



UC SANTA BARBARA
COMPARATIVE
LITERATURE

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NEWS FOR

Alumni & Friends of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies &
The Graduate Center for Literary Research

Summer 2018—Spring 2019

UC SANTA BARBARA
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Comparative Literature

UC Santa Barbara

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Notes from the Chairs and Directors

Catherine Nesci

Chair, Comparative Literature



My last year as Chair has been dedicated to the preparation of the documents, self-study, and development plan for our impending external review (winter 2020), which will be combined with the Department of French and Italian and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. Discussions with our graduate students and our Board members have started regarding a new exam structure that will allow students to advance to candidacy in a more timely and prepared manner. In 2018-19, we enrolled close to 2800 students and offered 49 courses and seminars. Our undergraduate and graduate curricula have been as diverse as ever, with offerings on African, Asian, Western and Eastern European, Hebrew, Middle Eastern, and Northern and Southern American literatures. Although these courses are offered in translation, they expose our UCSB students to a rich palette of literary traditions, themes, and genres across centuries and cultures, and to rich interdisciplinary frameworks, from literary studies to film and media studies, ecocriticism and the environmental humanities.

One of our major achievements is the success of our Translation Studies Minor, which now counts over 45 students completing a creative research project for their capstone requirement. Our second achievement is the work completed by a group of dedicated majors and minors, who gave our **Comparative Literature Society** new life, with Dominick Ojeda as its new President; along with TS Minor Bhavi Bhagat (Honors Student, Religious Studies Major, BA S2019), Dominick also renewed the tradition of our Undergraduate Conference along new critical lines, and aptly called it "Literature now." A third initiative includes the creation of UCSB Memory Studies group, which held seven events throughout the year. We also learned with pride that ABD Arpi Movsesian received a competitive Fellowship from the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies to study in Russia in Winter 2020; that, in summer 2019, a piece that ABD Katie Lateef-Jan co-translated with Prof. Suzanne Jill Levine, her mentor, will be published in *The New Yorker* online; and, finally, that our new graduate alumni received postdoctoral Fellowships: Dr. Bozhou Men will be a postdoc Fellow at Fudan University (China) and Dr. Alvaro Luna a postdoc Fellow with the National French Research Center (the CNRS) and the University Paris-7 Denis Diderot. Congratulations to our wonderful students for their work and dedication!

As I am preparing to step down after a seven-year mandate, I wish to thank all the colleagues who have been mentoring our students, teaching our courses, and supporting our efforts to support the excellence and rich diversity of our intellectual and pedagogical activities. I also express my deep gratitude to Prof. Didier Maleuvre (Chair of French and Italian), Prof. Elisabeth Weber (Chair of Germanic and Slavic Studies), and Prof. Dominique Jullien (Director, Graduate Center for Literary Research), for their financial support of our graduate students, which helped generate valuable research quarters for our new and continuing graduate students. Finally, Dean John Majewski (Humanities and Fine Arts) and Dean Carol Genetti (Graduate Division) have been strong supporters of our program and also deserve our most sincere thanks.

Notes from the Chairs and Directors

Dominique Jullien

Incoming Chair, Comparative Literature



Dominique Jullien will be starting her term as Chair of Comparative Literature in Fall of 2019. In a recent interview she was asked to outline her vision for the program going forward: In many ways I'm inheriting a program and a group of students shaped by my predecessor,

and my first task will be to make sure her vision and her work continue to thrive. Under Catherine Nesci's leadership the number of affiliated faculty members and graduate students has grown significantly, and the department has become substantially more diversified. I am excited to step into such a vibrant work environment as the new chair. I'm also grateful for the experience, help and support I can rely on from our well-trained and dedicated staff, even as I'm saddened by the departure of two integral members of the department: Elizabeth Fair and Mary Gay. And with Eric Prieto as the new vice-chair and Roberto Strongman as the new Undergraduate Faculty Advisor, I feel a strong team is in place to take on the challenge with me. However, while the chair's position is a new challenge, I believe my seven years of experience as the Director of the Graduate Center for Literary Research have prepared me for the task at hand. Comparative Literature and the GCLR share many of the same goals, such as bringing people from a wide

range of fields together to foster rich interdisciplinary conversations. As chair of Comparative Literature I intend to continue promoting the open, interdisciplinary energy specific to humanities on our campus, taking our interests beyond the traditional models of Comparative Literature. Acknowledging the fact that humanities scholars are branching out into a multitude of directions—thinking about the humanities in the context of translation studies, world literature, postcolonial studies, global studies, cognitive criticism, medical humanities or digital humanities, to name a few—I believe in encouraging a broad range of fields, approaches and topics, engaging ever more the expertise of scholars from other humanities departments and area studies, and in particular facilitating more team-taught courses on cutting-edge ideas. While we must acknowledge that the humanities have declined, in terms of both job prospects and enrollments, we should also be aware that students who choose the humanities are choosing to perfect vital skills in today's world: the ability to read, think and write critically and clearly. These are more valuable than ever before in our age of information and disinformation, and applicable far beyond academic careers. I want our Comparative Literature program to instill a sense of this importance and worth in our academic community.

