

comparative literature race us

Comparative Literature and Race in the US: A Critical Examination

Introduction

The intricate relationship between comparative literature and race in the United States is a dynamic and evolving field of study, offering profound insights into how literary narratives shape, reflect, and challenge racial identities and power structures. This article delves into the crucial intersections of comparative literature and race within the US context, exploring how diverse literary traditions and cultural expressions engage with the complexities of racialization. We will examine key theoretical frameworks that inform this interdisciplinary approach, analyze how different racial groups have been represented and self-represented in literature, and discuss the impact of these literary engagements on social and political discourse. Understanding comparative literature's role in dissecting race in the US is vital for a comprehensive grasp of American cultural history and the ongoing pursuit of racial justice. This exploration aims to illuminate the nuanced ways literature can foster empathy, critique systemic inequalities, and contribute to a more inclusive understanding of American identity.

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The Foundations of Comparative Literature and Race Studies in the US

The emergence of race as a central analytical category within comparative literature in the US is a relatively recent, yet profoundly impactful, development. Historically, comparative literature often focused on Western European literary traditions, with a predominantly Eurocentric worldview. However, as the demographic and cultural landscape of the United States diversified, so too did the field of literary scholarship. The Civil Rights Movement, the rise of ethnic studies departments, and increased global interconnectedness all contributed to a critical re-evaluation of literary canons and methodologies. Scholars began to question the implicit racial biases embedded within traditional comparative approaches and sought to incorporate voices and narratives previously excluded or marginalized. This shift was not merely about adding more diverse authors; it was about fundamentally rethinking the assumptions underlying comparative analysis, recognizing how race, as a social and historical construct, shapes literary production, reception, and interpretation across different cultures and linguistic traditions within the US and beyond.

Early Engagements with Race in American Literature

While not explicitly framed through the lens of comparative literature initially, early American literary engagements with race laid crucial groundwork. The literature of slavery, abolitionist writings, and the narratives of formerly enslaved individuals, such as Frederick Douglass's autobiographies, offered powerful critiques of racial oppression and humanized Black experiences in ways that challenged prevailing racist ideologies. Similarly, writings by Native American authors addressed themes of

displacement, cultural survival, and the devastating impact of colonialism. These early works, though often analyzed within national literary histories, implicitly engaged in a form of comparison, contrasting European American perspectives with those of marginalized racial groups, highlighting the stark differences in lived realities and the unequal power dynamics that defined early American society. The very act of contrasting these narratives can be seen as an early, nascent form of comparative racial discourse within the literary sphere.

The Influence of Postcolonial Theory and Critical Race Theory

The development of comparative literature's engagement with race in the US has been significantly shaped by theoretical interventions from fields like postcolonial theory and Critical Race Theory (CRT). Postcolonial theory, with its focus on the legacy of colonialism and its impact on power relations, cultural production, and identity formation in formerly colonized nations and diaspora communities, provided essential tools for analyzing the racial hierarchies established during America's own colonial past and its ongoing imperial ventures. It helped scholars understand how racial categories were constructed to justify subjugation and exploitation. Critical Race Theory, originating in legal scholarship but quickly permeating literary and cultural studies, emphasizes that racism is not merely individual prejudice but is systemic and embedded within institutions and legal frameworks. CRT's insights into the social construction of race, the concept of intersectionality (how race intersects with other identity categories like gender and class), and the critique of colorblindness have been instrumental in re-framing how scholars approach race in literature. These theories encourage a comparative approach not just between different national literatures, but also between different racialized experiences within the US, and between literary texts and their socio-political contexts.

Theoretical Frameworks for Examining Race in Comparative Literature

Examining race in comparative literature necessitates a robust theoretical toolkit that moves beyond

simplistic national or cultural comparisons. The field increasingly draws upon interdisciplinary approaches to understand the multifaceted ways race operates within literary texts and across diverse cultural landscapes. These frameworks allow for a deeper interrogation of how racial ideologies are constructed, disseminated, and resisted through narrative, poetry, drama, and other literary forms. By engaging with these theoretical lenses, scholars can unpack the complex interplay of power, identity, and representation that underpins racial discourse in literature, particularly within the highly racialized context of the United States.

