

# *Literary Worlds in the Global Age*



For a Multilingual,  
Intercultural Approach

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## *Previous Discussions: Weltliteratur and Internationalisation*

- Bourdieu, 1990. “Les conditions sociales de la circulation internationale des idées” in *Romanistische Zeitschrift für Literaturgeschichte* (cf. Meylaerts in *The Translator*, forthcoming)
- Casanova, 1999. *La République mondiale des Lettres*
- Heilbron & Sapiro, 2002. *Actes de la Recherche en Sciences sociales*(cf. Boyden & Meylaerts, 2004, in *Target*)
- Klinkenberg, *La Langue et le Citoyen*, 2001

# *Beyond the Nation-State, but how?*



“The World as India. Translation as a Passport within the Community of Literature” (S. Sontag, *TLS*, 3/6/2003)

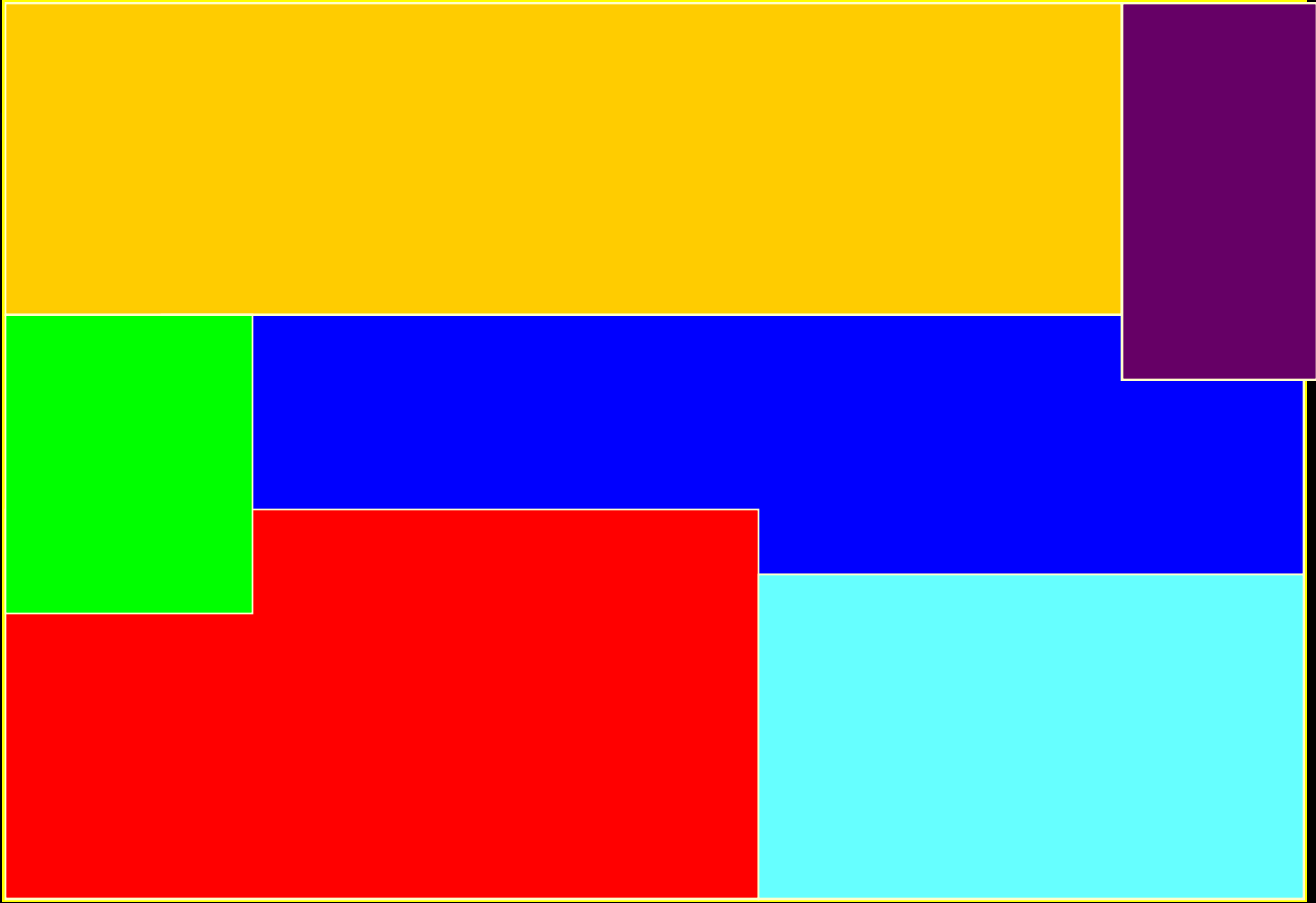
## *Beyond the Nation-State, but how?*

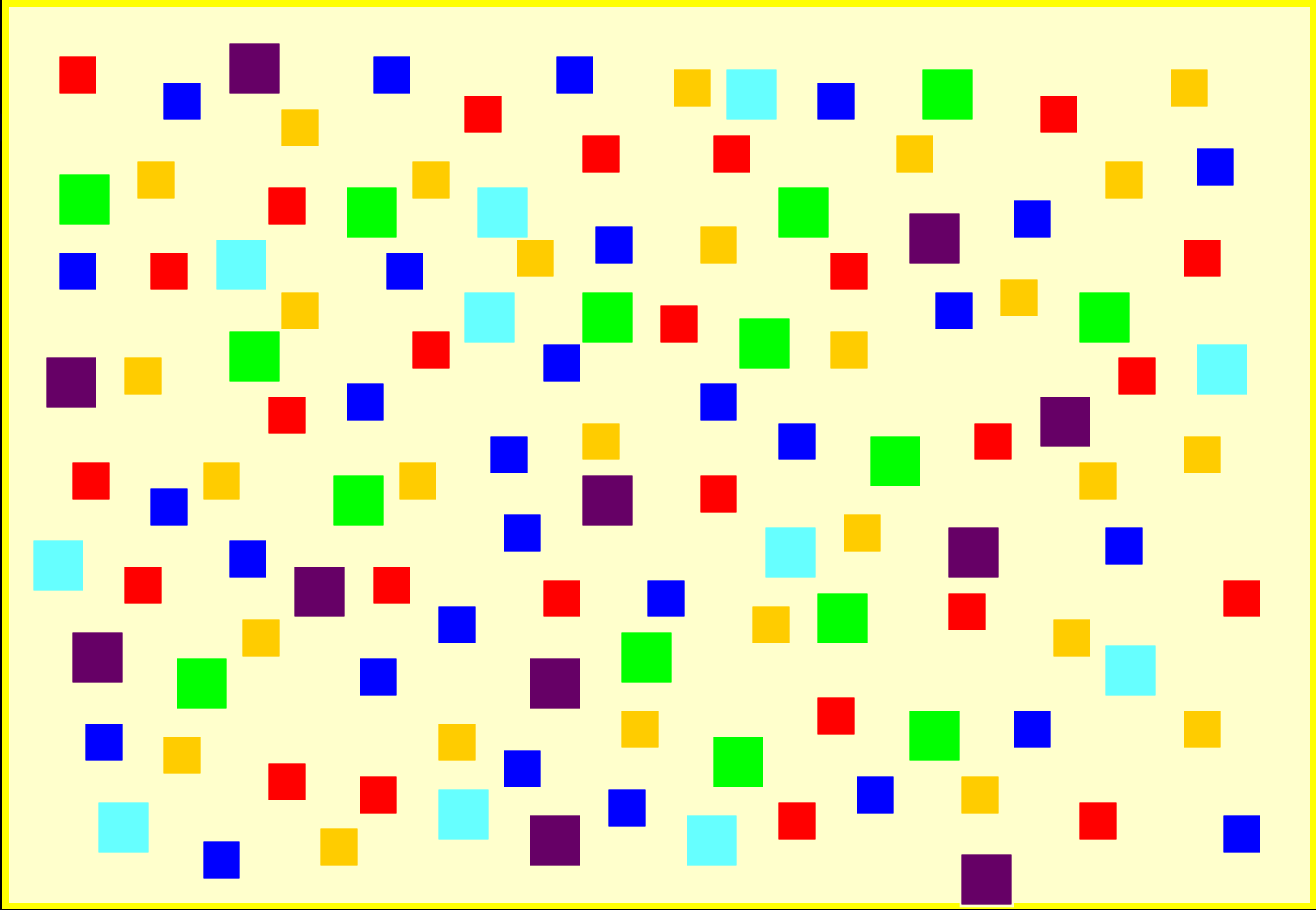
A vital global cultural discourse is ancient; only the increasingly settled and bureaucratized nature of academic *institutions* in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, conjoined with a nasty intensification of ethnocentrism, racism, and nationalism *produced the temporary illusion of sedentary, indigenous literary cultures* marking sporadic and half-hearted ventures towards the margins. *The reality, for most of the past as once again for the present is more about nomads than natives.* (Greenblatt, *PMLA*, 116.1, 2001:59; my emphasis)

## *Beyond the Nation-State, but how?*



“Language is the slipperiest of human creations; like its speakers, it does not respect borders, and, like the imagination, it cannot ultimately be predicted or controlled.” (Greenblatt *PMLA*, 116.1, 2001:62)





