



News for Alumni & Friends of the Comparative Literature Program

Fall 2012-Summer 2013



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### 2012-2013 in Perspective, from the Comparative Literature Chair



With an inspiring cohort of eight new graduate students, we are starting the new academic year with a strong group of twenty-four graduate students. Our realm of world literatures is also expanding with our students working across many genres, cultures, periods and languages, including Greek and Latin, and commonly taught languages (French, German, Portuguese, Spanish), less-taught languages (at least at UCSB!) such as Albanian, Tagalog, and Korean, and languages linked to such rich cultures as Arabic and Chinese. At least five of our new students read and speak four or more languages! And I heard that our Albanian speaker is also thinking of learning Hindi soon...

2012-2013 was my first year as Chair of the thriving Comparative Literature Program, and I had a wonderful time getting to know all the graduate students and working with the members of the staff who bring us so much support in our various undertakings. Without the efficiency and dedication of our Graduate Program Assistant **Joell Emoto**, we would have not accomplished so much and so well. It was also a real pleasure to work with so many colleagues from departments across campus: they teach our lower- and upper-division courses and graduate seminars, support our graduate students as members and chairs of field examination committees and dissertation committees, as teaching supervisors, and as Chairs of departments eager to hire our students who pride themselves in being superb teachers.

Last year our graduate students taught not only in Comparative Literature, but also in Black Studies, French, German, Spanish, and in the Writing Program. This coming year, in addition to French, German, Spanish, and Writing, the Department of English, and, in the Division of Social Sciences, the Departments of Asian American Studies and Feminist Studies are also welcoming our graduate students as Teaching Assistants. On behalf of all of us in Comparative Literature, I extend my heartfelt thanks to all the Chairs and colleagues in these hospitable departments!

Last October, alumna **Lisa Swanstrom** (Ph.D., 2008; now at Florida Atlantic University) organized the job-market workshop. Our expression of gratitude goes to **Carol Genetti**, our Graduate Division Dean, for her financial support of this event. Based on our extraordinarily successful job market in 2012-2013 (see below), we invited Lisa back for another job-market day on October 7, 2013. We thank her for such a well-organized workshop and for her two-hour guest seminar on "Scenes of Digital Landscapes" for the

Proseminar in Comparative Literature (CLIT210); Professor **Alan Liu** (English) followed up by giving our "Proseminarians" a dazzling one-hour presentation on the history and methods of the Digital Humanities. It was even more fascinating than Professor Liu's one-hour plus lecture available on YouTube: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrvUys\\_STcs...](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IrvUys_STcs...)

Last year, **Katherine Kelp-Stebbins** was the Lead Teaching Assistant for Comparative Literature, and organized with maestro the Comparative Literature teaching orientation workshop in the fall and also co-organized three helpful workshops on various pedagogical matters. We are so proud that she earned an Outstanding Teaching Award from the Academic Senate in 2013! This coming year, new doctoral candidates **Silvia Ferreira** and **Shari Sanders** (who, incidentally, was the winner of a 2011-2012 of an Outstanding Teaching Award from the Academic Senate) are serving as Co-Lead Teaching Assistants and have been doing a tremendous job, too. I will not dwell any further on the great achievements of all our graduate students since there is an entire section of the newsletter devoted to their accomplishments!

I am delighted to wish a warm welcome to our new Vice-Chair, Professor **Elizabeth Cook**, from the Department of English, and to **Sara Pankenier Weld**, our new colleague in Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies, who has already been an active supporter of Comparative Literature, and is our newest affiliated member.

As a final note, I would like to congratulate our graduate students for launching **Critical Intersections**, the annual Undergraduate Conference, a great initiative to promote more interactions between undergraduates and graduate students, and to help strengthen undergraduate research. <http://criticalintersectionsconference.wordpress.com/>

Our newly-launched Comparative Literature Society, created by Comparative Literature majors Danielle Maldonado and Cassie Rubio (who were first-year undergrads last year!), will also enhance ties between all Comparative Literature majors and minors and will help promote our wonderful programs. They can be reached at: [clsucsb@gmail.com](mailto:clsucsb@gmail.com).

I am looking forward to another exciting year in Comparative Literature, and am currently having a great time teaching once again the Proseminar in Comparative Literature (CLIT 210), with a slightly different format this time around, including guest visits from affiliated colleagues.

Enjoy our newsletter, which, this year, also includes news from the Departments of French and Italian, and Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies, which both have special tracks in the Comparative Literature Doctoral program.

**Catherine Nesci**, Chair, Comparative Literature  
Professor of French, and Affiliate in Women's Studies

"Literary criticism is very often a treatise of ethics." Germaine de Staël, *On Literature* (1800)

## Messages from FRIT and GSS Departmental Chairs, and new CL Vice-Chair:



**Eric Prieto:** We in the Department of French and Italian continue to be excited about our transition from a traditional French literature graduate program to the new French in Comparative Literature (FCL) paradigm. This year we have a new student following the FCL track (Álvaro Luna) as well as many Comparative Literature students taking our graduate seminars, teaching in our language classes, and maintaining varying levels of involvement in French subjects, often through their field exams. Our faculty continue to offer many courses that cross over the divide between French and Comparative studies, including a great new course on “The Book, Literary Production, and Material Culture: From Medieval Manuscript to Digital Media,” which will be offered Winter quarter. This course, conceived and organized by Prof. Cynthia Brown, will cover the intersection of literary artistry and the publication trade in Europe from the fifteenth to the twenty-first century, with each session taught by a different professor from French and Italian or Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies. Along with the many other CL graduate seminars we are offering this year—on Proust, seventeenth-century theater, Renaissance selves and individualism, mind games—this course is leading both French and Comparative Literature in new directions. We are especially proud of the historical depth of our offerings, ranging from the medieval to the (post) modern periods, and the many opportunities we provide to CL students to hone their French skills, something that will prove invaluable to many graduates when they hit the job market.



**Elisabeth Weber:** The links between the Department of Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies and the Program of Comparative Literature are numerous and strong. All of our ladder faculty and some of our lecturers teach lecture courses and seminars for CL. This academic year, as every year, our department contributes a number of courses to the CL graduate curriculum, including a graduate seminar on the “Poetics of Anxiety” by our Visiting Kade Professor, Dr. Burkhardt Wolf from Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. Dr. Weld’s graduate courses will focus on “The Exiled Perspective in Literature and Theory”; Dr. Spieker’s, cross-listed with History of Art and Architecture, will explore the movement “From Lettrism/Letterism to the Situationist International”; and Dr. Weber’s will address seminal texts by Walter Benjamin and Jacques Derrida. Finally, Dr. Holland’s graduate seminar on the “Poetics of ‘Kraft’ (force, strength)” will be of particular interest to the graduate students in the German specialization. We are deeply committed to helping undergraduate and graduate students in Comparative Literature succeed in the pursuit of their scholarship and careers goals. We are honored to be a part of this flourishing program.



**Elizabeth Cook** (English): I’m looking forward to being part of the Comparative Literature program this year, working closely as Vice-Chair with Professor Catherine Nesci, who is heading the program with such creativity and dedication. In the year ahead, I look forward to seeing the undergraduate major grow (the new Comparative Literature Society is a great initiative!), and to learning about (and from) the research of the program’s outstanding graduate students. As a literary scholar, I am deeply committed to the value of foreign language / foreign literature study and the cultural versatility that it brings. Because my public schools offered foreign language training, at a formative age I was encouraged to extend imaginatively into a culture beyond my own and then go on to graduate work in Comparative Literature. Part of our ongoing challenge as comparatists will be articulating why it’s so important to sustain critical cross-cultural studies, working with groups like UCSB’s 4Humanities and other advocates for the humanities and higher education.

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## Meet the New Comparative Literature Graduate Students

This year we are pleased to introduce a cohort of eight new graduate students in Comparative Literature. In order to let us get to know them better, they graciously responded to some personal questions from the Newsletter staff.



**Jeffrey Bellomi** (*Jeff holds his BA in Literature from UC Santa Cruz, and completed his Master of Arts degree in Comparative Literature, with a Certificate in Critical Theory, at CU Boulder in Spring 2013. For his doctoral project he plans to combine media studies, philosophy, and literature. His languages include French and German.*)

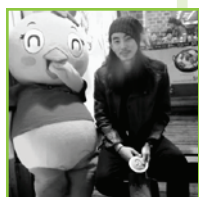
Jeff first became interested in literary studies when he read *The Sound and the Fury* by William Faulkner. He takes his coffee black, a few times a week (whenever willpower fails him). Jeff cannot stand rainy weather, and he would even prefer snow to rain. The craziest misspelling of his name that he has encountered was “Jeremy Blllomp.” He loves Freebirds burritos and hopes to travel to France.



