Los Angeles. Before joining UCLA in Fall 2014, he had been Assistant Professor of German and Global Studies at Michigan State University. He received his Ph.D. in German Studies from Harvard University. Kim’s research areas include <i>fin-de-siècle</i> Vienna, contemporary German literature, digital humanities, transnational adoption, human rights, and narratives of citizenship and solidarity.</p> <p>Kim’s first book is titled <i>Cosmopolitan Parables: Responsibility and Trauma in Contemporary Germany</i> and it is forthcoming with Northwestern University Press. It contributes to the study of contemporary German literature, international postcolonialism, Holocaust memory, and cosmopolitanism by investigating how German writers after 1989 work through memories of colonialism, Nazism, and communism as cross-referential entanglements of past, present, and future in the post-Cold War world. Kim’s research also involves graph-analytic methods, big data, and network analyses in studies of world literature. In collaboration with the Center of Digital Humanities, he has developed WorldLiterature@UCLA, which permits the modeling of authorial, translational, and literary</p>

networks. At Michigan State University, he directed the digital project Collaborative Network Analysis and launched The Study of Interpretive Linkages with Digital Technology in German Studies. His other major publications include *Imagining Human Rights* (De Gruyter, 2015; co-edited with Susanne Kaul) and *The Postcolonial World* (Routledge, 2016; co-edited with Jyotsna Singh).