当代外国文学

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◎ 论当代英国华人文学中的“文革叙述”
◎ 论马丁·麦克多纳《利南的美人》中的后现代刻板印象
◎ 论《玛琳切》对历史罪人形象的重构
◎ 全球化与文学：视角、立场与方法

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On the Healing Function and Political Consciousness of 9/11 Trauma Narratives in American Fiction

ABSTRACT: The American political and social landscapes after 9/11 interact dialectically with individual and cultural imaginary to produce new cultural meanings and realities. Representing the collective transnational trauma of the 9/11 attack, 9/11 trauma narratives function as a way of healing as well as an approach to constructing American collective cultural memory. With the assumption that public and political realities have intruded into private life since 11 September 2001, I argue that 9/11 novelists unconsciously conform to the prevailing American political ideology on the one hand and voice their own reflections on American politics on the other.

Keywords: 9/11 fiction, trauma narrative, healing, political consciousness

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Poetics of Surrealism: Early Poems of Frank O’Hara

ABSTRACT: The early poems of Frank O’Hara, a representative writer of the New York School of American poetry, show a dense surrealist color. Utilizing the poetics of surrealism, he broke the fetters of poetic conventions of his own age and contributed a great deal to reforming American poetic circles of the time. This essay aims to discuss the artistic features and poetic values of his early poetry by probing three strategies of surrealism in his early poems: automatic writing, illusionary realism and collective recreation.

Keywords: Frank O’Hara, surrealism, automatic writing, illusionary realism, collective recreation

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Approaching the Postmodern Ecological Thoughts in The Echo Maker

ABSTRACT: Richard Powers’s award-winning novel The Echo Maker faithfully records the illusory social reality in contemporary America and shows the alienation of human beings from their real self, nature and place. In this postmodern ecological novel, the story of birds facing the loss of their habitat alternates with the story of people centering on Mark’s car accident. The bifurcated plotline thus reveals the worsening of environmental crises and the increasing anxiety of human existence. Through the reversal of fortune and reconstruction of self-identity of the three
protagonists in the novel, Powers expresses his constructive postmodern ecological vision of reconstructing the real self, nature and place.

**Keywords:** *The Echo Maker*, ecological postmodernism, the Real, body, nature, place

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**On the Narrative Art of Auster’s The Music of Chance**

**ABSTRACT:** Picaresque novel and Greek tragedy are two different literary genres, with the former focusing on the dominant role of chance and the latter on the absolute power of destiny. This paper argues that in *The Music of Chance*, Paul Auster employs both genres to reveal that chance in life is actually determined by destiny. In modern American society money functions as destiny and also implies power. In the collusion between money and power, freedom pursued by modern Americans represented by the protagonist Nashe is nothing but an illusion.

**Keywords:** Paul Auster, *The Music of Chance*, picaresque narrative, Greek tragic narrative

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**Reading the Labyrinth of Time and Space in That Old Cape Magic**

**ABSTRACT:** This essay discusses the integration of realist, modernist, and post-modernist devices and techniques in Richard Russo’s *That Old Cape Magic*. By juxtaposing the three approaches, Russo creates an indispensable tension between reality and fiction while combining traditional realism with modern psychological realism in characterization. With this novel Russo constructs a labyrinth of time and space and achieves a delicate balance between conflicting approaches.

**Keywords:** *That Old Cape Magic*, realism, labyrinth of time and space, balance

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**Worshipping, Abandoning and Returning to Henry James:**
**A Study of Cynthia Ozick’s Path to Literary Success**

**ABSTRACT:** Starting with Henry James’s influence on Cynthia Ozick, this paper studies the motivation behind Ozick’s pursuit of an artistic life, discusses the reason for her to develop Jewish themes, and reveals her final agreement and dialogue with the great master. The paper argues that influence does not mean destruction and
imitation does not conflict with Ozick’s search for self-identity. From admiring James’s art, through abandoning his influence, to finally returning to his work, Ozick’s changing relationship with James marks the trajectory of her own brilliant literary career.

**Keywords:** Cynthia Ozick, Henry James, artistic life, Jewish theme, writing concept

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**On Nationality in Kathleen Jamie’s Poetry**

**ABSTRACT:** Women poets have a conspicuous presence in contemporary Scottish poetry, among whom Kathleen Jamie is the most prominent. This paper argues that Jamie’s poetry has represented the issue of nationality through her enthusiasm for Scottish independence and criticism of the Scottish discrimination against women in her early career, her reflection on Scotland as a nation and its construction of national culture in her mid-career, and her combination of the future of Scotland with a harmonious ecology in the new century. The developing representation of Scottish nationality in Jamie’s poetry illustrates not only the reflections on nationality by contemporary Scottish women poets, but also the evolution of contemporary Scottish poetry and culture.

