

Call for Papers

“Fiction and Ethics in the Twenty-first Century”

***CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 17.5 (December 2015)**

Deadline for Submission: 31 March 2015

Fourteen years into the twenty-first century, we are at a point when reflection on what has been achieved by novelists in the new century is possible and indeed offers a unique critical opportunity to look at what is happening now in fiction. The first decade of the 2000s has been saliently marked for its fictional creativity and diversity. Twenty-first century fictional writing is particularly noted for its peculiarly rich features, which entail the implications of entering into a new century and the potent symbolic evocations arising from the millennial and post-millennial discourses. Responding to such a complexity of ethical environment involving the natural catastrophe, 9/11 attack and its consequential war on terror, peak oil, and the financial collapse and its aftermath, contemporary novelists have not only transformed mechanics of narrative but also captured and recounted events in an ethical light. In seeking to capture the novelistic responses to our twenty-first century contemporaneity, a number of critics have embarked upon this scholarly endeavor, which is evidenced in most recent scholarly works such as Peter Boxall's *Twenty-First Century Fiction: A Critical Introduction* (2013) and Siân Adiseshiah and Rupert Hildyard's edited collection *Twenty-First Century Fiction: What Happens Now* (2013).

Unlike those existing critical works on twenty-first century fiction, “Fiction and Ethics in the Twenty-first Century” a special Issue of *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 17.5 (December 2015): <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb>> guest-edited by Zhenzhao Nie (Central China Normal University) and Biwu Shang (Shanghai Jiao Tong University) aims at assessing and reflecting the fictions produced in this century from an ethical perspective. It tries to reconstruct the ethical principles in the storyworld built up by novels in the twenty-first century, to analyze the ethical identities of the characters and the ethical choices they make when encountering an ethical dilemma. In short, all contributors try to unpack the ethical elements of contemporary literary fiction, to pin down the ethical pursuit of the authors, and to display the ethical enlightenments of the works produced in this changing environment. Practically, this special issue will identify a diverse and wide range of novelists in the world. For reference, it might be wise to sketch out a few names

here: in North America, Don DeLillo, Cormac McCarthy, Margret Atwood, Alice Munro, Philip Roth, Toni Morrison, Anne Tyler, Jonathan Franzen, Jonathan Safran Foer, Claire Messud, Dave Eggers, and Amy Waldman; in UK and Ireland, Julian Barnes, Martin Amis, Ian McEwan, Kazuo Ishiguro, Salman Rushdie, J. G. Ballard, Rose Tremain, John Banville, James Kelman, Zadie Smith, Monica Alie, Ali Smith, David Mitchell, Tom McCarthy; in other European countries, W. G. Sebald, Elfriede Jelinek, Orhan Pamuck, Ismail Kadare; in Asia, Aravind Adiga, Moshin Hamid, Amitav Gohsh, Bi Feiyu, Mo Yan, Jia Pingwa, Wang Anyi; in Africa, J. M. Coetzee, Chimamand Ngozi Adichie, Zakes Mda. In attending closely to some of the best novels written by those authors in the new century, this special issue will make its utmost efforts not only to listen to the way that these novels respond to and project their contemporaneity, but also to probe into the ethical issues posed by them, to reap ethical experience from them, and ultimately to make us live as an ethical being.

Please submit papers in 6000-7000 words by 31 March 2015 to Zhenzhao Nie at <niezhenzhao@163.com> and Biwu Shang at <biwushang@gmail.com>. For the style of the journal consult <<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweblibrary/clcwebstyleguide>>. Articles published in the journal are double-blind peer reviewed and indexed in the International Bibliography of the Modern Language Association of America, the Thomson Reuters ISI Arts and Humanities Citation Index, Scopus, etc.