**Frédérique Guy** (*Frédérique received her MA in English from the University of Paris III-Sorbonne Nouvelle, and wrote her Master’s thesis on Nelson Algren, Russell Banks and Aleksandar Hemon’s writing of history. She took advanced classes in Balkan languages, including Serbian-Croatian and Albanian. She is interested in the ways in which literature responds to the progressive disappearance of borders and to transnationalism.*)



Frédérique has recently reduced her caffeine intake from a huge mug of Turkish coffee followed by 10 espressos a day... to a big cup of Turkish coffee in the morning and about 4 cups of American coffee throughout the day. Reading Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in middle school first got her interested in literary studies. Her favorite means of transportation, strangely enough (or not, as she's from Paris) is the subway, because she loves observing people. Frédérique has been nicknamed "stronza" in Italian and "budallage" in Albanian, as well as "mahboula" in Arabic. She hopes to make it back to India again soon and learn Hindi, and she also wants to travel to Iran and Turkey someday.



**David Hur** (*David holds his BA in English from Rutgers University and his MA in East Asian Language and Literature, with a concentration in Korean, from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. His languages include Korean and Chinese. He is interested in transpacific and Asian American literature, and poetry.*)

David trekked all the way from the Tri-State area to join us in sunny Santa Barbara. He drinks two cups of black coffee every morning, and he enjoys travelling by bike, on foot, by train, by plane, or by bus (in order of preference). When back on the East Coast, his favorite holiday is Christmas; otherwise, it's New Year's. He regards rain as cathartic, and the movie he saw most recently was "A Courtship of Rivals." Dave's best Halloween costume was a carrot, complete with green hair as the carrot top; however, some people mistook him for a pepper...a spicy, red pepper.



**Benjamin Ingraham** (*Ben received his BA in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies from the University of Binghamton, and studied as an undergraduate in Bolivia. His coursework and research have focused so far on twentieth-century Spanish and German-speaking literature as well as on media studies and the interaction of philosophy and politics.*)

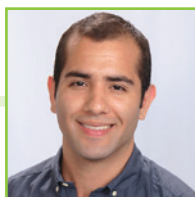
Ben first became interested in literary studies after reading *Heart of Darkness*. He prefers to take his coffee intravenously. The best tourist activity he has done so far in Santa Barbara was people watching in Isla Vista. His favorite holiday is "Talk Like a Pirate Day", and for the past 7 years he has been a "nudist on strike" for Halloween.



**Katharine Jan** (*Katie received her BA in English literature and Spanish, with a minor in Comparative Literature and Culture, from the University of San Francisco. She is interested in Spanish and Latin-American studies, Translation studies, and Sociolinguistics.*)

Katie takes her coffee like a true Wisconsinite: with lots of half and half. Since she joins us from San Francisco, she adores the

rain, but knows she won't be seeing much of it here in Santa Barbara. The book that got her first interested in literary studies is *The Great Gatsby*, and her best Halloween costume was Louisa May Alcott in the 2nd grade. She enjoys traveling by train and hopes to venture to Mexico or Portugal next.



**Álvaro Luna** (*Álvaro completed his BA in Linguistics, with a French concentration, at UCLA, and his MA in French and Francophone Studies at California State University, Long Beach, where he taught in the innovative program of teaching Romance languages for Spanish-heritage speakers.*

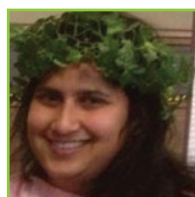
*His scholarly interests cover Minority Discourse, Queer Theory, Migrant Literature, USA Latino/Latina Fiction, Post-Colonial Studies, Romance Language Intercomprehension, and Translation Studies).*

A true polyglot, Álvaro joins us from Long Beach, CA. In the morning, he takes his coffee with half and half, and he prefers to travel by car or on foot. The book that first got him interested in literary studies was Montaigne's *Essays*. His favorite holiday is Black Friday, and although the rain saddens him, he still hopes to travel to Vanuatu someday.



**Bozhou Men** (*Bozhou holds her BA and MA in English from Peking University, Beijing, China. During her graduate studies, she developed a strong interest in late 19th- and 20th-century British and American literature, especially in Henry James).*

Bozhou became interested in literary studies after reading *The Story of the Stone*, which is also called *Dream of the Red Chamber*. She loved the story, as well as the sense of accomplishment she felt after finishing such a thick volume for the first time. "If she's not in Phelps," she says, "she's on her way there." According to Google maps, Bozhou traveled 10460 kilometers to get to Santa Barbara this fall. Her favorite means of transportation is the train, and she hopes to make it to Canada sometime soon.



**Deepti Menon** (*Deepti holds a BA in French, Italian, and Classical Civilization from UC Davis and is completing her MA in Classics at the University of Vermont; she has gained advanced fluency in Latin, Greek, Italian, and French, and has native competency in English and Malayalam, the official language of the State of Kerala, India).*

Polyglot Deepti loves the rain, and she takes her coffee iced, black, and in tankards. The country she hopes to visit next is France. Her favorite holiday is Thanksgiving, because it offers all the food and family one gets at Christmas and none of the stress of shopping for presents. Her favorite Halloween costume of all time was in the 8th grade, when she dug out her mom's old fur coat and became Cruella DeVil.

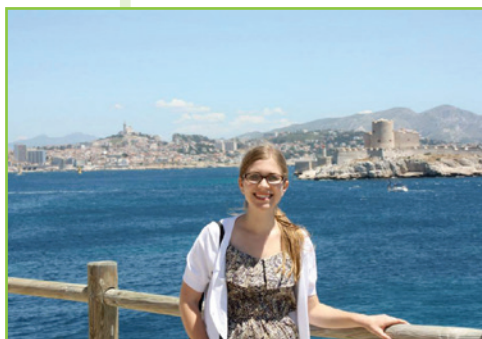
## Summer 2013 Study Abroad Participants

Four graduate students received Block Grants from the Comparative Literature Program for foreign language study abroad during the summer of 2013.

**Tegan Raleigh** and **Lacey Smith** attended the Goethe Institut in Berlin, Germany for intensive **German** language study during August 2013.

**Rebecca Stewart** attended the Institut d'études françaises d'Avignon under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College for intensive **French** study during June and July 2013.

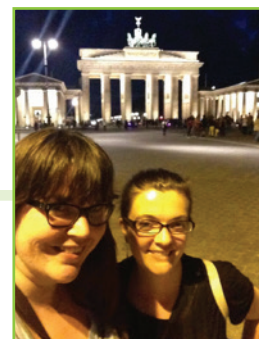
**Inez Zhou** attended the Universidade Nova de Lisboa in Lisbon, Portugal for intensive study of **Portuguese** during July 2013.



Rebecca Stewart visited Marseille, France while studying this summer in Avignon



An image from Inez Zhou of the Gulbenkian Trail in Portugal



JA! Lacey Smith and Tegan Raleigh in front of the Brandenburger Tor, Berlin

## New Doctors & Successful Graduate Placement

Six students received their doctoral degrees in 2012-2013. You can read more about our alumni at <http://www.complit.ucsb.edu/people/recent-graduate-students>.

**Mary Garcia** defended her dissertation, "Embodying Loss: Bodily Perspectives and the Reclamation of Interdependence in African American and Chicana/o Literature" in Fall 2012.

**Rosie Kar**, now teaching in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at California State University, Long Beach.

**Marzia Milazzo**, now Assistant Professor of English at Vanderbilt University.

**Allison Schifani**, now Digital Humanities Postdoctoral Scholar at the Baker Nord Center at Case Western Reserve University.

**Meaghan Skahan**, now teaching at the Mission preparatory school in San Francisco for the Teach for America program.

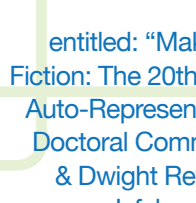
**Claudia Yaghoobi**, now Assistant Professor of English at Georgia College and State University.

In addition, **Kieran Murphy** (Ph.D., 2009) is now Assistant Professor of French at the University of Colorado, Boulder.

## New Doctoral Candidates



**Rodrigo Bauler**, Dissertation prospectus entitled: "Representations of Brazil in German Exile Literature." Doctoral Committee: Chair, Wolf Kittler; Richard Hecht, Harold Marcuse.