# *Beyond the Nation-State, but how?*

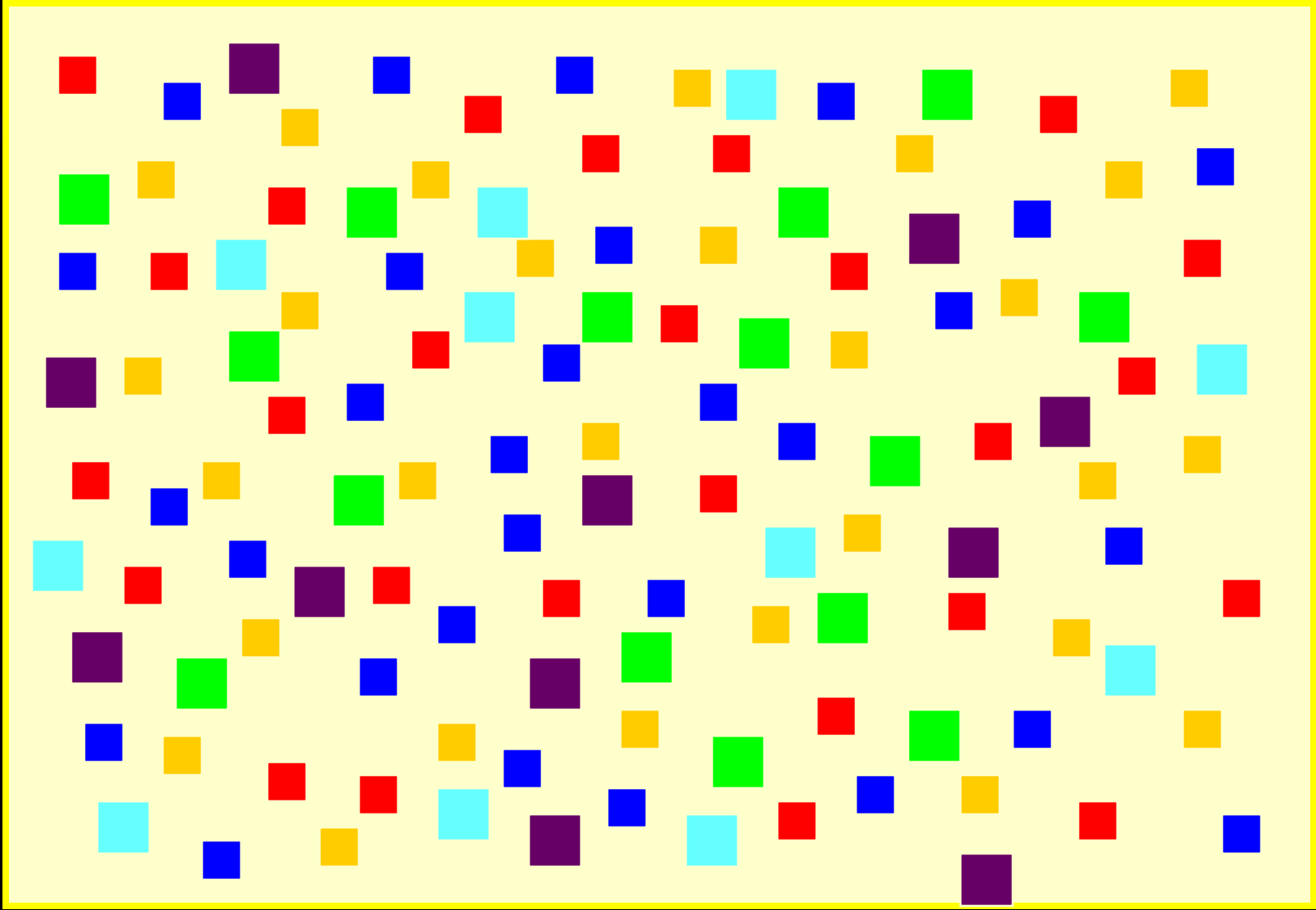


Models for studying literary interaction in globalised, multilingual worlds?

*From observing to analysing:  
suggestions, models.*



- Institutionalisation
- Internalisation (habitus)



*From observing to analysing:  
suggestions, models.*

- Why not everybody is multilingual?
- Why is multilingual writing exceptional?
- For whom linguistic/literary barriers are absolute?
- For whom linguistic/literary barriers are unexisting?

*From observing to analysing:  
suggestions, models.*



- Why do translators have a hard life?
- ‘Sources’ and ‘Targets’ = irrelevant?
- Literary cartographies?
- Where is the nation?