

Panel 3

Forming the Sinophone

**Worlding Singapore Chinese Novels:
An Analysis of Cross-Regional Cultural Influence Based on
Digital Humanities Methods**
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Singapore, a multicultural nation, has a significant Chinese population, making Chinese literature a key component of Sinophone literature. However, research on Singapore Chinese literature, particularly novels, remains limited. Even less attention has been given to its global relevance, especially when deploying digital methods. This study applies digital humanities techniques to analyse 56 Singapore Chinese novels published between 1936 and 2015. By extracting references to other literary works (including literature, music, and film) and using visualisation tools, the study reveals global cultural influences on Singapore literature over time. It highlights a shift from early Chinese cultural dominance, focusing on Hong Kong and Taiwan during the Cold War, to a growing integration of Western influences. While Chinese literary works remain prominent, their influence has declined as Singapore Chinese writers have increasingly absorbed Western elements, resulting in a distinctive “Nanyang colour”. This study fills a research gap and offers new digital methodologies for examining Chinese literature.

Biography

He Qianru is a PhD candidate at the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, where she works on Singaporean literature and culture studies. Her research involves Singapore Chinese literature, especially poetry and novels. She is also a special correspondent and columnist for *Lianhe Zaobao*, where she is actively involved in the creation and dissemination of Chinese literature in Singapore.