This year’s “Comparative Literature in Dialogue” biennial conference focuses on the relation of religion to literature. On one hand we explore how faith and fiction sip into collective consciousness, through the Book or books in general. On the other hand we look into the recurring tensions between literary humanistic ideals, “free speech” the most salient among them, and “fundamentalisms.” We address current debates on secularism and the critique, the humanities in the face of religious conflict, offering new paths into thinking on the political and historical relevance of literary activity. A conference on fiction and memory, faith and identity, literature and community, with a keynote address by Gil Anidjar (Columbia). Guests include: Talal Asad (CUNY), Emily Apter (NYU), Eduardo Cadava (Princeton), Patricia Dailey (Columbia), Sarah Hammerschlag (Chicago), Marc Nichanian (Sabancı), D. Vance Smith (Princeton, English), and Amnon Raz-Krakotzkin (Ben-Gurion).

Respondents: Michael Levine (German), Nelson Maldonado-Torres (Comp Lit), Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel (Comp Lit), Andrew Parker (Comp Lit), Judith Surkis (History), Jimmy Swenson (French), and Yael Zerubavel (Jewish Studies).

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