



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Centre for Comparative Literature

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<https://complit.utoronto.ca/>



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About Us


Since 1969, the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto has welcomed students from a variety of academic backgrounds who are keen to pursue questions that cross languages and disciplines. Students of Comparative Literature know that understanding literatures – and their place within cultures and histories – means initiating dialogues between disparate literatures and bodies of theory as well as between literature and its neighbouring cultural spheres. Working across languages and disciplines is the only way to appreciate topics such as medieval Iberia or literary modernisms in the Middle East, or Eastern European underground publishing, or poetics across the Americas, or Afro-Hispanic cultural production in the Caribbean.

Comparison is at the heart of the most exciting work in the humanities today. The Centre offers the intellectual freedom to pursue many kinds of projects, including a new option for students with an established creative practice to include creative research as one of the methods in the dissertation. Recently completed PhD theses include “Epic, Narrative and History in the Early Modern Iberian World”; “Forms of War: Capitalism, Representation and the State in Post-45 Literatures from France, Japan, and the U.S.”; “Reading (in) Speculative Fiction”; “The Nation-State of Nepal in Nepali and Anglophone Novels” and “The Aesthetics of *Nachträglichkeit*: Traumatic Temporality and the First World War in Proust, Joyce, and Mann.” The Centre offers innovative courses such as “Climate Genres”; “Critical Theory – The French-German Connection”; “Space, Place and Power” and “Women and Sex and Talk.” A strong emphasis on literary and cultural theory, attention to issues of comparison, and work in original languages distinguishes studies pursued at the Centre.

The Centre for Comparative Literature is located within one of Canada’s finest universities. The University of Toronto enables work across a vast spectrum of national and linguistic traditions, from Korean to Persian, Classical Greek to Yiddish, and Indigenous languages to Ukrainian. To take advantage of these resources, students of Comparative Literature typically do half of their course work outside the Centre in other departments. The University of Toronto has the largest library system in Canada and the third largest in North America.

The Centre for Comparative Literature offers MA and PhD programs.

Students at the Centre are active and work together to mount an annual international conference, run a journal and organize other activities at the Centre.



“The Centre is committed to fostering a globalized and interdisciplinary environment. As an international student, I find the program very welcoming and accommodating to my doctoral project, which spans various continents and languages.”

Ran Deng, PhD Candidate



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PhD Program

The PhD program should be completed in five years. Students are admitted with a Master's degree either in Comparative Literature or another Humanities discipline with an average of at least A-.

Students must be able to do advanced research in two non-English languages and demonstrate reading knowledge of a third by year three of the program. Students may substitute a non-literary discipline such as Anthropology, History, Philosophy or Religion for the third language. Those admitted to do the creative research option for the thesis may use evidence of their creative practice to substitute for the second language, in which case they will demonstrate reading knowledge of a non-English language for the final requirement.

Students must take a minimum of 6 half courses (up to a maximum of 9 half courses) over the first three semesters of the program, must pass qualifying exams, and must write a dissertation, an extended piece of original research that completes the scholar's initiation into the community of those producing and sharing knowledge.

Students work as teaching assistants in departments related to their own interests, skills and research

Funding

The Centre for Comparative Literature provides a base funding package to PhD students of \$31,551 plus tuition and fees, per year for five years. The PhD funding package may be made up from a variety of sources including external awards such as SSHRC (Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada) and Ontario Graduate Scholarships, research assistantships, teaching assistantships and other U of T funding.

Application

The application deadline is **December 15**. All applications must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies of the University of Toronto. For further detailed information, please visit:
<https://complit.utoronto.ca/application/instructions/>



Dr. Pushpa Acharya, PhD 2022 & Ami Xherro, PhD Candidate



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MA Program

The MA Program is one year and exposes students to a wide range of graduate work in literature and theoretical perspectives. Students must take 8 semester-long courses, at least half of which must be in Comparative Literature.

Applicants must have a four-year BA degree and demonstrate a knowledge of literature and an ability to work at the graduate level in at least one language other than English.

Funding

While the MA Program is unfunded, the Centre offers a limited number of small entrance scholarships. Potential Canadian applicants are encouraged to apply for external funding in the form of MA scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (CGS-M), scholarships that will cover tuition and provide a stipend.

Application

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"Complit has such a vibrant, diverse, and research-intensive atmosphere, which is ideal for students pursuing an interdisciplinary approach."

Dr. Yu Wang, PhD 2022, Comparative Literature, U of T