**Silvia Ferreira**, Dissertation prospectus entitled: "Making Arab Spaces in Brazilian Fiction: The 20th-Century Brazilian Novel and Auto-Representations of Arab Immigration." Doctoral Committee: Co-Chairs, Paul Amar & Dwight Reynolds; Jill Levine, Alexandra Isfahani-Hammond (UC San Diego).



**Shari Sanders**, Dissertation prospectus entitled: "(Un)leashing the (Non)Human Animal: Stories of Kinship in Science Fiction." Doctoral Committee: Chair, Carl Gutierrez-Jones; Mireille Miller-Young, Barbara Tomlinson.



**Kappie Kaplan** (French), Dissertation prospectus entitled: "Interfamilial Manuscript Transmission in 15th-Century Burgundy: Agnès de Bourgogne's Books." Doctoral Committee: Chair, Cynthia Brown; Jody Enders, Sharon Farmer, Anne-Marie Legarré (Université Lille-3, France).







**Eliza Smith** (French), Dissertation prospectus entitled: “Argot and French Fiction from the 1830s to the Belle Epoque.” Doctoral Committee: Co-Chairs, Dominique Jullien and Catherine Nesci; Jean Schultz, Mary Bucholtz.

## Graduate Student Field Exams

**Alexandra Magearu** received her MA and completed her first field exam in Fall 2013, entitled “Nomadic Imaginaries: Figurations of the Female Body in Movement in French and Francophone Narratives” (Committee: Catherine Nesci; Dominique Jullien, Eric Prieto, Wolf Kittler).

**Tegan Raleigh** completed her first field exam on “Francophone Literature from the Maghreb” in Winter 2013 (Committee: Eric Prieto, Dwight Reynolds, Dominique Jullien).

**Shari Sanders** completed two field examinations: “Human Rights and Genocides in US Literatures” in Fall 2012 (committee: Carl Gutierrez-Jones; Russell Samolsky, Edwina Barvosa) and “Instrumental Methods: A Grotesque Observation of (Post)human Love in Octavia E. Butler’s ‘Blood Child’ and Xenogenesis” in Winter 2013 (Committee: Carl Gutierrez-Jones; William Warner, Stephanie Batiste.).

**Inez Zhou** completed her first field examination on 20th Century American Poetry in Fall 2012 (Committee: Yunte Huang, Maurizia Boscagli, Janis Caldwell) and her Minor field exam on “The Aestheticism and Critical Theory of Garbage” in Spring 2013 (Committee: Maurizia Boscagli, Didier Maleuvre, Colin Gardner).

## Graduate Student Publications

**Katherine Kelp-Stebbins:** “Hybrid Heroes and Graphic Posthumanity: Comics as a Media Technology for Critical Posthumanism.” *Studies in Comics* 3.2 (2012): 331-349.

**Marzia Milazzo:** “White Supremacy, White Knowledge, and Anti-West Indian Discourse in Panama: Olmedo Alfaro’s *El peligro antillano en la América Central*.” *Interoceanic Diasporas and the Panama Canal’s Centennial*. Spec. issue of *The Global South* 6.2 (Fall 2013): 65-86; “Racial Power and Colorblindness: The ‘Sad Black Stories’ of Kgebetli Moele’s *Room 207* and Twenty-First Century Black South African Fiction.” *African Writing in the Twenty-First Century*. Special issue of the *Journal of Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies* 1.1 (Spring 2013): 33-59.

**Kristie Soares:** “Saturday Night Salsa.” *Askew: A Poetry Journal* 14 (Spring/Summer 2013).

**Claudia Yaghoobi:** “Hamzisti dar Asar-e ‘Attar (Co-existence in ‘Attar’s Works).” *Rahavard Persia/English Journal of Iranian Studies* 104 (Nov. 2013); “Against the Current: Farid al-Din ‘Attar’s Diverse Voices.” *Persian Literary Studies Journal* 1. 1 (Autumn-Winter 2012): 87-109.

## Graduate Student Presentations



**Michael Grafals** presented a paper entitled “El Hispanismo in Exile: The Exilic Gaze in the Literature of Post-Independence Equatorial Guinea,” which addresses the aesthetics of exile in the work of Equatorial Guinean writer Juan Balboa Boneke, for the UCSB Lusophone and Hispanic Graduate Student Conference. This fall, he presented at the University of Michigan’s Colonial Resonance Conference. His presentation, “1898 as Nexus of Historical Resonances: Puerto Rican Historical Production of the U.S. Invasion,” examines the re-writings of the 1898 invasion of Puerto Rico in two novels: José Luis González’s *La llegada* (1980) and Luis López Nieves’s *Seva* (1983).



**Katherine Kelp-Stebbins** presented “Monsters before the Cannibal Eye: Situated Knowledges and Hybrid Comics” at the Transcriptions Research Slam, UC Santa Barbara, on March 2013; “Is the 21st Century the Age of the Graphic Narrative: Roundtable with Scott McCloud,” at the Comics Cornucopia Symposium, UC Santa Barbara, CA, April 12, 2013; and “Graphic Positioning Systems: Remapping the Material of Tintin’s International Encounters” at the ACLA Conference, Toronto, ON, April 2013.

**Kuan-Yen Liu:** “From Boundary Narrowing to Boundary-Breaking: Analogical Argumentation and the ‘Evidence’ of the Descent of Man from Animals in Darwin’s and Huxley’s Evolutionary Biology” for the North-American Victorian Studies Association Conference in Pasadena, CA, Fall 2013; “Li Chunsheng’s Criticism of Darwinism and Yan Fu’s *Tianyan lun*: Philosophical Conflict and the Identity Dilemma of Taiwanese,” for the 19th Annual Conference of North American Taiwan Studies Association at UCSB, Spring 2013; “Herbert Spencer and Thomas Huxley’s Debate on the Applicability of Biology to Sociology: The Problem of ‘Is/Ought’ and the Context of Victorian Social and Political Thoughts” at the 40th Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies hosted by the University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2013; “Animal-Human Analogy as an Expression of Nationalist Sentiments in Late-Qing Poetry: The Cross-Cultural Interaction of Darwinism with Chinese Philosophy and Classical Chinese Poetics,” for the 16th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University, Winter 2013; “The Intersection between Biology and Philosophy of the Mind: Darwin’s Dialogic Response to Hume’s *Of the Reason of Animals*” for the 59th Mid-West Conference on British Studies, University of Toronto, Fall 2012.





**Tegan Raleigh:** “Translation Practice as a Model for Reading Counterhegemonic Literature: The Case of North African Francophony,” Portland State University World Literature Colloquium, Spring 2013.

**Shari Sanders:**

“Erotics of Kinship in Octavia Butler’s ‘Blood Child’” for the “New Directions in Sexuality Studies: A Graduate Workshop on Queer of Color Critique,” UCSB, Winter 2013.



**Allison Schifani:** “Excess and

Horizontality in the Urban Autonomous Network,” Concordia University

Differential Mobilities Conference in Montreal, Canada, May 2013; “Alternative Sprawls, Junkfutures: Buenos Aires

Libre’s Urban Epistemology,” HASTAC

Decennial at York University in Toronto, Canada, April

2012; “Junked City: Waste, Recycling and the Buenos Aires Libre Autonomous Network,” American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, RI, April 2012.



**Eliza Smith** (French): “Freedom

through Freestyle: The Female Improviser in Germaine de Stael’s *Corinne ou l’Italie*,” Portland State University World Languages and Literatures Graduate Student Colloquium, Spring 2013.



**Claudia Yaghoobi:**

“Coexistence of Diverse Voices in Farid al-Din ‘Attar Nishapuri’s Sufi Poetry,” University of Oklahoma, March 2013; “A Comparative Study of the Significance of Love in Shaykh San’an and Abelard and Heloise’s Religious Transgression,”

Middle East Studies Association, Denver, November 2012; “Coexistence of Diverse Voices in Farid al-Din ‘Attar Nishapuri’s Sufi Poetry,” South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, November 2012.



**Inez Zhou:** “Artist, Poets, and

Philosophers on the Dump,” for the ACLA Panel “The Painter’s and Writer’s Studio,” at the University of Toronto, April 2013; “Quando a Ficção Se Encontra com o Documentário: a noite em que Fernando Pessoa se encontrou com Konstantinos



Kavafis,” Day of Portuguese Language: “Fernando Pessoa: um Corpo-Escrita Desmultiplicado,” Center for Portuguese Studies, UCSB, May 2013; “The Translator’s ‘Objects & Apparitions:’ On Translating Elizabeth Bishop’s Translation Installation,” 1st ULICES International Conference on Translation Studies: “Voice in Indirect Translation,” University of Lisbon Center for English Studies, July 2013.

