



**Call for papers for the tenth issue of the online journal
Revista Épicas dedicated to “Epic Asia (2)”**

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Thematic dossier: “Epic Asia”

In this Edition we would like to continue the reflection initiated on the first part of the Thematic Dossier “Epic Asia” (*Revista Épicas*, nº 5) about epic traditions on Asia, questioning specifically the regional and geographical imagination transmitted by the epic.

The Dossier’s starting point was a questioning of a comparatist nature, inspired on *area studies* and on the scale problems they bring up: it is about asking oneself which meaning there may be on thinking the epic inside the Asian space, where areas extraordinarily rich in epic traditions exist (Persia, India, Central Asia, Tibet, Siberia, Japan, etc.) but also China, often cited as an example of civilization without epic. If it was possible to publish a volume on *Les épopées d’Afrique noire* (Kesteloot and Dieng, 2009), with the Asian epic productions did not occur the same: several of them appeared in collective works with comparative focus (Labarthe, 2004, Feuillebois-Pierunek, 2011), but they remain excluded from the *Cambridge Companion to the Epic* (2010) – with the notable exception of *Gilgamesh* – and do not in any case give rise to a specific discussion.

Does this occur because Asia is too vast and heterogeneous? Or because it is not clearly defined? If the Asian world presents a remarkable case of epic diffusion, that of the Indian *Rāmāyana* in the South-East Asia and Indonesia, exemplifying the unification of a vast space by an epic narrative, it maintains the fact that Asia is articulated into autonomous and huge spaces with great diversity – Anatolia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Far East, Siberia, Central Asia, etc. – that may be also epic spaces, played and even constituted by the epic.

The contributions for the first part of the Dossier were specially related to the journey narrated in many epics, showing how the diegetic route performed in space by the hero – be it the *Rāmāyaṇa*, a story of a journey (*ayana*) inscribed in its own title, or the epic novel *Miyamoto Musashi* (1935-1939), written by Eiji Yoshikawa, or *Savitri*, by Sri Aurobindo – usually appear as the manifestation of a more fundamental journey, in a spiritual order.

In this second part, we would like to pay special attention to the relation maintained by the epic in Asia to the geographical and cultural spaces that compose it. One may notably ask how the space of the Community is shaped. Is it the ending of a displacement, of a migration, whose memory would be kept in its narrative? Does the narrative present “others”, defined by a diverse territorialization? And how spaces traversed *in* the texts articulate to the space eventually traversed *by* the texts? Finally, what ways would this space and these “others” have been reconfigured in contemporary epics after the displacement of borders or populations, and how can they shed light on current territorial tensions?

This is therefore a double questioning on epic geographies and on the relevance of a geographical thought about the epic genre that the 10th edition of *Revista Épicas* would like to look further into, while favouring the epic traditions of the Asian world, which are numerous, although often not considered in their singularity.

Articles may be written in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese or German (please send to revistaepicas@gmail.com). The deadline for submission is April 15th, 2021. The norms and procedures for publication can be found on the following website: www.revistaepicas.com.

The Editorial Board’s evaluation will be sent to all authors by June 15th, 2021. This publication is scheduled for December 30, 2021.