

**DAVID DAMROSCH**  
(HARVARD)

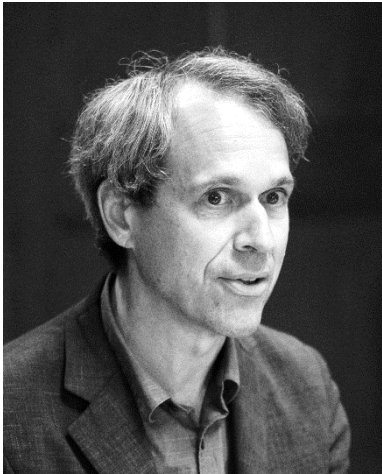
**DEBATING  
WORLD  
LITERATURE**

**PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE,  
CONTEXT, AND POLITICS.**

**13. Dezember 2017 – 18:00 c. t.  
Nebengebäude 1.741b**

# DEBATING WORLD LITERATURE

## PROBLEMS OF LANGUAGE, CONTEXT, AND POLITICS.



Since the turn of the millennium, there has been increasing interest in global approaches to literary studies, even as this new work has aroused sometimes sharp debate as to its viability. This talk will discuss these critiques and suggest solutions to the problems of language (how many languages can one learn? how effectively can one work in translation?), of context (how do we avoid a kind of superficial literary tourism?), and of politics – is “world literature” largely a projection of predominantly American neoliberalism?

**David Damrosch** is Ernest Bernbaum Professor of Comparative Literature at Harvard University. A past president of the American Comparative Literature Association, he is the founder and director of Harvard’s Institute for World Literature. His books include *What Is World Literature?* (2003), *The Buried Book: The Loss and Rediscovery of the Great Epic of Gilgamesh* (2007), and *How to Read World Literature* (expanded ed. 2017). He is the general editor of the six-volume Longman anthologies of British Literature and of World Literature, co-editor of *The Princeton Sourcebook in Comparative Literature*, and editor of *World Literature in Theory*. He is currently completing a book entitled *Comparing the Literatures: What Every Comparatist Needs to Know*.

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