

Session: *External Resource:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMgf-eyx6lo&t=5988s>

Special Session II: Roundtable on Living With Machines: Comparative Literature, AI, and the Ethics of Digital Imagination

Time: Wednesday, 30/July/2025:
1:30pm - 3:00pm

Location: KINTEX 1 Grand Ballroom

Session Chair: **Matthew Reynolds**, University of Oxford; matthew.reynolds@ell.ox.ac.uk

2025 ICLA SPECIAL SESSION 2 - YouTube

Special Session II: Roundtable on Living With Machines: Comparative Literature, AI, and the Ethics of Digital Imagination

#5: Wednesday, 7.30, 13:30 am - 15:00 pm: Location: KINTEX 1, Grand Ballroom

Session Chair: **Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford, UK)**

Speakers: Each speaker will give a 5 minute lightning talk about the paper or project.

Alberto Parisi (Kobe University, Japan)

The Power Not to Think: LLMs as Poetic Impotential Machines

Matthew Reynolds (University of Oxford, UK)

Constraints as a Route to Creativity in AI Translation: the AIDCPT project

Deepshikha Behera (EFL University, India)

"My Language has no School": Decolonising AI Translation

Nicholas Y. H. Wong (The University of Hong Kong)

Vocational but Vernacular: Forestry Policies and Sinophone Malaysian Literature

Christof Schöch (Trier University)

Multilingual Stylometry: The Influence of Language, Translation, and Corpus Composition on Authorship Attribution Accuracy

Simone Rebora (University of Verona, Italy)

Digital Social Reading and Comparative Literature: Three Case Studies

Translation and the Eco-Techno Turn: Individuation Across Organic and Inorganic Realms

Youngmin Kim (Dongguk University, Korea)

Joseph Hankinson (University of Oxford, UK)

Complementarities: Artificial Intelligence and Language Ontologies

Wen-Chin Ouyang (SOAS, University of London, UK)

Arabic and Chinese Wine Poems: Culture and Ethos

Cosima Bruno (SOAS, University of London, UK)

The Multiverse: AI Poetry Translation in the Network System

Shengke Deng (Tsinghua University, China)

Crisis of Subjectivity in Technological Networks: Bruno Latour and Impersonal Generation in Digital Age

Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek (Sichuan University, China)

Digital Humanities and Publishing Scholarship in the Humanities

Session Abstract:

Comparative Literature, AI, and the Ethics of Digital Imagination

The dream—or nightmare—of artificial intelligence has long haunted speculative literature, but today it is no longer confined to fiction. As AI technologies increasingly shape our social, cultural, and epistemological landscapes, they raise urgent questions about what it means to be human and how we might live with the machines we have created. This session explores how comparative literature, digital humanities, and AI ethics intersect to address these questions. Drawing inspiration from UNESCO's Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, the session frames literary and digital inquiry as vital tools for imagining and negotiating the ethical, existential, and political dimensions of AI. Through case studies ranging from poetic language models to decolonial translation pedagogy, the session foregrounds literature's role in shaping cultural responses to technological futures.

The speakers in this special session span a wide range of geographies, languages, and methodologies. From poetic experimentation with LLMs to decolonial translation practices, the speakers explore the cultural and ontological implications of AI in multilingual contexts, while reflecting on subjectivity and comparative literature in digital networks as well as addressing the transformation of scholarly publishing. Together, they offer a critical, multilingual, and transregional dialogue on how literature and digital tools can collaboratively respond to the ethical imperatives of our AI-infused world.