

Series editor's preface

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Representing the Exotic and the Familiar: Politics and perception in literature

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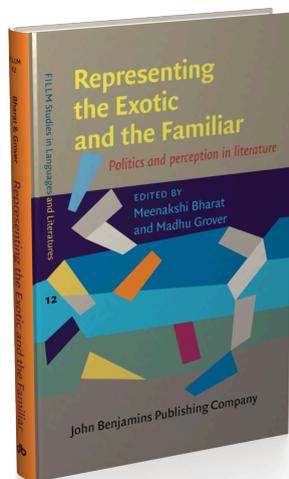
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The Fédération Internationale des Langues et Littératures Modernes (FILLM) is UNESCO's ceiling organization for scholarship in the field of languages and literatures. The Federation's main aim is to encourage linguists and literary scholars from all over the world to engage in dialogue.

During the twentieth century, linguistic and literary studies became steadily more professional and specialized, a development which significantly raised the overall standard of research, but which also tended to divide scholars into many separate and often smallish groupings between which communication was rather sporadic. Over the years this became something of a handicap. New ideas and findings were often slow to cross-fertilize.

Given the rapidly globalizing world of the early twenty-first century, the relative lack of contact between scholars in different subject-areas became a more glaring anomaly than ever. Against this background, FILLM decided to set up its own book series, in the hope of fostering a truly international community of scholars within which a rich diversity of interests would be upheld by a common sense of human relevance.

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Roger D. Sell

