



## Friedrich Dürrenmatt Gastprofessur für Weltliteratur

In jedem Semester ist ein internationaler Autor zu Gast an der Universität Bern. Er bzw. sie gibt eine Lehrveranstaltung, die für alle Studierenden der Philosophisch-historischen Fakultät offen ist. Zusätzlich finden Workshops für Doktorierende statt sowie Lesungen in Bern und in anderen Städten der Schweiz.

HS 2015: Wendy Law-Yone (Burma)

Zeit: Mittwoch, jeweils 14:15-15:45 | Ort: tba.

Weitere Informationen zur Gastprofessur: [www.iash.unibe.ch](http://www.iash.unibe.ch)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/friedrichduerrenmattgastprofessurfuerweltliteratur>

## Explosive Transformation: Globalisation and its Discontents in Asian Fiction

This seminar will explore, via the novels and short stories of some outstanding Asian writers, the impact of globalisation – that amorphous term for our worldwide system of merging economies, industries, markets, mass migrations, and cultures – on individual and collective lives across Asia and beyond. Characterised by one novelist as an “explosive transformation,” the repercussions of global capitalism are nowhere more explosive or transformative than throughout the nexus of economies spanning China and India, the region’s superpowers, and the many fast developing Southeast Asian nations in between. And nowhere are the human consequences of this profound transformation more convincingly construed than in the fictional works of prominent contemporary Asian writers, the literary descendants of Dickens, Balzac, Zola, Dreiser, Sinclair Lewis, Steinbeck, and other moral appraisers of Western capitalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Our seminar will focus on close interpretive readings and discussions on form, craft and language in the selected fictional works, especially as they relate to the backdrop of globalisation in the landscapes and lives depicted.

**Reading List:** Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger*; Mohsen Hamid, *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*; Yu Hua, *The Seventh Day*; Wendy Law-Yone, *The Road to Wanting*. Selected short stories by Krys Lee (Korea), Yiyun Li (China), Daniyal Mueenuddin (Pakistan), and Prajwal Parajuly (Nepal)

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**Wendy Law-Yone** is a Burmese-born novelist whose books have been translated into many languages, while her short stories, book reviews, and articles have appeared in international anthologies, periodicals, and newspapers like *The Guardian*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Washington Post*, *Time Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, and *Architectural Digest*. Her novels have been on the curriculum of literature, history and Asian Studies courses in universities throughout Europe and the United States. *Irrawaddy Tango* was nominated for the 1994 *Irish Times* International Fiction Prize. *The Road to Wanting* was longlisted for the 2011 Orange Prize. International awards for her writing include a *National Endowment for the Arts Literature Award for Creative Writing*, a *Harvard Foundation Award for International Literary Arts and Intercultural Relations*, and a *David T. K. Wong Creative Writing Fellowship* from the University of East Anglia. Banned in Burma for more than two decades, the first of Wendy Law-Yone’s books to be translated into Burmese – her recent memoir, *Golden Parasol* – was an instant bestseller.



Institut für Germanistik  
Projektleitung:  
Prof. Dr. Oliver Lubrich  
Länggassstrasse 49  
CH-3000 Bern 9  
[www.germanistik.unibe.ch](http://www.germanistik.unibe.ch)

Institute of Advanced Study  
In the Humanities and the  
Social Sciences | IASH  
Falkenplatz 16  
CH-3012 Bern  
[www.iash.unibe.ch](http://www.iash.unibe.ch)



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