**Keywords:** Scottish poetry, nationality, ecology

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**Narrating the Cultural Revolution in Contemporary British Chinese Literature**

**ABSTRACT:** Narrating the Cultural Revolution has been a leitmotif of contemporary British Chinese literature. Due to the authors’ resemblance in background and in publication opportunities, British Chinese narratives of the Cultural Revolution have displayed some common features, which show the impact of the Anglo-American book market despite their internal differences. This paper argues that contemporary British Chinese writers usually employ the paradoxical voice of a narrator who both experienced the cruel events of the Cultural Revolution and detached himself/herself from the irrational masses. The voice nevertheless reveals the predicament that British Chinese writers find themselves in when reconstructing a new self in diaspora. Over the years their reflections on that part of Chinese history have changed from political indictment to feminist humanism, or from Cultural Revolution narratives to post-Cultural Revolution ones. Despite the period markers, however, all narratives of this type tend to indulge in exotic symbols of the Cultural Revolution to more or less cater to western tastes.
**Keywords:** British Chinese literature, Cultural Revolution narrative, paradoxical narrative, consuming the Cultural Revolution

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**An Ethical Reading of Utility and Morality in The Pesthouse**

**ABSTRACT:** Utilitarianism and deontology are two opposing ethical choices that illustrate two contrasting philosophies of life. Designing drastically different endings for utilitarian and moral-bound characters, British writer Jim Crace propounds an existential ethic in his novel *The Pesthouse*. His utilitarian characters disregard the needs of others but their selfishness eventually leads to destruction, whereas his morally conscientious characters help themselves by helping others. According to the novel, the moral ones create existential space for themselves by making room for the others, thereby giving all human beings the reason and chance to exist.

**Keywords:** Jim Crace, *The Pesthouse*, utilitarianism, deontology, existential ethic

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**From “Macabre” to “Classic”: The Ethical and Moral Crises in Ian McEwan’s Fiction**

**ABSTRACT:** Based on post-Second World War social realities, Ian McEwan’s fiction from the first few decades of his writing career represents various ethical and moral crises of twentieth-century Britain. Stylistically, however, his writings in the 1970s and early 1980s exhibit an indulgence in taboo subjects, the conscious use of spatial narrative techniques and detached narration, whereas his novels in the 1990s and after gradually turn to more serious subject matters, such as politics, history and war. These later works, especially *Amsterdam* and *Atonement*, with their fascinating storylines, unique ethical encounters, unreliable narration and intertextual references, have inaugurated him as one of the most influential writers in the contemporary English literary scene. This paper argues that McEwan’s transformation as a writer is mainly informed by his recognition of the author’s power as narrator and the power of narrative intervention as a strategy toward moral edification.

**Keywords:** Ian McEwan, ethical and moral crises, unreliable narration, taboo subject, spatial narrative, intertextuality
Personal Relations in the Context of Imperialism: 
A New Perspective on A Passage to India

ABSTRACT: E. M. Forster started his writing of A Passage to India with a vision of personal relations. However, he soon found out that the context of imperialism and its influence on personal contact loomed large. In India, the requirements of imperialism blocked the consummation of personal relations, intensifying the friction and even conflicts between values. In the novel, the attempts to establish personal relations seem to be squashed by imperialist conventions. Seen from a historical perspective, however, the “softness” underlying the notion of personal relations worked its way into international relations and helped to take the British Empire apart.

Keywords: E. M. Forster, A Passage to India, personal relations, imperialism

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Decoding the Gaze at/of the Other in Author, Author

ABSTRACT: David Lodge’s Author, Author, a novel based on the life of Henry James, has aroused a wide range of academic attention since its publication in October 2004. Different from his previous works featuring a hybrid narrative style, this novel revives the tradition of omniscient narration, through which Lodge analyzes Henry James’s subtle psychology in gazing at the others and “being gazed by others” to explore the construction of authorial subjectivity in the cultural context of mass consumption. By studying these gazes and the everlasting chain formed by these gazes, this article argues that Lodge intends to formulate a new paradigm of gaze discourse, to acknowledge the author’s subjectivity, and to interrogate individual identity in the context of otherness in a pluralistic society.

Keywords: David Lodge, Author, Author, Henry James, otherness, gaze

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Beyond Rationality: 
Symbiosis of Humanity and Animality in Margaret Atwood’s Oryx and Crake

ABSTRACT: Margaret Atwood’s Oryx and Crake provides a philosophical reflection on the interactions between humanity and animality. The author emphasizes the importance of animality in humanity by blurring the boundary between man and...
monster as typified in the quandary of Snowman in the story. Man’s excessive worship of rationality results not only in the separation of animality from humanity, but also in the total abnegation of animality and a hierarchy built on anthropocentrism. By drawing upon Nietzsche’s and Derrida’s thoughts on animality, this paper explores the relationship between humanity and animality and argues that the novel advocates the plurality of animal existence by suggesting a new paradigm for understanding humanity. It suggests that only by making room for animality can we find meaning in mankind’s progress.