Intersectionality and Comparative Racial Studies

Intersectionality, a term coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, is a foundational concept for understanding race in comparative literature. It posits that various social identities, such as race, gender, class, sexuality, and nationality, do not exist independently but are interconnected and overlap, creating unique experiences of discrimination or privilege. In comparative literature, intersectionality allows for a more nuanced analysis of how race interacts with other identity markers within and across different literary traditions. For instance, a comparative study might examine how the experiences of Black women writers in the US differ from those of Latina women writers in Latin America, or how the intersection of race and class shapes narratives of migration in South Asian diasporic literature compared to African diasporic literature in the US. This approach moves beyond a singular focus on race, revealing the complex tapestry of oppressions and resistances that shape literary representation and readership.

The Social Construction of Race in Global Literatures

A key theoretical contribution to comparative literature's engagement with race is the understanding of race as a social construct rather than a biological reality. Comparative literature scholars explore how different societies and historical periods have constructed racial categories and assigned meanings and hierarchies to them. This involves examining how literature from various cultures reflects, reinforces, or challenges these socially constructed racial identities. For example, a comparative study could analyze how the concept of whiteness is represented in American literature versus its

representation in European literatures, or how the racialization of Indigenous populations in the Americas differs from the racialization of similar groups in other colonial contexts. By tracing these constructions across diverse literary traditions, scholars can illuminate the fluidity and variability of racial ideologies and their profound impact on literary representation and cultural understanding.

Theories of Mimicry, Hybridity, and Ambivalence

Drawing from postcolonial theory, concepts like mimicry, hybridity, and ambivalence offer critical insights into how racialized subjects navigate and negotiate dominant cultural norms. Mimicry, as described by Homi K. Bhabha, refers to the colonized subject's adoption of the colonizer's culture, often resulting in a complex performance of assimilation that simultaneously imitates and undermines the colonizer. In a comparative US context, this can be seen in how different racial groups have adapted and transformed dominant cultural forms. Hybridity describes the creation of new cultural forms and identities from the mixing of different cultural influences, often occurring at the boundaries of racial and national identities. This is evident in the syncretic nature of African American musical traditions or the fusion of various ethnic influences in contemporary American fiction. Ambivalence highlights the conflicted feelings and loyalties experienced by those positioned between cultures or racial groups. These theoretical frameworks are invaluable for analyzing the subtle and overt ways racial identities are performed, contested, and reconfigured in literature across diverse American literary traditions and their global connections.

Canonical and Marginalized Voices: Race in US Literary Traditions

The study of race in US literature within a comparative framework necessitates a critical examination of both established canonical works and those previously relegated to the margins. Historically, American literary canons have been dominated by white, male, European-descended voices, often perpetuating a particular, exclusionary narrative of American identity. However, comparative literature

allows for a broader interrogation by bringing into dialogue works that represent diverse racial experiences, thereby challenging monolithic interpretations and revealing the richness and complexity of the American literary landscape. This comparative approach highlights how different racial groups have used literature to assert their humanity, critique injustice, and shape their own narratives.

Representations of Blackness and African American Literary

Contributions

African American literature offers a profound and extensive body of work that has consistently engaged with themes of race, identity, oppression, and resistance. From the spirituals and slave narratives of the 19th century to the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and contemporary fiction, Black writers have critically examined the experience of Blackness in America. Comparative literature enables scholars to place these works in dialogue with other African diasporic literatures, as well as with literary traditions from other nations grappling with similar issues of racial subjugation and cultural reclamation. For example, comparing Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* with Albert Camus's *The Stranger* can illuminate different philosophical approaches to existential alienation, while contrasting Toni Morrison's explorations of historical trauma with the narratives of postcolonial writers in Africa reveals shared legacies of trauma and resilience.

Chicano/a and Latino/a Literary Narratives of Race and Identity

Chicano/a and Latino/a literatures in the US represent a vibrant and diverse collection of voices that articulate the complexities of racialization, immigration, language, and cultural hybridity. These literary traditions often grapple with the experiences of migration, borderlands, and the negotiation of multiple cultural identities. A comparative approach allows for the examination of shared themes and distinct experiences across various Latin American national literatures and their manifestations within the US. For instance, comparing the works of Sandra Cisneros with those of Gabriel García Márquez, or examining the poetry of Gloria Anzaldúa alongside the writings of Brazilian or Caribbean authors, can highlight commonalities in the struggle against colonial legacies and the construction of diasporic identities, while also revealing unique linguistic and cultural nuances.

