

ICLA-AILC Research Committee on the “Comparative History of East Asian Literatures” Committee Report 2025

For newcomers to the EC, this Research Committee’s aim is to compile a history of interchanges among the literary traditions of East Asia, not reproducing the many national literary histories that already exist but complementing them from the perspective of mutual influences, whether formal, thematic, or broadly cultural.

The Committee’s goals are advancing slowly. Our main concern at present is the search for a reliable stream of funding that will support the workshops and conferences needed to bring together the specialists in diverse languages and fields who will write this Comparative History together. A substantial subsidy to the publisher of the multi-volume history we are planning is a further area of need.

Some chapters of a world literary history to be published by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) will reflect work done by members of the Research Committee.

The upcoming Congress in Seoul will facilitate conversations among scholars of the many literatures of Asia about the many points of contact in the traditions they study. We have scheduled an open meeting for all interested parties at the Congress.

We look forward to accelerating the rhythm of meetings and publications.

For the Committee,

Haun Saussy