

**Confucius Institute of Rutgers University (CIRU)
Distinguished Lecture Series Spring 2014**

**“Cosmopolitanism, World Literature and the Internationalization
of Modern Chinese Literature”**

Wang Ning
Tsinghua University

Tuesday, April 1, 4:30 pm
Brower Commons, 2nd Floor



Wang Ning is Changjiang Distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Director of the Center for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at Tsinghua University, Beijing, and Zhiyuan Chair Professor of Humanities at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He has received many honors from universities and scholarly organizations around the globe and was most recently elected Foreign Academician of the Academia Europaea. Apart from his numerous publications in Chinese, he has authored two books in English: *Globalization and Cultural Translation* (2004), and *Translated Modernities: Literary and Cultural Perspectives on Globalization and China* (2010). Prof. Wang is one of China's leading scholars of literary and cultural studies with research interests in globalization, cultural studies, comparative literature, and literary theory.

Abstract: In dealing with the issue of globalization and culture, we will immediately think of the concept of world literature, which is certainly a natural consequence of globalization in culture. And when we explore how world literature is formed and why it has become a cutting edge theoretical topic in the present era, we cannot but come across the function of translation, which has undoubtedly intervened in the formation of world literature. Translation, in fact, plays a double role: it de-canonizes some literary works if the translation is poorly done, and re-canonizes some literary works if the translation is marvelously done. But here, the act of translating has already gone far beyond the linguistically oriented word for word rendition. It leads to a sort of cultural transformation and literary canon reformation. The speaker will especially deal with how translation has played an important role in forming the sort of modern Chinese literary canon and how translation will play a more important role in promoting contemporary Chinese literature in the world.

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