Asian American Literature: Navigating Racialization and Belonging

Asian American literature provides critical perspectives on the experiences of diverse Asian immigrant communities in the United States, often exploring themes of acculturation, racial discrimination, intergenerational conflict, and the search for belonging. These narratives frequently engage with the "perpetual foreigner" stereotype and the complexities of navigating racial hierarchies. A comparative lens can be used to contrast the experiences of different Asian ethnic groups within the US, such as Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans, Korean Americans, and South Asian Americans, as well as to situate these narratives within broader global contexts of Asian migration and identity formation. Comparing Maxine Hong Kingston's explorations of Chinese American identity with the works of writers from Vietnam, the Philippines, or India can illuminate the multifaceted nature of Asian diasporic experiences and the varied ways racialization operates across these communities.

Indigenous Literatures: Sovereignty, Land, and Representation

Indigenous literatures in the US, encompassing a vast array of tribal nations and cultural traditions, offer unique perspectives on sovereignty, land rights, cultural survival, and the enduring impact of colonialism. These narratives often challenge dominant historical accounts and reclaim Indigenous epistemologies and cosmologies. Comparative literature allows for an analysis of the shared experiences of Indigenous peoples across the Americas, as well as their distinct cultural expressions and political struggles. Comparing the works of Leslie Marmon Silko or Louise Erdrich with Indigenous writers from Canada, Mexico, or South America can reveal common threads of resistance against colonial powers, the importance of oral traditions, and the ongoing efforts to maintain cultural integrity in the face of assimilationist pressures.

Transnationalism and Diasporic Experiences: Comparative Literature and Race Across Borders

The concept of transnationalism is particularly vital for understanding race in comparative literature

within the US. It acknowledges that many American literary traditions are not purely national but are deeply interconnected with global flows of people, ideas, and cultural forms. Diasporic experiences, in particular, underscore how race is shaped by migration, displacement, and the ongoing negotiation of identity across multiple national contexts. Comparative literature excels at tracing these connections, revealing how racial ideologies and experiences are not confined by national borders but are instead fluid and dynamic, influencing and being influenced by global power structures and cultural exchanges.

The Circulation of Racialized Narratives in a Global Context

Comparative literature analyzes how racialized narratives circulate and are reinterpreted across different national and cultural contexts. The US, as a nation built on immigration and shaped by its own internal racial dynamics, serves as a crucial site for examining these global flows. For instance, the legacy of slavery in the Americas has produced a rich body of African diasporic literature that shares thematic and stylistic connections with literatures from the Caribbean and Africa. Similarly, the experiences of various immigrant groups in the US are often mirrored in the literary productions of their homelands or other diasporic communities. By comparing these circulating narratives, scholars can understand how racial stereotypes, resistance strategies, and identity formations are adapted and transformed in different environments, offering a more nuanced understanding of the global dimensions of race.

Diasporic Identities and Literary Formations

Diasporic writers often engage with themes of memory, home, belonging, and the fragmentation of identity that arise from displacement. Comparative literature provides a framework for analyzing how these themes are expressed across different diasporic literary traditions within the US and in relation to their transnational origins. For example, comparing the works of Korean American writers who explore the aftermath of the Korean War with Korean literature that addresses the same historical period can reveal shared emotional landscapes and differing national perspectives. Likewise, examining the intersection of race and religion in South Asian diasporic literature in the US can be productively compared with similar concerns in literary traditions from India or Pakistan, highlighting both shared

experiences of diaspora and distinct cultural formations.

Comparative Approaches to Racialized Trauma and Memory

Many literary traditions within the US, particularly those of marginalized racial groups, are deeply concerned with historical trauma and the processes of memory. This can include the trauma of slavery, colonization, forced assimilation, and internment. Comparative literature offers a valuable approach to analyzing how different racialized communities articulate and process such trauma through literature. For instance, comparing the ways Indigenous writers address the trauma of residential schools with how Jewish American writers grapple with the Holocaust, or how African American writers depict the enduring legacy of slavery, allows for a broader understanding of how literature serves as a site for memory, healing, and political witness. These comparisons can reveal both universal aspects of trauma and the specific cultural and historical contexts that shape its representation.

