

Workshop: Comparative Literary Theory in Premodern Asia: Case Studies and Key Terms

Attendance is free and open to all. Please book a seat using the QR code:



The Levett Room,
Wolfson College, 16th March 2026

09.45 Introduction: Comparative Theory Beyond Europe: Conceptual Challenges (James White).

10.00 Panel 1: Monolingual Theories of Comparison in Literary ‘Cosmopolises’.

Johannes Stephan (FU Berlin): “Comparing within *adab* and Poetics: A Case Study of Ibn Wahb al-Kātib's Nomenclature”.

Jonathan Duquette (Cambridge): “Beyond Compare: Polemics and Apologetics in Sanskrit doxographies”.

11.00 Coffee Break.

11.30 Panel 2: Compilation and Comparison: Premodern Anthologies.

James White (Oxford): “Bilingual Anthologies in Premodern Iran: Connecting and Comparing Arabic and Persian Poetry.

Jennifer Guest (Oxford): “Imagining Poetic Language(s) in Medieval Japan: Commentaries on the *Wakan rōishū*”.

12.30 Lunch break.

13.30 Panel 3: Beyond Linguistic Comparison: The Visual and the Aural.

Sophie Lam (Oxford): “Depicting Bodily Extremity and Female Virtue in Illustrated Didactic Books for Women in Ming-Qing China and Tokugawa Japan”.

Richard David Williams (SOAS): “Making Sense of Music in Seventeenth-Century India: Translating Sound and Affect across Languages”.

14.30 Coffee Break.

15.00 Panel 4: The Educational and Political Functions of Premodern Comparative Practice.

Aglaia Iankovskaia (SOAS): “Interlinear Translation in Sumatran Manuscripts”.

Kristof D’hulster (Münster): “Language Matters in the Mamluk Sultanate, or What Turkic Had that Arabic and Circassian Did Not”.