**Keywords**: humanity, animality, rationality, ecology

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**Interpreting Stereotypes in Martin McDonagh’s The Beauty Queen of Leenane**

**ABSTRACT**: As a postmodern playwright, Martin McDonagh’s representation of stereotypes in his plays focuses on creating allegorical readings and emphasizing artificiality. In this way his story-telling refreshes and subverts many of the clichés of the Irish literary canon. In addition, the stylized stereotypes and cultural references enable his play to achieve recognizability by audiences across national boundaries. In this sense, McDonagh’s drama should be seen not as local or national but as functioning according to a globalized model.

**Keywords**: Irish drama, postmodern, stereotypes

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**Reconstructing the Image of a Historic Culprit in Malinche**

**ABSTRACT**: In the historical memory of the Mexicans, Malinche, who cooperated with the Spanish troops in their conquest of the ancient Mexican territory in the 16th century, has always been considered as a traitor. In her latest novel *Malinche*, Laura Esquivel constructed a new image of this culprit. The existing scholarship on this character in Esquivel’s work takes mainly a feminist approach or studies the relationship between discourse and power therein. Focusing on the construction of Mexican national identity, this essay examines the reconstruction of Malinche by Esquivel to evaluate the work as a justification of the modern Mexican nation.

**Keywords**: Laura Esquivel, Malinche, Mexican national identity

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**On the Spatial Dimension of Narrative Art in Briefing for a Descent into Hell**
ABSTRACT: In her *Briefing into Descent into Hell*, an experimental novel written in the 1970s, Doris Lessing mixes narrative ambiguity and unchaptered structural complexity to pose interpretative obstacles for the reader. Focusing on its spatial narrative, this article employs the idea of telescoping structure to analyze its narrative form and thereby inquires into the techniques Lessing uses to highlight the literary chronotope in the text.

**Keywords:** *Briefing into Descent into Hell*, space, telescoping structure, Doris Lessing

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**Political and Cultural Connotations of Gender Relations in Herzog**

**ABSTRACT:** This paper explores the political and cultural connotations of gender relations in *Herzog*, arguing that *Herzog* and his wife Madeleine’s sex activities implicate a power struggle for domination of which body functions as the site. Describing the unfaithful Madeleine as a whore and a witch, Herzog attempts to discipline and judge her by marital ethics, or a discourse of gender politics cementing the male power under the mechanism of patriarchal culture. The four women in Herzog’s sexual life, marital or extra-marital, respectively embody the Jewish culture, consumer culture, American multiculturalism and oriental culture. Herzog’s various attitudes towards the four women reflect to a certain extent Saul Bellow the author’s cultural stand and value orientation.

**Keywords:** *Herzog*, gender, power, culture

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**Globalization and Literature: Perspectives, Viewpoints and Methods**

**ABSTRACT:** With the rise of global consciousness, some universal problems and phenomena have become the objects of concern and reflection in different national literatures. The literary works that reflect diverse themes and thoughts in the age of globalization have attracted much attention when they circulate in the world, and there have been localized transformations across cultures. The new mode of world literature has affected the routes and methods of cross-cultural dialogue, which is not just a reflection of the development of world history, but has made profound impact on the latter. In dealing with the relationship of literature with the historical process of globalization, this paper explicates the following issues: first, literature and literary studies reflect the scenes, processes and problems of globalization; second, literary writings are able to produce and revise the narrative of globalization; third, literary studies are useful for interpreting and understanding globalization, while the concepts and theories of globalization provide new perspectives on textual analysis; finally, the production of literature and its circulation are increasingly affected by globalization.
Keywords: globalization, contemporary literature, cultural identity, world literature

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**Diversification, Heterogeneity, and Hybridity: Asian American Literary and Cultural Criticism Reconsidered**

**ABSTRACT:** Asian American literary and cultural criticism, which initiated in the 1970s, has developed its own critique paradigms in the past 40 years and its theoretical discourses have become increasingly diversified. Focusing on the representative critical texts of Asian American literary and cultural studies, this article aims to analyze the in-betweeness, the constant construction, as well as the heterogeneity and hybridity of Asian American identity, so as to reveal the active and passive effects of Asian American critical discourses on Asian American ethnic development.

**Keywords:** Asian American literary criticism, ethnic identity, “in-betweenness”, heterogeneity, hybridity

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**A Review of The New Aestheticism**

**ABSTRACT:** The 2003 book The New Aestheticism, a critical anthology edited by John Joughin and Simon Malpas, theorizes a new wave of aesthetic and humanist concerns in the post-Theory era. The collected writings turn away from popular French theorists to revive aestheticism, inheriting key concepts from classical German aesthetics and modern aesthetics, especially those propounded by Theodore Adorno. The advocates of “new aestheticism” argue that criticism should, with dialectical reason, strike a new balance between aesthetic autonomy of traditional aesthetics and radicalism of contemporary anti-aestheticism. The anthology establishes shared concerns of aesthetic criticism in the study of both literary canon and popular culture.

**Keywords:** new aestheticism, classical German aesthetics, dialectical reason

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