Methodologies for Analyzing Race in Comparative Literature

Effectively analyzing race within comparative literature requires a suite of sophisticated methodologies that are sensitive to the nuances of cultural context, historical specificity, and theoretical complexity. These approaches move beyond mere comparison of themes to a deeper interrogation of how racial ideologies are embedded in literary structures, narrative strategies, and aesthetic choices. By employing diverse analytical tools, scholars can illuminate the multifaceted ways race shapes literary production and reception across different traditions and within the United States.

Close Reading and Textual Analysis with a Racial Lens

At its core, comparative literature relies on rigorous textual analysis. Applying a racial lens to close reading involves meticulously examining how race is constructed, represented, and interrogated within individual literary works. This means paying close attention to characterization, plot development,

narrative voice, imagery, symbolism, and thematic concerns, all through the prism of racial dynamics. For example, a scholar might analyze how the language used to describe characters of different races in a 19th-century American novel compares with the language used in a contemporary novel from a different cultural background, revealing shifts in racial categorization and prejudice. This method emphasizes the textual manifestations of race, understanding how literary elements contribute to the broader discourse on racial identity and power.

Comparative Historiography and Literary Movements

Understanding the historical context in which literary works are produced is crucial. Comparative historiography involves examining how different racial groups and their literary productions are positioned within broader literary histories and movements. This can involve comparing the development of distinct literary movements, such as the Harlem Renaissance and Surrealism, to understand how racial identity influenced artistic expression and the reception of these movements. It also involves challenging the dominant historical narratives that often marginalize or exclude non-white voices, re-evaluating literary canons through a comparative framework that acknowledges the contributions and perspectives of a wider range of racialized authors. This methodology seeks to decenter Eurocentric historical accounts of literary development.

Intercultural Dialogue and Reception Studies

Comparative literature is inherently concerned with intercultural dialogue, and this extends to how racialized literary works are received and interpreted across different cultural and racial communities. Reception studies analyze how readers and critics from various backgrounds engage with and make meaning from texts, paying particular attention to how racial assumptions and biases might influence these interpretations. For instance, examining how a novel by a Black author is received in the US compared to its reception in a European country with a different history of race relations can reveal significant insights into the cultural situatedness of racial understanding. This methodology highlights the dynamic relationship between the text, its author, and its diverse audiences, emphasizing that meaning is not inherent but is actively produced through interpretation.

Digital Humanities and the Study of Race in Literature

The advent of digital humanities tools offers new and powerful methodologies for analyzing race in comparative literature. These tools can facilitate large-scale data analysis, visualization, and the mapping of textual patterns across vast corpuses of literature. For example, digital methods can be used to track the frequency of racialized terms or concepts in texts from different periods and cultures, identify patterns in the representation of racialized characters, or map the global circulation of literature related to specific racial experiences. This allows for the quantitative and qualitative analysis of racial discourse on an unprecedented scale, uncovering trends and connections that might otherwise remain hidden. These approaches can also help in uncovering marginalized voices by analyzing large datasets of lesser-known texts.

The Future of Comparative Literature and Race Studies in the US

The field of comparative literature and race studies in the US continues to evolve, driven by ongoing social justice movements, interdisciplinary scholarship, and the increasing recognition of the globalized nature of contemporary life. As societies become more interconnected and diverse, the need to understand the complex interplay of race, literature, and culture across borders becomes even more critical. The future of this field promises new theoretical innovations, expanded methodological approaches, and a deeper engagement with emergent literary and cultural phenomena that challenge traditional understandings of race and identity.

Expanding the Comparative Framework to New Geographies and Experiences

The future of comparative literature and race studies will likely involve a more expansive engagement with geographies and experiences that have been historically underrepresented. This includes a

deeper exploration of African literatures beyond the Anglophone world, a more nuanced understanding of Asian diasporic experiences across a wider range of nations, and a sustained focus on Indigenous literatures globally. Furthermore, scholars will continue to examine the intersections of race with other identity categories, such as gender, sexuality, disability, and religion, in increasingly complex and intersectional ways. This expansion promises to enrich our understanding of the global dimensions of racialization and its literary manifestations.

Algorithmic Bias and Representation in Digital Literature

As literature increasingly moves into digital spaces, new challenges and opportunities arise for studying race. The future will likely see increased attention to how algorithmic biases in digital platforms and search engines can perpetuate or challenge racial representations in literature. Comparative scholars may explore how AI-generated literature engages with or deviates from established racial tropes and how digital archives and databases are curated, potentially reflecting or obscuring certain racial perspectives. This area of study will demand critical engagement with the technological infrastructures that shape our access to and understanding of literature.

