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Addresses of our Last Homes

Refugees and Hyperlinked Literary Histories

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What ensues when the figure of a refugee or a forced migrant is imagined not at the periphery, but the center of our historical, and literary historical investigations? How does centralizing the figure of the refugee in literary history help us understand the creative labor of imagination beyond border regimes? How does writing a “borderless” transnational history look like in practice? Critiquing recent political debates on refugees in Europe, South Asia, and North America, in this talk I discuss the idea of “hyperlinked (literary) histories” as a way to come out of our amnesia and sanctioned ignorance about refugees.

B. Venkat Mani is Professor of German, and Director, Center for South Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (USA). His research and teaching focus on 19th to 21st century German literature and culture, migrants and minor literatures, book and digital cultural histories, and world literature. His recent book *Recoding World Literature* (2017) was the winner of the best book awards of the German Studies Association and the Modern Language Association. He is currently working on a project on refugees.



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