

The 3rd Int'l Symposium on Interality Studies

*Nanning
June 17-18, 2019*

The 3rd Int'l Symposium on Interality Studies will be hosted by the School of Literature of Guangxi University for Nationalities (Nanning, China) in partnership with the School of Communications of Grand Valley State University (Allendale, Michigan), pending approval by the Bureau of Education. The Symposium will take place at Guangxi University for Nationalities from June 17-18, 2019. The theme of the Symposium is multifold: interality and literature, interalogy, interality and media, interality and rhetoric, interculturality, intertextuality, intersubjectivity, interality and ecocriticism, interality and comparative studies, dialogue, etc.

Since the concept of interality was put forward, a series of foundational texts have appeared, most of which are in English and can be found in the following special section/issues guest edited by Peter Zhang: *China Media Research* 11.2 (2015), *Canadian Journal of Communication* 41.3 (2016), *China Media Research* 13.4 (2017). We invite interested scholars to further this line of inquiry from their unique perspectives, and expect this Symposium to be a stimulating, synergistic, negentropic event that embodies the spirit of interality.

We see interality-oriented philosophy as *a* philosophy of the future – a future that is already in the present. Pioneering explorations in philosophy, literature, art, and science, along with dramatic transformations in our technologically mediated psychosomatic habitat, have paved the way for the eventual emergence of interality studies. The shift from an entity orientation toward an interality orientation is a threshold-crossing event.

This shift holds the promise of resolving a lot of the practical and theoretical dilemmas humanity has been perplexed with under an entity orientation. The biggest promise will be the eventual affirmation of difference, diversity, and the life impulse itself. If the process of differentiation is a direct manifestation of the life impulse, then interality is the ultimate motivator of differentiation. Interality calls upon, affirms, and furthers the life impulse.

The reasoning above points to the ethical undertones of interality studies. The entailment of this understanding is that ideally, we want to engage all subthemes of the Symposium in a way that directly bears upon our pursuit of the good life, and the ethical society. If we are thoroughgoing in our embracing of an interality orientation, we will rise above and go beyond our narrowly human-centered vantage point and recuperate our long dormant cosmic consciousness.

Interality studies wills nothing short of such an awakening on the part of humanity. Its ultimate motive is spiritual, rather than technical or professional, let alone profiteering. Eventually, the word “interality” needs to be forgotten in the same way the finger pointing at the moon needs

to be looked past. It is just another *upaya* or expedient means improvised by a spiritual-minded lover of wisdom to shock humanity awake from its karmically induced collective trance.

Scholars interested in attending the Symposium are invited to prepare a 250-word abstract bearing a working title, followed by the author's name, institutional affiliation, email address, and brief self-introduction. Please submit the abstract to Prof. Peter Zhang (zhangp@gvsu.edu), co-chair of the Symposium, no later than March 30, 2019.

Submission of an abstract, once accepted, is deemed as commitment to attend the Symposium. Please direct logistical questions (invitation letter, visa, etc.) to Prof. FAN Xiujuan (fanxiujuanjj@163.com) at Guangxi University for Nationalities.