Comparative Literature as a Tool for Social Justice and Activism

The field is increasingly recognized not just as an academic pursuit but also as a vital tool for social justice and activism. By unearthing marginalized histories, challenging dominant narratives, and fostering empathy through the study of diverse literary voices, comparative literature can contribute to dismantling systemic racism. Future scholarship will likely explore more direct connections between literary analysis and activism, perhaps through public humanities initiatives, pedagogical innovations, and collaborations with community organizations. The power of literature to illuminate injustice and inspire change will continue to be a driving force in this evolving field.

Conclusion

The intersection of comparative literature and race in the US is a vibrant and indispensable area of scholarly inquiry. This exploration has illuminated how diverse literary traditions, theoretical frameworks, and analytical methodologies converge to offer a profound understanding of racialization, identity, and power within the American context and its global connections. By critically examining canonical and marginalized voices, tracing transnational and diasporic experiences, and employing innovative research methods, comparative literature scholars continue to challenge simplistic notions of race and to reveal the complex, often contested, ways in which literature shapes our understanding of ourselves and society. The ongoing dialogue between comparative literature and race studies is crucial for fostering a more inclusive, equitable, and critically informed vision of American culture and its place in the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

How has the concept of 'race' in comparative literature evolved from its historical understanding to contemporary critical approaches in the US?

Historically, 'race' in comparative literature, particularly in the US context, often focused on representing racialized 'others' within Western literary canons, frequently through colonial or Orientalist lenses. Contemporary approaches, however, actively deconstruct these hierarchies, engaging with postcolonial theory, critical race theory, and intersectionality. This shift emphasizes the constructed nature of race, the agency of marginalized voices, and the global circulation of racialized ideologies and literary forms, moving beyond simple representation to analyze how race shapes literary production, reception, and theory itself across different cultures.

What are some key theoretical frameworks from Critical Race Theory (CRT) that are particularly relevant to comparative literary studies in the US?

Several CRT frameworks are highly relevant. 'Intersectionality,' coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw, is crucial for understanding how race interacts with other identities (gender, class, sexuality, nationality) in literary analysis. 'Interest convergence' helps explain how racial progress might be tied to the interests of dominant groups. Concepts like 'whiteness studies' and 'colorblindness' are vital for deconstructing the unexamined privilege and systemic biases embedded within literary canons and critical practices. Furthermore, the emphasis on 'counter-storytelling' encourages comparative literature to elevate and analyze narratives from marginalized racial groups that challenge dominant racial narratives.

How do comparative literary studies in the US address the transatlantic slave trade and its enduring literary legacies in both African diasporic and European literatures?

Comparative literary studies examine the transatlantic slave trade by tracing the shared experiences and divergent literary responses across African, Caribbean, North American, and European literatures. This includes analyzing the development of slave narratives, the evolution of abolitionist literature, and the subsequent cultural memory and resistance expressed in post-slavery and post-colonial texts. It involves comparing how different literary traditions grapple with themes of trauma, identity, exile, and the construction of personhood in the wake of this historical atrocity, highlighting both commonalities in the human experience of enslavement and distinct cultural negotiations of its impact.

In what ways does comparative literature in the US engage with the concept of 'Orientalism' and its impact on the representation of non-

Western racialized subjects?

Comparative literature in the US engages with Edward Said's 'Orientalism' by analyzing how Western literary and cultural productions construct 'the Orient' as a racialized, often exoticized, and inferior 'other' to the West. This involves comparing literary representations across different cultures and historical periods, demonstrating how colonial power structures are embedded in language, narrative, and imagery. Studies often highlight how these representations influence perceptions of entire racialized groups and explore counter-narratives from colonized or formerly colonized peoples that challenge these Orientalist tropes.

How can comparative literary analysis help us understand the global circulation of racial ideologies and their manifestations in literature across different national contexts within the US?

Comparative literary analysis reveals how racial ideologies, often originating or amplified in the US, have circulated globally and, conversely, how ideas from other nations have shaped racial discourse within the US. This involves tracing how concepts of race, racial stereotypes, and racialized literary tropes are adapted, resisted, or reinterpreted in different cultural and linguistic contexts. For example, comparing how anti-immigrant sentiment in US literature mirrors or differs from similar sentiments in European or Latin American literatures, or how Black American literary movements have influenced Caribbean or African literary production, showcases this global exchange and adaptation of racial ideologies.

