

“Comparative History of East Asian Literatures”
ICLA-AILC Committee Report 2024

The Committee’s goals are advancing slowly. Our search for a reliable stream of funding that will support the workshops and conferences needed to bring together the specialists in diverse languages and fields who will write this Comparative History together continues, with some success. For 2024-25 we have received support from the US Department of Education’s Title VI initiative for lectures and workshops on the topic of pan-Asian literary history, to be held at the University of Chicago’s Center for East Asian Studies. Other queries and applications are being considered.

Preliminary discussions with publishers are also underway. The prospect of a multi-volume, multi-author project is for most publishers a daunting one and will require a substantial subsidy—our second pragmatic concern after that of supporting workshops.

Chapters of a world literary history to be published by the French National Center for Scientific Research will reflect the work done by members of the Research Committee.

The upcoming Congress in Seoul will facilitate conversations among scholars of the many literatures of Asia about the many points of contact in the traditions they study.

We look forward to accelerating the rhythm of meetings and publications.

For the Committee,

Haun Saussy