



**CFPs special issue of *CompLit: Journal of European Literature, Arts and Society*, the Journal of the European Society of Comparative Literature published by Éditions Garnier**

**Title/topic:** *European Popular Literatures and Their Sociocultural Implications.*

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**Deadlines:** Full papers are expected by 30 Sept. 2021. Peer-review process will take place between Sept-Nov. 2021. Revisions between Dec. 2021 to Feb. 2022. Typesetting and publication is expected later in 2022.

Papers must follow Garnier Guidelines at the end of this document.

**Languages:** papers for this issue can be in English, French and Spanish. Out of around 10 selected papers, only 2 can be in French and 2 in Spanish. The rest in English.

**Prospective contributors** must be or become members of the European Society of Comparative Literature by December 2020 and continue to be members in 2021 <https://escl-selc.eu/become-a-member/>

There are no publication costs in the Journal of the European Society of Comparative Literature.

### **Summary**

The term ‘popular literature’ is characterized by its adjective coming from Latin ‘populāris’ indicating the ‘belonging to the common people,’ as opposed to more privileged social groups. From the viewpoint of cultural history, the three kinds of literary production —Folk Literature, High Literature and Popular Literature— have always interacted. The concept of ‘High Literature’ derived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the German ‘Hochliteratur’, and ‘Folk Literature’ came from ‘Volksliteratur’. Although they were distinguished by different means of composition, transmission and reception —the first occurring in lasting fixed manuscript and print forms, the second by means of ephemeral aural performance— their crossings and hybridity have been persistent features of interest in Comparative Literature. For example, considered as ‘High Literature’, Homeric Hymns retained many of the usual characteristics of their oral origin, such as repetitions and formulaic expressions.

It is important to point out that the impact of the industrial revolutions and technological advance has been determinant for growing literacy rates and for the emergence of new forms of artistic representation, knowledge transfer, and instruction in education. Technological and cultural changes were the cause behind the transformation of literary forms and the changes in their forms of reception. Myths and supernatural stories are one example coming from the oral tradition. Initially intended as sacred knowledge before the emergence of the empirical paradigm, they were rewritten in the form of wonder-tales adapted for younger audiences. When a wider range of channels of transmission materialized in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, critical assumptions, as well as the methodological and canonical selections being performed, emphasized a sort of tacit premise that Folk and Popular Literature lacked artistic sophistication and even seriousness. However, if one explores Greco-Roman reception, it becomes evident that it was partially established by means of translations that transformed and popularized the Classics to the point of mutating the poetic epic tradition into prose narratives. Thus, cross-fertilization has also served to bring previous inaccessible cultural heritage closer to the general public.

Alongside generic hybridism, enhanced since the 1990s by digitalization and the growth of intermedial and transmedial formats, Popular Literature has served various political functions, some of which are suggested in the topics listed below. Among those, and related to the debate between canonicity and emergent literatures, we can mention the controversies surrounding center/periphery dynamics, as well as identity politics, where the concept of ‘otherness’ becomes a fundamental factor. While ancient tales embodied a normative storyline with a young protagonist initiating a migratory journey and engaging in

various tasks and tests, successfully overcoming all the vicissitudes of what Joseph Campbell identified as ‘the monomyth’, and Carl Jung related to the different stages of the individuation process, the rite-of-passages enacted in these tales of maturation were also interpreted as forms of community and national identity building. In this sense, from the perspective of Comparative Literature, Popular fiction has provided a virtual stage where to test many of the issues and concerns taking place in the real world, as well as the grounds for nostalgic imagining other possible scenarios, both prospective and retrospective.

With the expansion of the variety of forms of knowledge transmission and storage, and the spread of education and literacy, recently including the world of digital hypertexts, Popular Literature, continues to grow in an increasing number of forms of mass media intended for the consumption of common people, now termed ‘prosumers’ (simultaneously, producers and consumers). In this sense, it has gradually become an unofficial alternative to canonicity and normative education, including numerous pros and cons (among them, the controversies about ‘fakeness’). Unlike what it would seem, the process has not meant a complete disregard for the old literary forms; for example, the hypertextual merging of annotated forms of writing can be contemplated almost as a return to ancient marginal glossing. Indeed, multiple mutating forms of interaction have emerged with the transformation of traditional repertoires into intermedial and transmedial formats. In sum, the exploration of popular imageries, their re-writings and media adaptations, their inter-artistic crossings and sociological implications is a fundamental area of research in the mapping of European identities and cultural life.