Didier Maleuvre

Chair, French and Italian



We are delighted to announce that our junior colleague Renan Larue earned his well-merited tenure in Spring 2019. Just in the same season, we resignedly part with our renowned medievalist, Professor Cynthia Brown who left us for the fair pastures of emeritus life.

Professor Brown has been an exemplary, much-admired member of our department for over thirty years, an award-winning scholar who has written on the medieval and early Renaissance literatures and cultures, and on topics as diverse as the history of the book, women's libraries, and dynastic networking. On April 20, an international conference was co-organized by her graduate students: doctoral student Christene d'Anca, alumnae Kappie SC Kaplan (Rice University), Deborah McGrady (University of

Virginia), and Anneliese Pollock-Renck (Carroll College). Also leaving us in Spring 2019, and leaving us very much the lesser for it, is our Francophone Italianist colleague, Professor Jon Snyder who, even in his last quarter of teaching, was still initiating new courses, such as his co-taught, cross-listed "Italy/Asia" (with Professor Rambelli, Religious Studies/East Asian). For years, Professor Snyder taught his popular course on Dante (Italian 114X) also cross-listed with Religious Studies, and published and lectured extensively on the literatures, arts and cultures of early modern Europe, especially Italy; he also wrote essays and translations concerning modern and postmodern Italy and Europe. So it's welcome to Renan, then, and wishing fair wind to Cynthia and Jon who, we are glad to hear, are planning to keep our department as their port of research professorship.

Notes from the Chairs and Directors

Elisabeth Weber

Chair, Germanic and Slavic Studies



As every year, GSS colleagues contributed a significant number of classes to the Comparative Literature curriculum. Most notably, in Winter 2019, we welcomed as our Kade Visiting Professor Dr. Ute Holl from Basel University (Switzerland), who taught a large lower-division lecture course on "Travel and Journey in the Film and Literature of the Middle East and North Africa" and a graduate seminar on "Memory and Cinema." During the same quarter, we organized the screening of *The Milan Protocols* by Peter Ott, an important feature film on the still-ongoing, multifaceted crises in Iraq and Syria. In Winter and Spring 2019, the department co-sponsored a series of lectures and seminars at UCSB and UCLA organized by Sven Spieker (UCSB) and by Vadim Shneyder (UCLA) on the "Returns of Realism."

In April 2019, we organized a day of commemorating the **life and work of Ursula Mahlendorf**, a Professor of German and Feminist Studies, who was the first woman to receive tenure at UC Santa Barbara in 1965. A longtime pioneer and champion of gender equity and campus diversity, Professor Mahlendorf was instrumental in the establishment and development of the Women's Studies

Program (now Department of Feminist Studies). In the February 1987 proposal to establish the program, she pledged, together with Sarah Fenstermaker (Sociology), Patricia Cline Cohen (History), and Barbara Voorhies (Anthropology) the program's commitment to "the principle of incorporating racial, ethnic, and cultural diversity in both research and teaching on the experience of women," formulating already then the intersectional and global perspectives that would form the program's uniqueness and place it in the vanguard of Women's Studies as a field. Her path-breaking work, inspiration, and tireless mentoring of graduate students and junior colleagues were celebrated through presentations by renowned professors of Gender Studies, German and History.



We were happy to be able to support graduate students with Kade and Atkins fellowships, providing them with teaching-free quarters dedicated to their research, and with Kade travel fellowships to German-speaking countries in the summer. The department continues to be committed to the thriving of Comparative Literature Program's curriculum and intellectual culture.

