

2021-2022

Interdisciplinary Research Seminar (CHIIRS)

Sponsored by The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry



TRANSCULTURALISM AND MIGRANT IMAGINERIES

Facilitator: Subha Xavier, Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian

What is transculturalism and how is it fostered by migrant itineraries across our planet? This seminar will open up a space of reflection and analysis to consider how migrant works trouble national, ethnocentric and monolingual imaginaries to rethink our world through notions of transculture. Works considered will include literature, film and visual art by Sino-European writers and artists Gao Xingjian (Nobel Prize for literature, 2000) and Shan Sa (author of the best selling novel in French history), as well as Afrodiasporic filmmakers Alain Gomis (two time winner of the Golden Stallion Award at FESPACO) and Mati Diop (first female black director in contention for the Palme d'Or at Cannes). Discussions will tackle fictions of culture as much as cultural fiction, interrogating fantasies of the other through readings in critical race studies. In working across Asian, African and European world views among others, we will engage in a planetary rethinking of identity and belonging.

Three sessions will focus on translingual and transmedia approaches to migration: what is gained, what is lost and, most importantly, what is transformed in the collision of cultures rendered through art, literature and film. Conversation will also center around ideas of nationhood as they are expressed, troubled, recreated or put to flight by transcultural art forms. This seminar is open to faculty and graduate students and will meet on the following Wednesdays at the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry: **February 2, March 2, April 13 from 4:15pm-5:45pm**. Please contact Subha Xavier subha.xavier@emory.edu if you are interested in joining this seminar.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Please note that we adhere to Emory University's COVID-19 Event and Gathering Policy: Any gathering must adhere to current Emory health and safety protocols. Indoor dining is not permitted for events or gatherings. Masks are still required in all indoor public and common spaces on campus and are strongly encouraged outdoors when in groups. The university may revert to a more restrictive operating status should future conditions warrant.