Contributions to the proposed special issue of *CompLit: Journal of European Literature, Arts and Society* will include around ten peer-reviewed papers that will investigate some of the proposed topics listed below in order to highlight the human, social and cultural functions of Popular Literature in the European context and establish their glocal (both global and local) universality.

### **Suggested topics**

Comparative Literature and European Popular Cultures  
Tradition, Modernity, Cultural Politics and Popular Literatures  
Canon and Non-canon in European Popular Literatures  
Myth, History, Memory, Popular Literatures and European Identities  
Migration and Memory in European Popular Literatures  
Community, Diaspora and Nostalgia in European Popular Literatures  
Lifestyles and Popular Literatures: gastronomy, leisure, work, habits, etc.  
Youth, aesthetics and Popular Literature (i.e. Punk aesthetics)  
European Popular Literatures and Intercultural Dialogue  
Gender-defined Spaces, Places and Tropes in European Popular Literatures  
Cosplay: Costume Play, Identity and Global Fandom in European Popular Literatures  
Fake and Real: Popular Literatures, Speculation and Wonder  
From Fables and Romances to Tales: U-texts, Folk Tales and the Multiform European Oral Tradition  
Utopia, Dystopia and Heterotopia in European Popular Literatures  
Uncanny Transformations: from Fairytales to Horror in European Popular Literatures  
European Popular Literatures and the Labyrinths of Reception  
European Folk Poetry and Song: Riddles, Traditional Tunes Ballads and Multiverse  
European Popular Literatures and Inter-Art: music, performance, visual arts, graphic narratives, digital literature, etc.  
Hybrid Transformations: Translation, Intermedial and Transmedial Adaptation in European Popular Literatures  
From Print to Screen: Mapping European TV and Cinema  
From Anonymity to Mediatic Success: the Circulation of European Popular Literatures  
Popular Literatures, Geopolitics and Conflict in Europe  
Migration and Exile in European Popular Literatures  
Popular Literatures and European Crises (war, economic austerity, health and safety, etc.)  
Popular Literatures and Populism  
European Popular Literatures and beyond: from the Local to the Global

**I. Articles should be submitted to the guest editors in charge of the issue**

- File formats accepted: DOC or DOCX.
- Please make the presence of special characters known to the editors.

**II. Format of the article**

Don't paginate your text.

To allow the issue to be clearly consistent, please follow the following guidelines:

- Text font: Times New Roman.
- Font size: 12 for main text. 10 for indented quotes. 9 for footnotes.
- Single line spacing.
- Justified text (make sure words don't split at line end).
- Line break before and after lists and indented quotes.
- No capital letters, except in proper names, titles and in quotes where they appear.
- No hyperlink (right-click on "remove hyperlink" if it appears automatically).
- No bold or underlined letters or words, except to indicate new section titles.
- To indent, don't use tabs but the Home menu instead: go to Paragraph, then Indentation, choose Special, then First Line: 0.8 cm.
- Margins (in Layout): 3 cm for an A4 page.
- Don't insert very large tables (use spaces 11 x 17 cm).
- If using connected texts (such as an original source and its translation), present them one after the other with a line break between them.

**III. Entry standards**

- Italicise foreign words.
- Use a spell check.
- Centuries should be given in full letters, not numbers, and not forgetting hyphens in nominal functions, such as "nineteenth-century literature"
- Abbreviations are to be avoided except "etc.", "i.e." and "e.g." and in notes or references, such as "2nd ed.":
- Footnotes are to be used in automatic mode.
- Footnote references are to be placed immediately after punctuation marks and after quotation marks punctuating nouns and phrases; if referring to a whole sentence, should be placed at the very end.
- Don't use long quotations.
- Indented quotations in foreign languages should be italicised. Their translations to be given within quotation marks.
- Non-indented quotations in foreign languages should also be italicised and given within quotation marks.
- Quotation references are to be placed in parentheses after the quote.

**IV. Titles and bibliographical references**

Please use the MLA style: <https://www.mendeley.com/guides/mla-citation-guide>.

**V. Illustrations**

Be aware that illustrations require that authors themselves look after the copyrights possibly attached to their usage, which may involve fees. In every case, no colour can be used. If you are using illustrations, contact your editor for more details.