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A Europe of Connections

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Propositions accompanying the dissertation

A Europe of Connections

Post-National Worlds in Contemporary Minority Literature

1. Thinking in terms of literary worlds in the plural brings analytical nuance and theoretical depth in contemporary world literary studies and helps avoid unnecessary, outdated generalizations and totalizations that are implied in the labels ‘the national’ and ‘the global’.
2. In parallel with Yasemin Yildiz’ notion of ‘postmonolingualism’ in *Beyond the Mother Tongue*, the prefix ‘post-’ in post-national suggests both continuity and rupture: the nation remains a discursive presence in a globalizing world.
3. Minoritization is a process of social-cultural distinction, and therefore not necessarily the same as marginalization, which defines societal power hierarchies.
4. Every minority writer lives according to their own coordinates in the world, which makes comparison a productive, yet inherently asymmetrical method of analysis.
5. In Fryslân, Tsjêbbe Hettinga was a poet; in the Netherlands, he was a Frisian poet; in the world beyond, he became a poet from the Netherlands writing in some exotic minority language.
6. Working with translations need not be an impediment to the study of fiction.
7. Scholars and students of literary studies should reflect more on how the discipline’s constituent parts—criticism, history, sociology, and theory—relate to each other.
8. Supervisors should channel the flow of the PhD student’s creative energy, not contain it.
9. The similarities between scientific work and art are all too often ignored.
10. ‘... to look backward is not inherently irrational, especially when there is no guarantee that the future amounts to progress.’ (Craig Calhoun, in *Nations Matter*)