

# New Comparisons in World Literature

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Regenia Gagnier

# Literatures of Liberalization

Global Circulation and the Long Nineteenth  
Century

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To study literatures in which global processes criss-cross distinct environments requires (1) translators and transculturalists who know diverse literary histories and history of genres, and (2) the disciplines relating to environments of nature (natural sciences), culture (the humanities), and technology (social sciences, engineering, and medicine). Since 2009, as Editor of the *Global Circulation Project* [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1741-4113/homepage/global\\_circulation\\_project.htm](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1741-4113/homepage/global_circulation_project.htm) and since 2016 as Co-Editor with Laura Doyle of UMass, Amherst, I have had the benefit of collaboration with many multilingual specialists in, for example, the PRC, India, Russia, Turkey, North America, Australasia, and Europe. I acknowledge all of these in the notes but here I especially want to thank Professors Pradip Datta, Sambudha Sen, and Sumanyu Satpathy in Delhi; Lu Jiande and Luo Xuanmin in Beijing; Boris Proskurnin in Perm; Yunus Balci in Denizli; Chana Kronfeld in Berkeley; Wendy Singer in Gambier; Jock Macleod in Brisbane; Grace Moore in Melbourne. This book shows the brutality and barbarism of so much of what we call globalization, or international trade under neoliberal ideology, but globalization has also produced some good, notably international scholarly collaboration. When I began my academic career in the 1980s, an American academic might have travelled from the West Coast to the East Coast of the USA. Now, with the blessings of our Deans and Vice-Chancellors, it is normal for British academics to travel to Delhi, Shanghai, and Mexico City.

I have also had the benefit of collaboration with colleagues at Exeter in English, Modern Languages, Translation Studies, the Centre for Imperial

and Global History, Global China and the Sino-European Political Languages Group, and the South Asia Studies Centre, with a full range of expertise in the long nineteenth century's sciences, cultures, and technologies. I would especially like to thank Ting Guo with whom I have worked on Chinese, Japanese, and Korean literatures since 2009, Dario Castiglione in Politics, Asma Char for help with Arabic, Ayesha Mukherjee for help with Hindi, Susan Hayward for years of conversation on Francophone cultures, and Exeter's Centre for Victorian Studies, especially Paul Young, John Plunkett, Corinna Wagner, Tricia Zakreski, Kate Hext, Angelique Richardson, Simon Rennie. I am convinced that the future is in translation and collaboration.

Since 2006, I have also been a Senior Research Fellow at an interdisciplinary research center, Egenis, the Centre for the Study of Life Sciences <http://socialsciences.exeter.ac.uk/sociology/research/sts/egenis/>. Egenis (est. 2002) roughly coincided with the first mapping of a human genome in 2003, and it specializes in the social implications of the life sciences. We have developed a symbiological, processual approach to specific environments at moments of change and transformation. A crucial concept for analyzing the intersection of the local and the global is that of the developmental niche, from niche-construction in biology, which we have adapted for specific niches of nature, culture, and technology. This has evolved with the studies here of modern geopolitical commodities within total environments, following on magisterial studies by Fernando Ortiz and Sidney Mintz on tobacco and sugar, Redcliffe Salaman on the potato (on which the work of distinguished Victorianists has been based), Francesca Bray and Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney on rice (see Chapters 7 and 8 for bibliography). Their works have served as models for me in analyzing the material niches of modern commodity circulation (i.e., globalization) and its impact on diverse cultures. This book is dedicated to the Director of Egenis, the philosopher John Dupré, and to our sons the philosopher Gabriel and chef Julian Gagnier Dupré.

Ultimately, though, it all goes back to Friedrich Engels's *Dialectics of Nature* (1872–1882). The Marxist biologist Richard Lewontin recommended it to me over 30 years ago, and it's been on my mind ever since. These two optics of global literary circulation and specific niche-construction of nature, culture, and technology underpin the book.

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Chapter 1: "Introduction: Victorian Studies, World Literatures, and Globalisation" *Critical Quarterly*, vol. 55, no. 1 Special Issue on *The State, or Statelessness, of Victorian Studies*, Guest Editor Regenia Gagnier: 1–8, 2013; Regenia Gagnier, "Global Circulation" *Journal of Victorian Literature and Culture* 46:3–4 (Fall/Winter 2018):719–23 publisher Cambridge University Press; and Regenia Gagnier, "Global Studies" *The Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature*, Edited by Dino Franco Felluga, Pamela K. Gilbert & Linda K. Hughes. 4 volumes. John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.: 2015: 649–660.

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Chapter 2: "Global Circulation and Some Problems in Liberalism, Liberalization, and Neoliberalism," *Occasion: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Humanities* Ed. David Palumbo-Liu *Special Issue on Liberalism, Literature, and the Emotions in the Long Nineteenth Century* Volume 11 (January 31, 2018) Guest Eds. Jock Macleod and Peter Denney <http://occasion.stanford.edu>; Regenia Gagnier, "The Global Circulation of Victorian Actants and Ideas: Liberalism and Liberalisation in the Niche of Nature, Culture, and Technology," in *Interventions: Rethinking the*

*Nineteenth Century*, Eds. Andrew Smith and Anna Barton (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2017): 91–110.

Chapter 3: Regenia Gagnier, “A Literary Anthropology of Freedom and Choice,” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 31: 4 (Dec. 2009): 373–386. Publishers Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.

