

**Confucius Institute of Rutgers University (CIRU)  
Distinguished Lecture Series Spring 2014**

**“Web Literature and World Literature”**

Michel Hockx  
School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)  
University of London

Tuesday, March 25, 4:30 pm  
Lecture Hall 401, Alexander Library  
169 College Ave, New Brunswick, NJ



Michel Hockx is Professor of Chinese and founding director of the China Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. His research focuses on modern Chinese literary communities, their publications, and their practices. He has published extensively on early 20th-century Chinese magazine literature and print culture and, more recently, on contemporary Internet literature. His current research deals with moral censorship and obscenity legislation in China throughout the modern period under different political systems, and its effects on the preservation and digitization of transgressive publications.

Prof. Hockx is the author of *A Snowy Morning: Eight Chinese Poets on the Road to Modernity* (CNWS, 1994), *Questions of Style: Literary Societies and Literary Journals in Modern China, 1911-1937* (Brill, 2003), and the forthcoming *Internet Literature in China* (Columbia, 2014); he is co-editor of *The Literary Field of Twentieth-Century China* (Hawaii, 1999), *Reading East Asian Writing* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2003), and *Culture in the Contemporary PRC* (Cambridge, 2005); and he is the translator of Chen Pingyuan's *Touches of History: An Entry into 'May Fourth' China* (Brill, 2011).

**Abstract:** This talk surveys the development of online creative writing in Mainland China in the past fifteen years. It demonstrates how online communities are bringing about unprecedented changes in the structure of the Chinese literary field, both through literary and aesthetic innovations and through challenges to the established system of publishing. Both high-end and low-end forms of literary production are taken into account. The Chinese phenomena are discussed against the background of recent debates in western scholarship about the concept of “world literature,” which so far have largely excluded online texts.

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