The concentration in Comparative Literature enables students to study an illustrative range of literary topics and to develop a focused critical understanding of how cultures differ from one another and what those differences mean. Our courses provide opportunities to engage with literary works across linguistic and cultural boundaries, exploring the traditions and innovations of the literatures of the world. In the spirit of Brown University's Open Curriculum, a concentration in Comparative Literature affords great academic freedom. Advanced literature courses from any literature department at Brown can count toward the major. Scholarship in modernist literary and cultural studies tends to privilege urban spaces while excluding rural regions from mappings of world literature. Regional writing has been both effeminized as a genre and seen as Critical Cli- mates: Sturm und Drang and the Radical Poetics of Nature.