## Graduate Student Projects

**Rodrigo Bauler** co-founded the group Mandinga: Brazilian Studies Meeting. Further information is available at: <http://www.mandinga-group.org/>

**Shari Sanders** co-founded the HumAnimality Research Focus Group, whose members include **Marcel Brousseau**, **Michael Grafals**, **Kuan-yen Liu**, **Alexandra Magearu**, and **Katherine Kelp-Stebbins**. She has also worked as the Arts and Humanities Facilitator for STIA since the summer of 2013.

**Kristie Soares** was the writing workshop facilitator for The Odyssey Project in the summer of 2013 (led by theater professor Michael Morgan). This program paired youth from a juvenile detention facility with undergraduates to re-write and stage a version of Homer’s *The Odyssey*.

## Extramural Awards

In Fall 2012, **Claudia Yaghoobi** was awarded the 2012 Jafar and Shokoh Farzaneh Paper Prize in Persian Literature and Culture for “Coexistence of Diverse Voices in Farid al-Din ‘Attar Nishapuri’s Sufi Poetry.”

In Spring 2013, **Earl Perez-Foust** was awarded a travel and research grant from the Lilly Library at Indiana University to study early modern manuscripts shedding light on the religious and colonial conquest of the Philippines.

French doctoral candidates also received extramural funding. **Eliza Smith** was awarded a French Cultural Services Grant to attend the California World Language Project and the California Language Teachers’ Association workshop “Teaching French to 21st Century Learners” in the summer of 2013. **Kappie Kaplan** and **Anneliese Pollock** were two of a small group of young scholars (twelve in all, including graduate students as well as Assistant Professors) invited to attend the Mellon Summer Institute in French Paleography at the Getty Research Institute, under the direction of Marc Smith from Paris’s École des Chartes, from July 22 to August 16, 2013.

## Intramural Awards

Doctoral candidate **Katherine Kelp-Stebbins** received an award as **Outstanding Teaching Assistant from the Academic Senate, for 2012-2013**. Not only has she served as a Teaching Assistant in Comparative Literature, but she has also taught discussion sections and classes in English, Writing, and Classics. Her faculty supporters comment that she is well-prepared, draws from a variety of pedagogical tools, and is remarkable in her ability to inspire her students. One of the professors with whom she has taught writes, “I have rarely seen such motivated and enthusiastic students in my long teaching career as in her sections, and, to be honest, I have to confess that I learned a lot from simply observing her working with her students.... There is no doubt that a lot of her success as an academic teacher is due



to discipline and preparation, but, as we all know too well, this is not enough. When all is said and done, it is an imponderable quality that makes good teachers. I would call it charm, the secret of [Katherine's] accomplishments." Her supporters praise Katherine for her style of her classroom teaching, what she describes as a "space of co-authorship, where students are not merely passive receptacles of knowledge, but active participants in the shaping of that knowledge." One of her students states, "Instead of simply stating how each reading was significant, she drove the class discussion by asking us thoughtful questions and having students discuss complex ideas with each other. To put it simply, she effectively focused on us learning rather than her teaching."

**Allison Schifani & Claudia Yaghoobi** were named Outstanding Teaching Assistants in Comparative Literature, for 2012-2013.

**Devin Fromm** and **Kuan-Yen Liu** each were awarded a **Dean's Advancement Fellowship** in Spring 2013, and are making fast progress on their dissertations.

**Katherine Kelp-Stebbins** received a Graduate Division Dissertation Fellowship from the UC Santa Barbara Graduate Division for completing her dissertation *Graphic Positioning Systems: Global Comics, Radical Literacies* in Winter 2014; **Kuan-Yen Liu** was awarded a Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center to work on his dissertation, *Animal-Human Analogy and the Order of Things: A Comparative Study of Victorian British and Late-Qing Chinese Darwinism*, in Spring 2014.

**Marzia Milazzo** was awarded a **Block Grant stipend** from Comparative Literature so she could complete her dissertation in Spring 2013 (which she did, while also getting several job offers).

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## Undergraduate Awards

At our Honors Reception and Food for Thought Event on June 7, 2013, five Comparative Literature majors received Certificates of Excellence in Comparative Literature: **Devin Bierman, Shannon Leavitt, Courtney Llebo, Casey Monroe & Brandon Peacock**.

**Tyler Andersen** was awarded **Distinction** in the Comparative Literature Major, for his honors project, written under the direction of **Professor Susan Derwin**. In his words:

In this paper I analyzed the early poetry of Giuseppe Ungaretti, specifically the collection *Il Porto Sepolto (The Buried Port)*, written entirely from the trenches at Carso, Italy during 1916. The collection functions as a concentrated insight into the war experience, not by direct reference, but rather by functioning simply as poetry itself, implanted into the war environment. The language beguiles the reader in its primitive yet artistic form. There is an emotional immediacy, contrasted by a mysterious, "transcendental" profundity. The poems I selected attest to the validity of psychoanalytic research by Melanie Klein and Sigmund Freud in providing a physical, poetic space for the

concepts they put forth. Specifically, Ungaretti's exploration through poetry of the "absolute" found in war confirms Freud's assertion that war is experience in which both soldier and civilian can achieve a tangential approach to death, as seen in his *Reflections on War and Death*. Ungaretti's absolute ultimately reveals the paradoxical existence of life within this approach to death, which allows the possibility of "rebirth" in death, in war. The three poems *Fase d'Oriente* (literally: *Phases of the Orient*, figuratively: *Sweet Suspension*), *Tramonto* (*Sunrise*), and finally *Fase* (*Suspension*) provide the site for the establishment of object-relations.

Tyler reports that he is moving to Buenos Aires in November 2013 to teach English for about 7-8 months. He is also applying to teach next year in France (hopefully Paris or Bordeaux) so he can work on his French and continue teaching. After working abroad, Tyler hopes to attend graduate school. He has been looking at the Sorbonne's graduate program, as he wants to study French language and literature.

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## The (New) Comparative Literature Society

CLS is a society for undergraduate Comparative Literature majors that facilitates socializing within the major, allows for student interactions with professors, and helps students as they explore future career paths. CLS aims to raise awareness about the major and also promotes collaboration with other organizations to inform and enrich the campus community on relevant issues. We plan to have panel discussions about current topics, hold socials, invite speakers, and host foreign film screenings. Our biggest event of the academic year will be collaborating with the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center on their year-long conference, the *Value of Care*.

**Danielle Maldonado** and **Cassie Rubio**, the founders, can be reached at: [clsucsb@gmail.com](mailto:clsucsb@gmail.com)

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## Graduate Students' New Events and Initiatives

The **Critical Intersections Conference 2013: Identities in a Global Age**

From the desk of MA/PhD student **Earl Perez-Foust**:

The *Critical Intersections Undergraduate Conference* is an initiative undertaken by Comparative Literature graduate students with the aim of providing a productive space to encourage, promote and develop undergraduate research at UCSB. The title of the initiative speaks to the committed interest of the organizers in facilitating an environment wherein those from disparate academic disciplines, as well as various levels of the intellectual community of the campus, can engage in thoughtful discussion about the issues valuable to us as scholars at a public research institution. The inaugural conference, which took place on May 18, 2013, was a resounding success. It brought together twelve undergraduates from several disciplines, and over forty individuals were in attendance throughout the day. Dr. Carrie Noland from UC

Irvine delivered the keynote presentation, entitled “Aimé Césaire’s *Cahier*: A Voice of Negritude in Modernist Print.”

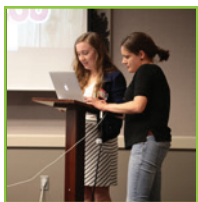
The graduate organizers for the 2013 event were: **Lauran Elam, Silvia Ferreira, Michael Grafals, Alexandra Magearu, Earl Perez-Foust, Shari Sanders, Meaghan Skahan & Rebecca Stewart.**

The conference was made possible by generous support from the following Departments/Program: Chican@ Studies, Environmental Studies, French and Italian, History, Spanish and Portuguese, Religious Studies, the Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Office, and the Comparative Literature Lecture Committee.

