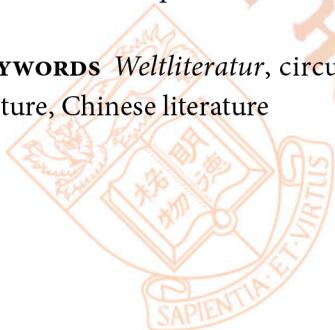


CHINESE LITERATURE IN THE AGE OF WORLD LITERATURE

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ABSTRACT In the last twenty some years, world literature has risen to be the powerful new current in literary studies of the twenty-first century. The concept of *Weltliteratur* called for by Wolfgang von Goethe at the beginning of the nineteenth century was not clearly defined, but it has been redefined by David Damrosch as encompassing all the literary works that circulate beyond their culture of origin. Such a redefined concept reduces the too vague idea and the too huge number of literary works that made *Weltliteratur* impracticable, but the concept of circulation has its own limitations, because works currently circulating in the world are basically the canonical works of major Western literary traditions, such as English, French, and German literatures, while non-Western literatures, including Chinese literature and even “minor” European literatures, are not circulating in the world beyond their culture of origin. At the same time, world literature today offers a great opportunity for Chinese literature to transcend its linguistic and cultural boundaries and become part of the widely circulating world literature. How does world literature rise up in the twenty-first century? What important roles does literary translation play in world literature? How to introduce the canonical works of Chinese literature to the outside world in a widely circulating language and render them a part of world literature in the true sense? These are all questions worthy of our attention and exploration.

KEYWORDS *Weltliteratur*, circulation, canon, European literature, non-Western literature, Chinese literature



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處於世界文學時代的中國文學

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摘要 進入二十一世紀以來，世界文學在近二十多年中，成為文學研究中方興未艾的一股熱潮。歌德在十九世紀初提出的世界文學概念尚未明確定義，戴維·丹姆諾什(David Damrosch)重新界定這一概念，認為要超出自身語言文化範圍、在別的國家和文化範圍內流通的文學，才是真正的世界文學。這一定義縮小了過於寬泛的概念，減少了過大的作品數量，使世界文學成為一個可以實際操作的概念。然而流通的概念也自有其侷限，因為目前在全世界流通的文學，基本上就是英、法、德等西方主要文學傳統中的經典，而非西方文學，包括中國文學，也包括歐洲小語種的文學，都沒有超出自身語言文化的範圍，在世界上廣泛流通。與此同時，世界文學的興起又為中國文學超出自身語言文化的範圍，成為廣泛流通的世界文學之一部分，提供了極大的可能性。世界文學何以在二十一世紀興起？文學翻譯在世界文學中有何重要作用？如何用廣泛流通的語言在中國之外，介紹中國文學的經典，使之成為真正意義上的世界文學？這些都是值得我們認真關注和探討的問題。

關鍵詞 世界文學 流通 經典 歐洲文學 非西方文學 中國文學



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