COMMITMENT TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

The faculty in the Department of Comparative Studies are committed to social justice, and energized by critical questions about how justice is to be defined and how it can be realized. Students are encouraged and supported to become effective global citizens, guided by an ethos of mutual respect and persistent questioning, and recognition of the value and pleasures of critical intellectual work.

The Ohio State University Department of Comparative Studies is a multidisciplinary community of scholars who study how human societies organize themselves through the production of knowledge, discourses and material practices. The department addresses processes of cultural interaction, with particular attention to the dynamics of knowledge, power, authority and cultural difference.

DEGREE PROGRAMS

UNDERGRADUATE
BA, Comparative Studies, with concentrations in:
  • Comparative Cultural Studies
  • Comparative Ethnic and American Studies
  • Comparative Literature
  • Folklore
  • Science and Technology Studies
BA, Religious Studies
BA, World Literature

MINORS
American Studies
Comparative Studies
Folklore
Religious Studies
Science and Technology Studies
World Literatures

GRADUATE DEGREES
MA, Comparative Studies
PhD, Comparative Studies
Interdisciplinary Specialization in World Literatures

GRADUATE MINOR
Comparative Cultural Studies

comparativestudies.osu.edu
Mirror Lake and Orton Hall

Promoting the understanding of how culture shapes lives.

artsandsciences.osu.edu
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
PARTNERSHIPS/NETWORKS

One of the central goals of comparative studies, in its long history as a center for interdisciplinary humanities, has been to foster collaboration in research and pedagogy across disciplinary, departmental and college lines. Some of our valued networks include:

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
The institute facilitates emergent research collaborations between humanities faculty and others across the university, and to enable the humanities to act as a significant bridge to the university and the city of Columbus as well as the broader public culture.

CENTER FOR FOLKLORE STUDIES
The center supports the learning, teaching, research and public service endeavors of folklorists and students of folklore.

CENTER FOR STUDY OF RELIGION
Research from this center emphasizes the dynamic aspects of religious systems and the importance of studying them within carefully nuanced understandings of the larger social and cultural contexts in which they exist.

MULTICULTURAL CENTER AND ETHNIC STUDENT SERVICES
The curricular programming in Asian American Studies, Latino/a Studies, and comparative ethnic and American studies in the department holds a mutually supportive relation with the programming and services offered by the Multicultural Center and Ethnic Student Services.

DIVERSITY & IDENTITY STUDIES COLLECTIVE AT OSU (DISCO)
An interdisciplinary and university-wide project that seeks to coordinate and foster collaboration among a number of departments and academic programs that focus on aspects of diverse identities.

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Learn about comparative studies’ courses that involve study abroad to Japan, Egypt, Nicaragua and Cuba.

WEXNER CENTER FOR THE ARTS
Comparative studies offers The Wexner Center Seminar, a course that addresses current programming at the university’s premier arts presenting venue.

THE RELIGIOUS SOUNDMAP OF THE MIDWEST PROJECT
Assistant Professor Isaac Weiner was awarded $30,000 from Humanities without Walls, a consortium of humanities centers at 15 Midwestern research universities, for his “Religious Soundmap of the Midwest” project. The project will use audio recording and digital mapping technology to study the religious diversity of American cities. Student researchers will produce audio recordings of religious practices across a wide range of local sites.

These recordings will be integrated along with interviews, visual images and explanatory texts onto a publicly accessible, online mapping platform, which will provide a valuable research tool and pedagogical resource for specialists and non-specialists alike. The project is being headed by Weiner and Amy DeRogatis at Michigan State University.

ABOUT COMPARATIVE STUDIES

- Comparative studies encourages critical reflection about culture across boundaries of disciplines, nations and languages.
- Scholars attend to the construction of knowledge and the dynamics of power and authority in a range of historical discourses and practices: social, religious, literary, aesthetic, technological, scientific, political and material.
- Researchers study how human societies organize themselves through the production of knowledge, discourses and material practices.
- Faculty investigate areas such as religion, science, visual culture, folklore, literature, sexuality, race and ethnicity, but our foci and approaches lend themselves to the invention and creation of new objects and fields of interdisciplinary research.

Chair: Barry Shank