

**CALL FOR PAPERS****The 8th UK-China Alliance for the Humanities in Higher Education Conference****15-16 Nov 2024, UCL**

We will hold the 8<sup>th</sup> network conference at UCL's Bloomsbury and East campuses in London. This year's conference addresses the broad theme of 'Worlds and World-views', focusing on several strands of investigation:

**1. Comparative and World Literature**

What does it mean to become aware of the world, of others' worlds, and other world-views, even ones that radically differ from or challenge our own? Existing discussions of 'world' in World Literature scholarship have offered various ways of describing and making sense of the world, of world-making, as well as various perspectives and ontologies that themselves constitute different worlds and realities. Taking into account the diverse conceptual frameworks which different languages facilitate, we invite papers that explore different worlds and world-views from a comparative perspective, especially in literature and the arts.

**2. Arts & Humanities Education from Different Positionalities**

The contemporary world and its recent developments are profoundly reshaping Arts and Humanities Education, not least in Britain and China, for example in the areas of digital technologies and AI, didactic initiatives of decolonizing the curriculum, and increasing attention paid to class, gender, and race inequalities. To foster greater cultural awareness of Higher Education in different local contexts and discourses, we invite explorations of how questions such as decolonization, indigeneity, AI and technology are considered from different positionalities. How do such considerations differ across British and Chinese universities, in terms of their conceptualization, urgency, pedagogy, and cultural significance? What kinds of inequalities present big challenges to Arts & Humanities Education, and what approaches have worked well to

address these challenges?

### **3. Environmental Humanities, notions of planetarity and different ontologies**

Do the Environmental Humanities provide us with a new sense of planetarity that connects all life forms on earth through common vulnerability? How do different communities experience planetarity? What about different ontologies (for instance, as presented in anthropological studies by Viveiros de Castro and Descola) that are apparently incommensurable with each other? Responding to recent ecocritical scholarship in the Humanities that reflect upon the ongoing ecological crisis, we invite papers that explore the concepts of nature and culture in different traditions and languages (including the absence of such conceptual terminology and categories).

You can also propose a paper on a topic outside the three specific strands suggested above, as long as it broadly addresses the conference theme.

#### **Submission of Abstracts**

Please submit abstracts to Stephanie < stephanie.ashton.18@ucl.ac.uk > **by 9 a.m. (UK time) on 18 July 2024**. Please entitle your email ‘UKCHA 8<sup>th</sup> conference 2024 proposal’. Your submission should include:

- The title and an abstract (minimally, a few sentences describing your paper) addressing one of the strands outlined above or the conference theme.
- A short biography (100 words max) that includes your name, university affiliation, and position.
- Your email address.

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Host: SELCS-CMII, UCL, London