

PROGRAM IN EXPERIMENTAL CRITICAL THEORY
SPRING 2022 LECTURE SERIES

**“Differential, Dialogical, and
Plurilingual Comparativism”**

With [Ute Heidmann](#)
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Differentiation denotes the process that relates the same to the different instead of opposing them. The evolution of all languages, literatures, and cultures seems to be underlain by such a complex process of differentiation. I developed a comparative method applying the mental operation of differentiation to poetical and other discursive and cultural practices instead of universalizing them. This type of heuristic comparativism demands that we “construct the comparables,” as Marcel Detienne claimed, and to reflect on the criteria and axes of comparison that must be of equal relevance for the objects and phenomena to be compared. Differential comparativism does not lead to the discovery of irreducible differences, but enables us to realize that most poetical, discursive, and cultural practices evolve in the mode of a constitutive and creative dialogue with other languages, literatures, and cultures.

Monday, April 25th
12:00-1:00 PM PST via Zoom
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