What are some emerging trends or debates in comparative literature concerning race and ethnicity in the US, particularly in relation to identity politics and interdisciplinary approaches?

Emerging trends include a stronger focus on decolonizing the curriculum and literary canons, emphasizing marginalized voices and theorizing race beyond the Black-white binary. There's also a growing interest in comparative studies of Indigenous literatures, Asian American experiences, and Latinx literatures, often in dialogue with global trends. Interdisciplinary approaches are gaining traction,

incorporating insights from critical race theory, gender studies, ethnic studies, postcolonial studies, and even fields like environmental justice to analyze how race intersects with ecological concerns in literature. Debates often revolve around the ethics of representation, the role of the comparative scholar in addressing social justice issues, and the challenges of translating and comparing racialized experiences across vastly different cultural and political landscapes.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to comparative literature, race, and the US, with short descriptions:

1.

The Color of Desire: Race and the American Novel

This book explores how race has been a central, often unspoken, organizing principle in American literature. It delves into how authors across different eras have used racial dynamics to shape plot, character, and theme. The analysis offers a comparative lens, examining how these representations engage with broader societal understandings of race and identity within the United States.

2.

Transnational Currents: Race, Literature, and the Americas

Focusing on the interconnectedness of literary traditions, this work examines how race operates across national borders in the Americas. It highlights how ideas about race traveled and were transformed between the United States and Latin America or the Caribbean. The book provides a comparative perspective on how literature has responded to and shaped racial ideologies in a hemispheric context.

3.

Echoes of Slavery: Comparative Narratives of Freedom and Oppression

This comparative study analyzes literary responses to the legacy of slavery in the United States and other contexts, such as the Caribbean or African continent. It compares different narrative strategies employed by writers to address the enduring impact of enslavement on racial identity and social structures. The book illuminates how literary works offer diverse perspectives on liberation and the persistent challenges of racial inequality.

4.

Racial Formations in Global Literature: America and Beyond

This ambitious project undertakes a comparative analysis of how racial categories are constructed and contested in literature globally, with a particular emphasis on the United States as a formative context. It examines how literary texts both reflect and actively shape racial identities in dialogue with international literary traditions. The book explores the fluidity and contingency of race across different cultural landscapes.

5.

Diasporic Dreams: Comparative Perspectives on Race and Belonging in American Literature

This book investigates how the concept of diaspora, particularly within African and Asian American literary traditions, offers a powerful framework for understanding race and belonging in the US. It compares how writers from different diasporic communities articulate their experiences of displacement, migration, and cultural hybridity. The work highlights the shared and distinct struggles for recognition and home in American society.

6.

The Invention of Race: Literary Constructions in the American South and Europe

This comparative study traces the historical development of racial thought through literary representations, contrasting the American South with European intellectual traditions. It analyzes how literary narratives contributed to the categorization and hierarchical ordering of peoples based on race. The book offers a critical look at the literary foundations of racial ideology on both sides of the Atlantic.

7.

Interracial Encounters: Comparative Literary Histories of Cross-Racial Relationships in the US

This work examines the portrayal of interracial relationships in American literature across different historical periods and ethnic groups. It offers a comparative approach to understanding how these relationships have been depicted, often serving as sites of social commentary and resistance. The book explores the literary evolution of depicting love, conflict, and identity formation across racial lines.

8.

Whitening the Narrative: Comparative Literary Strategies of Racial Erasure and Reclamation

This book analyzes how literary works in the United States have either perpetuated racial silences or actively worked to reclaim marginalized narratives. It compares the strategies employed by writers to challenge dominant racial discourses and to foreground the experiences of non-white communities. The study provides insights into the power of literature to both erase and rewrite racial histories.

9.

Globalizing Race Studies: Comparative Approaches in Literature and Theory

This collection explores the intersections of comparative literature and race studies, arguing for a more globally informed understanding of racial concepts. It brings together scholars who analyze how race operates in literary traditions beyond the Anglophone world, often in dialogue with or in contrast to the US experience. The book pushes the boundaries of how we understand race through comparative literary analysis.

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