<http://criticalintersectionsconference.wordpress.com/>



Presenter: **Kristin A. Minasian**, an English major, became interested in the atomic bomb in WWII after reading “The Traveler’s Gift” in high school. She chose to participate in Critical Intersections because she wanted to research a topic she normally wouldn’t be able to in her major, as well as to prepare herself for grad school and beyond. She hopes to pursue her love for screenwriting and film production upon graduation. Mentor: Zach Horton, Department of English



Presenter: **Olivia Jaffe-Pachuilo** is a French major, hoping to add a sociolinguistics minor. In the future she plans to go to graduate school in either France, Canada, or Switzerland. In her free time, Olivia does work for the Womyn’s Commission and watches reality television. Mentor: Meaghan Skahan, Comparative Literature Program



At the time of his presentation, **Edward Liu** was a fourth-year psychology major looking forward to applying to graduate school. He said that presenting at this conference was a valuable opportunity to develop his public speaking skills. Mentor: Shari Sanders, Comparative Literature Program

## Comparative Literature Graduate Mentorship Program, 2013-2014

This fall, co-lead Teaching Assistants **Silvia Ferreira** and **Shari Sanders** spearheaded the Comparative Literature Graduate Mentorship Program. This program aims to help the incoming graduate students navigate their first year at UCSB by pairing them up with students from the department to serve as their mentors. Mentors check in frequently with their mentees throughout the year, provide constructive pedagogical feedback, and support them both professionally and personally. The purpose of opening up this important line of communication is to make the transition to graduate life smoother for our new colleagues and to give us all more opportunities to share what we’ve learned during our time at UCSB as graduate students.

Second-year PhD student Lacey Smith and her mentee, first-year MA/PhD student Ben Ingraham, discussed their participation in the mentorship program with us in an interview.

**Why did you decide to participate in the mentorship program?**

L: When I entered my MA program at CU Boulder, all the older students seemed distant and even needlessly antagonistic. I suppose some of it might have been in my head, but I remember thinking...wouldn’t it be cool to have an ally? Also, I assume that I am wise beyond my years. I took an Internet quiz that measures my mental age once and it said I was 45, so I figure I’ve got some crotchety but sage advice to give.

B: I thought it would be nice to pick the brain of a more experienced grad student.

**What are some of the most important things you’ve learned so far about navigating life as a graduate student at UCSB that you only could have learned from fellow students (as opposed to the handbook, your professors, etc.)?**

L: Where the Mercury Lounge is, why Isla Vista is to be generally avoided, and how to get away with not paying for things I don’t actually have to pay for. Also, we’re really good about alerting each other to free food, which is invaluable, and we’re really good at talking each other down from panic attacks, which is even more invaluable.

**Have you observed each others’ teaching yet this quarter, and if so, what was that experience like? Ben, have Lacey (and other graduate students) provided any helpful advice or recommendations for your first quarter of teaching?**

L: We have not yet done this, but we shall. I hope Ben is looking forward to conjugating some German verbs he’s never heard of.

B: While we haven’t directly observed each other teach (possibly due to my lack of German knowledge), Lacey helped me plan activities for a section that I was freaking out about. The section was on Ovid’s *Art of Love*, which has sensitive, sexual content. Lacey was great at calming my fears. The rest of the



grad students, too, have been very helpful in brainstorming activities for teaching.

***Have you done anything particularly fun for any of your meetings, and do you hang out at all off-campus (or outside of Phelps)?***

L: We have hung out with the group as a whole and while we haven't had any official one-on-one meetings yet, I generally try to throw some daily mentoring Ben's way while sprawled across the graduate lounge couch covered in books and papers.

B: I think we make a good pair because it seems that we both like to complain, so to me, just "jamming" on the things that stress us out in the lounge is "fun" for me.

***What is one interesting fact you've learned so far about your mentor or mentee?***

L: Ben loves chess and purposeful over-caffeination.

B: Her boyfriend is in some kind of wackadoo band.

***Would you consider yourself the best mentor/mentee pair, say, of the year?***

L: I would say of the millenium, but being modest, let's go with "the best mentoring pair that ever has or ever will exist."

B: "Year" may be an understatement; I am inclined to say best mentor/mentee pair in written history.

***Do your research interests happen to intersect at all?***

L: Hmm. It's hard to tell. Do my research interests intersect with anybody now that Meaghan [Skahan] has abandoned me in my cave of spatial studies? We did have a fiery discussion about Nabokov. I won, though.

B: While our languages are different, I think we share interests in similar theorists and jokes about said theorists.

***Lacey, what is one piece of advice you wish someone had given you at the beginning of the year last year? (or as an incoming MA student at Colorado?)***

L: Don't buy all your books! Seriously, you can pick and choose which ones you need to buy, which ones you can borrow, which ones you can get from ILL, and which ones you can just not bother with all together. Taking a class in an unrelated field and they want you to buy a 200- dollar resource book? No. Stop that. Ain't nobody got time for that. RENT IT on Amazon Kindle...I rented a 200-dollar book for 2 months for 15 dollars. Seriously.

On a related note, I find that giving up on the idea that you will ever have your reading "done" is a liberating moment that I wish I'd experienced earlier. Pick your battles, read what's essential, and skim the rest.

***Ben: if you could give one piece of advice to an incoming student at this point, what would it be?***

B: Incoming as in starting next fall? Enjoy sleeping/napping while you can!

## New Faces in PASC (Phelps Administrative Support Center) & in French and Italian



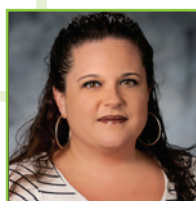
**Joell Emoto:** "I have worked with graduate students in the Comparative Literature program for a little over a year now and I really enjoy helping and supporting students during their time here at UCSB. I am originally from San Jose, CA and received my Bachelor's Degree in Social

Work at Azusa Pacific University and my Masters in Education at USC (Fight on!). When I'm not at work I try my best to stay active by hiking, boot camping and taking the stairs whenever I can. My door is always open and I love to hear what's going on with you all, so please feel free to stop by anytime!"



**Jim Lee:** "I'm excited to be working with Comparative Literature students and faculty and supporting everyone in their endeavors. I'm originally from Orange County and received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Cal State Fullerton and my Masters degree in Education from USC (Fight On!).

When I'm not at work I enjoy staying in shape, golfing, hitting the beach, and all things Batman, Dallas Cowboys, Lakers, and LA Dodgers-related!"



**Sara Mata:** "My name is Sara Mata. I have only been in the department for about five months now. So far I am enjoying working with everyone in each of the languages. Everyone is really nice and helpful, and I look forward to being here for many more years to come. I was born and raised in Goleta ("the good land"). I have two daughters, who are my everything. My oldest is a sophomore at Dos Pueblos High School, and my youngest is in 8th grade at Goleta Valley JR and will be attending Dos Pueblos High School next year. I love doing a lot of things: walks on the beach, reading, watching movies, BBQ's and most of all being with my family and friends."



**Jordan Tudesco:** "Also known as Jordan Amaranth online, I work as a French lecturer in UCSB and am working on a Masters in English Literary Translation and Translation Studies at Paris 8 Saint-Denis. My Master's thesis is on gender in translation and I am generally interested in gender, queer and transgender studies, video games, digital literature and art, especially photography, modeling and creative writing."



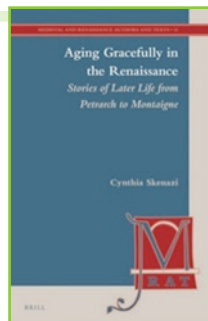
**Mariam Lmaifi:** "I was on the exchange program with the University of Paris-8 last year and have had the pleasure to extend my stay as a part-time Lecturer in the Department of French and Italian. I'm currently preparing a Masters in Literary Translation in the T3L program at Université Paris-8 and will be working on translating for the Humanities."

I am interested in educational strategies promoting literacy and second-language acquisition. My personal interests are varied and include pop-culture, creative writing, psychology and socio-linguistics."

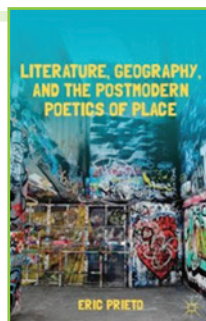
## Affiliated CL Faculty's Publications and Completed Projects



**Colin Gardner**  
(Professor of Art): *Beckett, Deleuze and the Televisual Event: Peephole Art* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012).



**Cynthia Skenazi**  
(Professor of French): *Aging Gracefully in the Renaissance. Stories of Later Life from Petrarch to Montaigne* (Brill, 2013).