Chapter 4: Regenia Gagnier, “Conclusion: Gender, Liberalism, and Resentment,” *The Politics of Gender in Anthony Trollope’s Novels: New Readings for the Twenty-First Century*, Eds. Margaret Markwick, Deborah Denenholz Morse, and Regenia Gagnier, Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate: 2009. Part 2, “Trollope outside Britain,” draws on the 17–19 September 2015 Trollope Bicentennial Conference at the Irish College, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, Panel 15: Global Trollope Chair: Regenia Gagnier (University of Exeter): Lydia Wevers (Victoria Wellington University), “Reading Trollope in New Zealand”; Xiaolan Zuo (Shanghai Jiao Tong University), “Trollope in China”; and Boris Proskurnin (Perm State University), “Trollope and Russia.” I am grateful to the hosts of the conference the Paul Druwe Fund, Prof. Ortwin de Graef, Dr. Frederik van Dam, and to Professors Wevers, Zuo, and Proskurnin for allowing me to cite their research in this chapter.

Chapter 5: Regenia Gagnier, “The Global Circulation of Charles Dickens’s Novels,” The Global Circulation Project of *Literature Compass* 10/1 (2013): 82–95, 10.1111/lic3.12021. Web; R. Gagnier, “Dickens’s Global Circulation” V: 48 (2018) pp. 722–737 in *The Oxford Handbook to Charles Dickens* Eds. Robert L. Patten, John O. Jordan and Catherine Waters.

Chapter 6: Regenia Gagnier, “The Global Circulation of the Literatures of Decadence,” Global Circulation Project of *Literature Compass* (24 Jan 2013); “Global Literatures of Decadence” in *The Fin-De-Siècle World*, Michael Saler, ed. (London: Routledge, 2015): 11–28; “The Decadence of the West in Huysmans and Houellebecq: Decadence in the Longue Durée” *English Literature in Transition 1880–1920* (2017) 60: 4, pp. 419–430. I am grateful to Editor Robert Langenfeld for permission.

Chapter 7: Regenia Gagnier, “Freedom, Determinism, and Hope in *Little Dorrit*: A Literary Anthropology,” *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 9: 2 (June 2011): 331–346. I am grateful to Editor Leona Toker for permission.

Chapter 8: Regenia Gagnier, “A Symbiological Approach to Sex, Gender, and Desire in the Anthropocene,” (2017) *Angelaki*:



*Journal of Theoretical Humanities*, 22: 1, 11–21, DOI: 2 10.1080/0969725X.2017.1285601 Publishers Taylor and Francis and collected in *Women Writing Across Cultures*, Ed. Pelagia Goulimari (London: Routledge 2017). I am grateful to Dr. Jos Smith, formerly British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow, and Exeter’s ECLIPSE Environmental Humanities Group, for comments on a draft of the original essay.

The image of the banyan tree “Dada” on the cover is Courtesy of Subodh Gupta and Hauser & Wirth. I am grateful for the photograph by Sambudha Sen, Delhi.

Full caption: Subodh Gupta

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Regenia Gagnier

## PRAISE FOR *LITERATURES OF LIBERALIZATION*

“Regenia Gagnier’s *Literatures of Liberalization* advances a compelling new method for global literary studies, tracking processes of ‘transculturation’ in the movement of literatures and ideas across geographical and historical contexts. A major contribution to our understanding of the long nineteenth century as well as to the literary history of liberalism and neoliberalism.”

—Amanda Anderson, Andrew W. Mellon, *Professor of Humanities and English, Brown University, USA*

“*Literatures of Liberalization* is a remarkable piece of research, long in the thinking, reading and making. Regenia Gagnier’s career interests in economics, nineteenth-century literatures and the politics of liberal subjectivity, as well as her deep commitment to scholarly collaboration across borders of all kinds (linguistic, geopolitical, disciplinary), is the perfect grounding for this powerful re-think of the global circulation of Victorian writing. Here, in a major methodological reconfiguration, Victorian literature itself becomes a complex and powerful actant in the cultural co-creation of our globalised modernity.”

—David Amigoni, *Professor of Victorian Literature and Pro Vice-Chancellor, Keele University, UK*

“This stunning transnational study, attentive to the interaction and interdependence of world movements, sweeps from 19thC global liberalism to the re-mediation of modernisms in different world cultures.

From the circulation of crucial commodities to desire and sexuality, Gagnier shows how the symbiology of the anthropocene affects the most intimate aspects of our lives. Dickens, Trollope, Dostoevsky, Herder, D. H. Lawrence, Huysmans, Su Tong, Knut Hamsun, Gabriel García Márquez, Jiang Rong, are among the writers dazzlingly re-read.”

—Isobel Armstrong FBA, *Emeritus Professor of English (Geoffrey Tillotson Chair), Birkbeck, University of London, UK*

“At once an irreplaceable guide to Victorian writing’s global transits and a meditation on liberal thinking and feeling, Gagnier’s book illuminates a rich and complex future for the study of nineteenth-century literature. Ardent, provocative, and intellectually generous, it confirms the value of attending to texts’ transculturations—not only how they change when translated but also how they adapt to new cultural environments and alter those environments in turn.”

—Douglas Mao, *Johns Hopkins University, USA*

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