“Transnational” has become the buzzword in literary studies. It often replaces terms such as “comparative,” “international,” “world,” or “global” in describing literature influenced by globalization. But is there really such a thing as transnational literature? If so, how is it different from immigrant or postcolonial literature? While questioning the ubiquity of the term, Ania Spyra will argue that its strength resides in de-centering the nation state as the standard unit of academic inquiry. Used as a way to describe a collection of literary texts, “transnational” transforms the perception of literature as necessarily a national endeavor.