**Eric Prieto**  
(Professor of French): *Literature, Geography, and the Postmodern Poetics of Place* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2012)

**Cynthia J. Brown** (French and Italian): "Books for a Queen: The Literary Patronage of Claude de France." *Bulletin du Bibliophile* 2 (2012): 257-70; co-authored with Susie Sutch, "Polemics in Print in the Low Countries: Venegien. Transcription with Introduction and English Translation." *Queeste* 19 (2012): 140-72.

**Dominique Jullien** (French and Italian) continued her work on Orientalism and the reception of *The Thousand and One Nights*: her article on Gérard de Nerval's *Voyage en Orient*, "Oriental Disguise and the *Thousand and One Nights* in Nerval," appeared in *French Forum* 37.3 (fall 2012). She was invited to participate in the 2012 exhibition on the *Arabian Nights* at the Institut du Monde arabe in Paris; her article "Hârûn al-Rashîd, du conte au feuilleton" features in the Catalog. She also was a collaborator in the large dictionary project: *Histoire des relations entre juifs et musulmans du Coran à nos jours*. Eds. Benjamin Stora and Abdelwahab Meddeb. Paris: Albin Michel, 2013 [the American edition was published simultaneously by Princeton UP in 2013]. Her article "Figures du juif dans *les Mille et une nuits*" [Figures of the Jew in the *Thousand and One Nights*], appeared in both versions. Additional articles include: "Translating Destiny: Hugo von Hofmannsthal's 'Tale of the 672nd Night'." *Scheherazade's Children: Encounters and Translations of The Arabian Nights in Literature and the Arts*. Eds. Marina Warner & Philip Kennedy. NY: NYU Press, 2013; "Proust: por uma ética da tradução", tr. Samira Mourad, in *Proust* 2011. Ed. P. Willemart. Universidade Saõ Paulo: Humanitas, Brazil.

**Ellen McCracken** (Spanish and Portuguese): "Performance and Linguistic Spectacle in Sandra Cisneros' *Caramelo* and Junot Díaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*." *Landscapes of Writing in Chicano Literature*. Ed. Imelda Martín-Junquera. Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 33-46.

**Didier Maleuvre** (French and Italian): *Museum Memories* (1999), his first book, has appeared in Spanish translation, *Memorias del Museo* (Madrid, 2012).

**Catherine Nesci** (French and Italian) has been working tirelessly as Associate Editor of *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*, which is the flagship journal in her main research field (<http://ncfs.unl.edu/>). Articles on text-images relations in French Romanticism include: "Images déplacées, images détournées ? D'Un Autre Monde de J. J. Grandville au *Diable à Paris* de P.-J. Hetzel." In online journal *Textimage*: [http://www.revue-textimage.com/conferencier/01\\_image\\_repetee/nesci1.html](http://www.revue-textimage.com/conferencier/01_image_repetee/nesci1.html); & "Splendeurs et misères du 'grand homme'. De la catabase médiévale aux masculinités modernes (Dante, Delacroix, Balzac)." *Masculinités en Révolution, de Rousseau à Balzac*. Eds. Jean-Marie Roulin & Daniel Maira. Saint-Etienne: Publications de l'Université de Saint-Etienne. 134-154.

**Eric Prieto** (French and Italian): In addition to his book, *Literature, Geography, and the Postmodern Poetics of Place*, he also published "Koffi Kwahulé's Coltranean Theatre of Cruelty." *Modernist Cultures* 8.1 (2013): 138-156.

**Elisabeth Weber** (Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies): *Living Together: Jacques Derrida's Communities of Violence and Peace*. Ed. Elisabeth Weber. New York: Fordham University Press, 2013.

**Sara Pankenier Weld** (Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies): "Nabokov's Northern Kingdoms: Pseudo-Scandinavian Traces and the Transnational Translation of the Self." *Scando-Slavica* 59.2 (2013): 185-206.

## Faculty Presentations and Guest Lectures

**Silvia Bermúdez** (Spanish and Portuguese) is completing her tenure in the Executive Committee on the Division of Popular Culture for the Modern Language Association of America and presented papers at the "Gynocine: Mujeres, Dones, and Cinema" Conference (University of Massachusetts, Fall 2012), the 2013 Modern Language Association Convention (Boston), the 2013 Santa Barbara Global Studies Conference, the II Congreso Internacional de Cine en español y portugués (June 2013, Universidad de Salamanca), and the Fall 2013 Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (Claremont Colleges). She also gave invited lectures at the Centro de la Mujer Peruana Flora Tristán (March 2013) and the Burning the Sea Symposium at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis (April 2013).







**Cynthia Brown** (French and Italian): “Allegorical Design and Political Image-Making in Late Medieval France” for the colloquium “Textual and Visual Representations of Power and Justice in Medieval Manuscript Culture,” Le Studium, Orléans, France, 5-6 July 2012. She gave the Ruth J. Dean Lecture on “Authorial Identity and Material Culture in Late Medieval French Manuscripts and Early Printed Books: The Enduring Debate about Female Virtues” at Mount Holyoke College, March 2013.

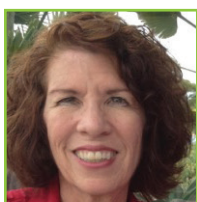


**Dominique Jullien** (French and Italian) was invited to Johns Hopkins University on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Gustave Flaubert’s *Salammbô*. At the 2013 meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (University of Toronto, April 2013), she gave a paper on “Euphoric Orients.” In July 2013 she organized a panel on Oriental travelers at the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA, Paris), where she gave a paper entitled “Elated Travelers.” She continues her involvement as a co-founder and steering committee member of the international World Literature Colloquia, with a meeting in December 2012 at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London (“World Literature, IV: Networks of Circulation”).



**Suzanne Jill Levine** (Spanish and Portuguese) participated in the Cultural Translation symposium hosted in the fall of 2013 by the NIDA School of Translation Studies in New York City.

**Didier Maleuvre** (French and Italian) was a visiting professor at University College, Utrecht, Netherlands in the Fall 2012. In the spring, Professor Maleuvre was invited by the Department of Comparative Literature at Emory University to deliver two lectures.



**Ellen McCracken** (Spanish and Portuguese): “Truth Comes for the Archbishop: The Construction of Hispano Ethnicity in Fray Angélico Chávez’s Early Historical Fiction,” Western Historical Association, Tucson, October 2013; “Trans-Textuality in Enhanced E-Books: Styron, Poe, and Kerouac,” Spanish Association for American Studies, University of La Laguna, Tenerife, Spain, March, 2013; “Multimedia Adaptation in Enhanced E-Books: What Is the Text?” Modern Language Association, Boston, January 2013; “The New Road to *On the Road*: Intratextuality in the Enhanced E-Book,” Semiotic Circle of California, UC Berkeley, January 2013.



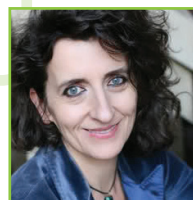
**Catherine Nesci** (French and Italian) gave two plenary addresses: “Femmes, villes et modernités, de Delphine de Girardin à Régine Robin,” Joint Colloquium of the APFUC [Association of Professors of French in Canadian Universities and Colleges] and the ACÉF XIX [The Association of Nineteenth-Century French Specialists in Canada], University of Victoria, June 3-5, 2013; “‘ce ciel de l’intelligence’. Des catabases médiévales aux masculinités romantiques.” SDN-Society of Dix-Neuviémistes, “Heaven and Hell,” 11th Annual Conference, University of Exeter (UK), April 8-10, 2013.

She also gave a short paper “Cités, Textualités, Urbanités” for the panel entitled “Eating Orders,” a roundtable on the works of Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson and the study of culinary cultures, which she co-organized with Susan Hiner (Vassar College) for the 38th Annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, “Feast and Famine,” Raleigh, North Carolina, October 11–14, 2012.



**Eric Prieto** (French and Italian) presented at the ACLA (April 2013, Toronto): “Geopoetics of the Squatter City” as well as the ICLA (July 2013, Paris): “Shanty Chic: Une (géo)critique de la littérature des bidonvilles.”

**Elisabeth Weber** (Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies) presented “Guantánamo Poems” in August 2012 at a three-day advanced research seminar hosted by the English Department of the University of Macao on “Suffering in Literature.” In March 2013, “Nightblack. Formatting Love” at an international conference at New York University in honor of Friedrich Kittler, “The Sirens Go Silent.” In May 2013, she gave a lecture entitled “Frieden denken, vielleicht” (“Thinking Peace, Perhaps”), on the reflection on “peace” in Jacques Derrida’s œuvre at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, in Munich.



