

**Suzanne Conklin Akbar (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ): *The Virtual Spaces of Literature: Three Pathways, Three Rooms***

Suzanne Conklin Akbari's paper considers the different ways in which literary texts can be grouped, and what kinds of communities are called into being – whether implicitly or explicitly – by these groupings. Anthologies, canon formation and conceptions of 'World Literature,' 'Great Books' and 'Literary History' share a tendency to organise or to cluster works on the basis of certain shared phenomena. What kind of community is imagined in each of these approaches, and what kind of reader is understood as the addressee? And what might be the role of oral modalities – oral story, spoken commentary, conversation as performance and oratory – in the emergence of a more dynamic mode of literary experience?