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Complexity, Hybridity, and Comparative Literature

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Abstract

In her article "Complexity, Hybridity, and Comparative Literature" Marina Grishakova discusses "implied hybridity" in discourses, aesthetic systems, emergent complexity — as distinct from hybridity resulting from the blending of heterogeneous elements. Grishakova argues that complexity is used in social sciences and, to a lesser extent, in literary and cultural studies. She offers the possibility to avoid dualistic thinking and offer a flexible conceptual framework for comparative literature studies. Aesthetic systems, as part of social systems, respond to, and reorganize in response to, impulses received from their environments; they also modify their environments and forge new imaginaries. The paradoxes of complexity presents a challenge for comparative literature as part of the "positive uncertainty" of the discipline.

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