**Sara Pankenier Weld** (Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies) has presented three conference papers since last fall: “Revolution, the Body, and the Semiotics of Size in Yuri Olesha’s *Tri tolstiaka*” at the ASEES Convention in New Orleans (November 2012), “*Laika*: Hagiographic Aspects of Laika’s Representation as Transnational Animal Martyr” at the IRSCL Congress in Maastricht (August 2013), and “Infancy as Device: The Infantile Aesthetic in Russian Formalist Theory” for a conference on the 100th anniversary of Russian Formalism held in Moscow (August 2013). She also delivered an invited talk on “The Semiotics of Size: Revolution, the Body, and Childhood as Contested Space in Olesha’s *Three Fat Men*” at Pomona College in April 2013 and spoke at length about her new book project on “Rare Books by Remarkable Russians” at Princeton University Library in August 2013.

## Faculty Awards and Appointments

**Cynthia J. Brown** (French and Italian) was recently named “Chevalier des Palmes Académiques” by the French government; she became an Affiliate in Comparative Literature in January 2013.

**Jill Levine** (Spanish and Portuguese) received another major award: her translation of Jose Donoso’s *The Lizard’s Tale* has won the PEN Center USA 2012 award for Literary Translation. Congratulations to Professor Levine!

**Sara Pankenier Weld** (Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies) received a Friends of the Princeton University Library Research Travel Grant to pursue research in Rare Books and Special Collections at Firestone Library this summer.

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## New (or Returning) Faculty Appointments

**Dominique Jullien** (Professor of French) was appointed by Dean David Marshall to direct the new Graduate Center for Literary Research. The GCLR brings together faculty and students from across humanities departments for round tables, conferences and research groups, drawing on the rich and vibrant spirit of interdisciplinary collaboration on our campus. It awards travel grants and recruitment fellowships to Graduate students and invites a distinguished visiting professor each year. Please check out the link to the GCLR website: <http://www.complit.ucsb.edu/gclr/home>

**Sarah Roberts** (Lecturer, French and Italian) was born in London, England and educated, prior to college, in London and Paris. With a B.A. in French Literature from Brown University and a Ph.D. in French Literature from UC Berkeley, she is currently Lecturer of French at UC Santa Barbara and Director of UC Berkeley’s Travel Study Summer Program in Paris. She teaches courses in French language, literature, history, and culture, as well as applied linguistics and pedagogy, and her principal areas of research interest are Second-Language Acquisition and French theater. One of the main projects she is working on at the moment, with Berkeley Summer Sessions, is the design and development of a new summer internship program in Paris for UC undergraduates. They plan to have the program up and running, under Sarah’s direction, next summer. Another project she is very excited about is *Vagabond*, a multilingual creative writing journal for undergraduates at UCSB that she and Valentina Padula (Lecturer, Italian) are starting up this fall with a small group of students in French and Italian. They hope to publish the first issue in the spring.

**Jean Marie Schultz** (French and Italian) is back in town! She currently directs the lower-division French language program here at UCSB. She obtained her BA in French and in Comparative Literature and her MA and PhD in Comparative Literature, with specialties in 19th- and early 20th-century French, Russian, and English literature, from the University of California, Berkeley, where she also directed the Intermediate French language program for sixteen years. For the academic

years 2011-2013, Jean Marie served as the Education Abroad Program Study Center Director in France, overseeing the centers in Paris, Bordeaux, and Lyon. She publishes in Applied Linguistics, specializing in foreign language writing, literacy, and language pedagogy. She is also the co-author of the intermediate French textbook, *Réseau*, and is currently working on a second edition. Welcome back, Jean!

**Sara Pankenier Weld** was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Germanic, Slavic, and Semitic Studies. She has been teaching Russian and Comparative Literature courses at UCSB since January 2012 and looks forward to continuing to do so. She comes to UCSB from Bard College, where she was an Assistant Professor of Russian in the Division of Languages and Literature. Her first book, entitled *Voicelless Vanguard: The Infantalist Aesthetic of the Russian Avant-Garde*, is forthcoming with Northwestern University Press in 2014. Her next book project is entitled *Rare Books by Remarkable Russians*. Her interests include Russian, Scandinavian, and Comparative Literature; avant-garde literature, art, and theory; literatures of the north; word and image studies; childhood, children’s literature, and picture books. Sara was very involved in last year’s job-market season in Comparative Literature, and has contributed some job market tips for inclusion in this newsletter (see below).

**Tristram Wolff** holds his doctoral degree in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley, completed under the guidance of Professor Anne-Lise François (Comp Lit/English) and committee members Professors Judith Butler (Comp Lit/Rhetoric), Steven Goldsmith (English), Niklaus Largier (Comp Lit/German), and Michael Lucey (Comp Lit/French). His dissertation is a study in comparative romanticisms, entitled *Romantic Etymology and Language Ecology*. Dr. Wolff also completed an emphasis in Critical Theory under the directorship of Professors Judith Butler and Martin Jay. Dr. Wolff is teaching a course on the many faces of German Romanticism in the fall, and will teach *Introduction to Comparative Literature* in the winter, and a GE course on narrative studies in the spring. Welcome to CL and GSS, Tristram!

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## The New Graduate Center for Literary Research

The Graduate Center for Literary Research (GCLR) aims to enrich and enhance the experience of students and faculty involved in literary studies by promoting interdisciplinary dialogue and encounters. The GCLR is directed by **Dominique Jullien**, administered by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center, and has an advisory board consisting of both faculty members and graduate students whose work engages a range of disciplines, including: Art; Black Studies; Classics; Comparative Literature; East Asian Studies; English; Film & Media Studies; French & Italian; German, Slavic & Semitic Studies; History of Art and Architecture; Religious Studies; and Spanish & Portuguese.



With the sponsorship of the Michael Douglas Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts, David Marshall, the GCLR has created several initiatives to support literary, interdisciplinary scholarship. Congratulations to Jeffrey Bellomi, David Hur, and Deepti Menon, recipients of the inaugural GCLR recruitment fellowships. Thanks to our GCLR Graduate Student Advisory Board members for creative approaches to our upcoming graduate student conference, which will explore the theme of “Disclosure” (Spring 2014). The GCLR is also pleased to sponsor the international conference on “Urban Mysteries” (February 2014) organized by Catherine Nesci, Chair of the Comparative Literature Program, and the symposium on Aimé Césaire (Spring 2014) organized by Eric Prieto, Chair of the Department of French and Italian.

Finally, the GCLR will sponsor two roundtables this year (Fall 2013 and Winter 2014). At each roundtable, three graduate students, from any discipline, will present their works-in-progress in a collaborative, roundtable format; students that present papers-in-progress at GCLR roundtables are subsequently eligible to receive travel grants to present their revised papers at conferences. Abstracts accepted for our Spring 2013 roundtable can be viewed on the GCLR website. Many thanks to our Spring 2013 roundtable participants: Can Aksoy (English), Pedro Escobar-Urbe (Spanish & Portuguese), and Lacey Smith (Comparative Literature).

The GCLR welcomes all faculty and graduate students to participate in our ongoing interdisciplinary exchanges. For more information, please visit the GCLR website or contact the GCLR Graduate Assistant (Shari Sanders, [sanders01@umail.ucsb.edu](mailto:sanders01@umail.ucsb.edu)).

## GCLR Faculty & Student Advisory Board Members

Director: **Dominique Jullien** (French & Italian)

Faculty Advisory Board:

- Michael Berry (East Asian Studies)
- Julie Carlson (English)
- Susan Derwin (IHC Director)
- Colin Gardner (Art)
- Wolf Kittler (Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies)
- Suzanne Jill Levine (Spanish & Portuguese)
- Laurie Monahan (History of Art and Architecture)
- Catherine Nesci (French & Italian, Comparative Literature Chair)
- Lisa Parks (Film & Media Studies)
- Glenn Patten (Classics)
- Dwight Reynolds (Religious Studies)
- Jon Snyder (French & Italian)
- Roberto Strongman (Black Studies)

## Student Advisory Board

Student Coordinator: Shari Sanders (Comparative Literature)

- Can Aksoy (English)
- Brett Collins (Classics)
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- Martie Roberts (Religious Studies)
- Lacey Smith (Comparative Literature)
- Sharalyn Sanders (Comparative Literature)
- Rebecca Stewart (Comparative Literature)

## Tips for the Academic Job Market for Comparative Literature Graduate Students

by Sara Pankenier Weld

### A Job Market Anecdote:

A group of professors was sitting in a hotel room preparing to interview the next job candidate. The candidate’s name included an astonishing assortment of letters. One professor ventured that the name must be of Finnish origin, while the others disagreed with him. When the poor candidate knocked at the door and nervously entered the room, the first professor could not help but blurt out: “Is it Finnish?” The surprised and terrified candidate replied, “No! But I promise I will finish it soon!”

