

MSt World Literatures in English: Language and Translation

Rationale

- As scholars of world literature, we believe that languages are not discrete entities but exist on a continuum. Literary texts are always to some extent multilingual, and the interaction between languages is a fundamental engine of literary creativity.
- Within this continuum and these interactions, we celebrate linguistic diversity and specificity. We resist the tendency towards Anglo-Globalism: the unexamined assimilation of world literatures into the English as a perennial lingua franca.
- As teachers of World Literature within the Faculty of English, we will want to encourage the study of multilingualism, translation, contact, and the politics of language, without assuming that an English department should or could house a course that attends to the world's languages and literatures in their entirety.

Practicalities

The A-Course on the MSt in World Literatures in English will include reflections on “World Literature” written in a variety of languages in English translation, and in English. Classes will emphasise the role and practice of translation, and the role of the English language within World Literature and World Literary studies will be a subject of particular importance.

For C-Course projects, the convenor of the course will make clear the expectations regarding work on non-Anglophone literatures. For B-Course and Dissertation projects, a substantial proportion of the primary material being analyzed will normally be written in English or a Creole derived in part from English. However, we would warmly encourage you to engage with questions of language, circulation, and translation, in your research. Projects might include:

- Comparative studies, encompassing Anglophone texts and texts in other languages.
- Studies of multilingual elements within an Anglophone or Anglo-Creole text.
- Studies of translations into or out of English, where the fact, practice and style of translation is fundamental to the argument.
- Studies of the circulation, translation, and reception of non-Anglophone texts within the Anglosphere.

Many students use the resources available in Oxford to develop linguistic skills in ways that contribute to their research. When making admission decisions and approving dissertation proposals, tutors will be mindful of the capacity of faculty members to supervise and assess your work.