### Applying for Jobs:

- Creating a cover letter from scratch can be challenging. It can be really useful to work from a model from a recent successful example from someone in a similar or related field. If you don’t have examples to work from, ask for help in acquiring these.
- Get access to and check every listing relevant for your field, eg. ADFL/MLA/JIL, listservs, websites of relevant professional organizations, etc.
- Be open-minded in considering where to apply.

### Preparing for an Interview:

- Mock interviews are really useful to give you an idea of what to expect and to help still your nerves. Practice makes perfect.

- Practice short (1 minute) and longer (3-5 minute) descriptions of your dissertation work so much that you can do it in your sleep forwards and backwards – and even under duress. (At the same time, make sure that it sounds spontaneous and engaging even though you know it by heart.)
- For foreign language positions, practice describing your dissertation in that language.
- Be prepared to talk about the timeline for the completion of your dissertation and to be convincing.
- Be ready to talk about future research interests beyond your dissertation.
- Prepare to talk about what courses you would like to teach for various levels and for different student profiles at that institution (or relevant to your field generally).
- Research the place and people thoroughly beforehand. Compiling this and referring back to it just before your interview can be useful.
- Think about whether research or teaching is more of a focus at this institution, but remember that everyone values research. Be open-minded and respectful. Do not demean any institution or anybody.
- Prepare intelligent questions in advance. Have some back-up questions, eg. how to be successful at this institution or future areas of development and/or how you can make a contribution. (Bear in mind that at this stage, questions may be more about showcasing your strengths than legitimately clarifying something.)

### Interviewing:

- Give yourself plenty of time to prepare and locate the room.
- A strong knock and a firm handshake make a great first impression.
- Don't forget to smile! Act like you are enjoying it and you just may.
- Bring an extra CV in case it happens to be of use.
- Remember to look at and address everybody in the room when you are answering questions no matter who asked a particular question.
- Be aware of subtle cues. For example, when to wind up what you are saying or when to go on with a description or when it is time to move on to another question.
- Pulling out extra materials, such as sample syllabi or evidence of teaching or an entire teaching portfolio, can really knock their socks off.
- It may be useful to jot down notes about the interview immediately afterwards.
- Remember to send a thank you note to the people who have interviewed you.

### Before a Campus Visit:

- Be prepared for anything, even minor disasters, so nothing can throw you off your game. For example, have back-up versions or materials in case of technical issues. Avoid checking your luggage. Keep your most necessary materials close at hand.
- Practice your job talk in advance. Answering questions is especially good practice. Make your talk reflective of your dissertation work and on a subject where your knowledge is extensive and unparalleled. Going into depth and also showing the wider stakes that give others entry into your area of interest is ideal.
- Some people may offer you advice before or during your visit. If it's helpful, take their advice and use it.

### Campus Visits:

- Be yourself. It may help to remember that you too are evaluating whether this institution is a good match for you.
- Enjoy! You will be treated as a possible future colleague and your work will be taken seriously. They are genuinely interested in you and your work. You are the guest of honor!
- After a talk, someone may challenge you to see how you respond. Expect this and keep your cool.
- After a talk, someone from another field may ask a completely unexpected question. Always be respectful and do your best to steer it in a useful direction.
- Don't expect to have any breaks, though they are scheduled. They might all disappear!
- Remember to send a thank you note to the people with whom have you had significant contact.

### Afterwards:

- Don't be dispirited if you do not succeed at first. Getting your first job can take time. It may be a matter of "fit" or departmental politics, so don't take it personally. Just keep working hard to improve your candidacy further. Next time you will have experience to help you out!
- Stay tuned for replacement positions that are announced late. There may be some late churn as a result of shifts in the field.
- Be open-minded about all the possibilities that are open to you. Value the skills and expertise that you have acquired, because this is the real purpose of your degree.

### *Best of luck to you!*

For assistance, answers to further questions, or to follow up on any of these items, you can contact me, **Sara Pankenier Weld**, at [sweld@gss.ucsb.edu](mailto:sweld@gss.ucsb.edu)



## Scholarly Lectures & Various Events

On **September 24**, 2012, doctoral candidate **Katherine Kelp-Stebbins** (2012-2013 Lead TA) conducted a day-long TA-training workshop, “A Resource-Full Community,” for all new and returning TAs in Comparative Literature.

On **October 1**, 2012, the Comparative Literature Program and the Departments of French and Italian, and of Germanic, Slavic and Semitic Studies, hosted a **reception** to introduce new graduate students and visiting faculty.

On **October 24**, 2012, **Susana Chávez-Silverman**, a writer and professor of Romance Languages and Literature at Pomona College, spoke on “(He)art in the Interstices: Living with the Question” in the College of Creative Studies. The event was organized by doctoral candidate **Meaghan Skahan**, and sponsored by CCS and CLIT.

On **February 25**, 2013, doctoral candidates **Kristie Soares** and **Marzia Milazzo** led a TA Training Workshop on “Teaching Racism and Sexism in a Racialized and Sexualized World.”

On **March 4**, 2013, CL sponsored the talk by Professor **Christopher Johnson** (UCLA), “Francisco Hernández, the Accademia dei Lincei, and Transatlantic Encyclopedism.”

On **May 1**, 2013, novelist **Ananda Devi**, gave a talk on “Bilingualism and Self-Translation,” and she spoke on her novel *Indian Tango* and signed books for students enrolled in CLIT100, *Introduction to Comparative Literature*, taught by doctoral candidate **Allison Schifani**.

On **May 1**, 2013, Professor **Rüdiger Campe** (Yale University) and, on **May 8**, Professor **John D. Lyons** (University of Virginia) gave lectures on the question on “Fortune, Chance and Randomness in European literature from the Renaissance to Diderot,” for students enrolled in CLIT30B, taught by Professor Anne Maurseth (French and Italian).

On **May 14**, 2013, Professor **Amalia Glaser** (UCSD) spoke on “Jews and Ukrainians in Russia’s Literary Borderlands: From the Shtetl Fair to the Petersburg Bookshop.”

On **May 28**, 2013, we held an **Undergraduate Reception** so our students could learn about our programs, our 2013-2014 courses, and meet instructors, advisors, & other students as well as the Co-Presidents of the new Comparative Literature Society.

On **June 5**, 2013, writer **Eugene Yelchin** spoke on “The Price of Truth: Reading Books in a Police State” in the College of Creative Studies Literature Symposium. Yelchin also spoke in the CLIT 128A course, *Children’s Literature*.

## 2012-2013 Parties

The Comparative Literature Program and the Department of French and Italian savored a delicious and joyful lunch on **December 7, 2012** at the **Mosher Alumni House**. Our Phelps staff, graduate students and affiliated professors celebrated the end of a productive quarter and enjoyed an Indian buffet.

There was indeed a culinary theme throughout the whole year, as Chair Catherine Nesci is strongly attached to Indian food (and it has to be gluten-free, dairy-free), so we’ve had our share of Indian buffets! Our “**Food for Thought**” event returned on **June 7**, and we were able to taste other kinds of food. Undergraduates also cooked lovely dishes for the event.



Claudia Yaghoobi and Kristie Soares both received teaching awards in Comparative Literature at UCSB: congratulations to you both!



Lacey Smith and Becky Stewart shine as the 2012 recipients of the “best holiday sweater” award.



Marzia Milazzo, Lacey Smith, and Silvia Ferreira swap jet lag remedies.



(From left to right) Lacey Smith, Becky Stewart, Alex Liu, Mike Grafals, Aurélie Chevant and Tegan Raleigh. Fellow grad students gather 'round to enjoy Lacey's explanation of the field of spatial studies in mime.



Professors Dominique Jullien, Suzanne Jill Levine, and Sarah Pankenier Weld are all smiles after a successful fall quarter.



Christophe Corbin and Katherine Kelp-Stebbins prepare to tuck into their fine Indian fare.



Sharalyn Sanders and Rodrigo Bauler enjoy the wreathereal beauty of the Alumni House at its holiday best.

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p. 13: Cooper SY Blumenthal

Holiday Parties,  
pp. 17-18: Marcel Brousseau