Suzanne Jill Levine

Director, Translation Studies Research



We have had an active year of speakers and events in the Translation Studies program. Some of the highlights include the following: On November 16, 2018 we had a very successful all-day international UC-wide conference, co-sponsored by Spanish and Portuguese and several UCSB departments and programs: *The Fabricant: Symposium on the Figure of the Translator* with the following guest panelists, Gloria Chacon (UCSD), Carolina Paganine, from the Universidade Federal in Brazil (she was our annual Fulbright Fellow in Translation Studies), Deanna Cacholan-Schanz, University of Pennsylvania, and Cesar Osuna (CSU, Northridge), and as invited keynote speaker, the eminent poet and retired UCSB Professor, Jerome Rothenberg, who gave a lecture entitled "Toward a Poetics of the Americas: A Transnational Assemblage in Progress." During

Spring Quarter, our Graduate Translation Studies Core Seminar (Comparative Literature 260) hosted three guests. Thanks to Prof. Claudio Fogu and the French & Italian Department, Eleanora Federico, Associate Professor of English and Translation Studies Department of Literary, Linguistic and Cultural Studies, at the University L'Orientale, Naples (Italy) spoke to us about Jhumpha Lahiri and Self-Translation, on April 17, 2019; on May 1 Dr. Maria Constanza Guzman (Director of Translation Studies at Glendon College, Toronto) presented her latest research, "Revisiting the Translator's Archive: Toward a Genealogy of Translation in the Americas" (visit co-sponsored by the Graduate Center for Literary Research); on April 24, UCLA's Distinguished Professor Efrain Kristal (Comparative Literature, UCLA) lectured brilliantly on "Philosophical and Theoretical Approaches to Translation."

The Graduate Center for Literary Research

Dominique Jullien
Director

Dalia Bolotnikov Mazur
Student Coordinator



Now in its sixth year, the Graduate Center for Literary Research continues to grow and thrive. Three doctoral students with demonstrated interdisciplinary interests were offered GCLR Recruitment Fellowships upon joining UCSB: Trinankur Banerjee (Film and Media Studies), Shanna Killeen (Comparative Literature), and Mariam Lmaifi (Comparative Literature). They also have several new members on their faculty and student advisory boards.

Their 2018-19 Distinguished Visiting Scholar was Souleymane Bachir Diagne, a professor at Columbia University in the Departments of French and Philosophy, with areas of research and publication including History of Philosophy, History of Logic and Mathematics, Islamic Philosophy, and African Philosophy and Literature. During his busy and exciting week on our campus, Diagne was the guest speaker at a film screening of Ousmane Sembène's *Borom Sarret* (1963) and Djibril Diop Mambéty's *La Petite Vendéuse de soleil* (1999), taught a graduate seminar, entitled "A postcolonial Bergson: élan vital in the philosophy of Muhammad Iqbal and Leopold Sédar Senghor," which focused on the influence of Bergsonism among colonial/postcolonial subjects, and gave a public lecture on "Translation and Decolonization." For more information on Diagne's visit, please visit: <https://gclr.complit.ucsb.edu/scholars>.

For their sixth annual GCLR conference, "Memory and Movement," they collaborated with UCSB Memory Studies Group to bring together faculty and students from UCSB and other universities for a day-long interdisciplinary conversation on the interplay between memory and movement. Presentation topics included the effects of neuroscientific discoveries and digital

discourse on our understanding of identity, the role of literature and art in thinking through trauma and transgenerational memories, the healing role of narrative, and memory and architecture. The keynote address by Michael Rothberg, the 1939 Society Samuel Goetz Chair in Holocaust Studies and Professor of English and Comparative Literature at UCLA, re-examined the notion

of historical responsibility. For more information on the conference, please visit:

<https://gclr.complit.ucsb.edu/conference>.

Their affiliation with the Harvard Institute for World Literature, which offers students from around the world a month-long session of seminars and workshops taught by a wide range of scholars working across disciplines, has continued this year. Four of our graduate students will be representing UCSB at the IWL this summer in Boston, and like last year, the GCLR succeeded in raising enough funds to fully cover their expenses. We wish our students an exciting and productive summer at Harvard, and we hope many more UCSB students will follow in their footsteps in future years. For more information on the Harvard IWL, please visit: <https://iwl.fas.harvard.edu/>.

The GCLR co-sponsored a wide variety of lectures and conferences on campus. The main event was a two-day interdisciplinary symposium commemorating Stanley Cavell's career, "Democratic Affections: Film, Philosophy, and Religion in the Thought of Stanley Cavell", co-organized by Dominique Jullien, Thomas Carlson (Religious Studies) and Andrew Norris (Political Science). See more here: <https://gclr.complit.ucsb.edu/news/event/345>.

In addition, the GCLR continued its mission of providing opportunities for interdisciplinary conversations. Two roundtables brought together student presenters from across the humanities, and four travel grants were awarded to presenters whose papers were subsequently accepted at major conferences. For more information on roundtables, please visit: <https://gclr.complit.ucsb.edu/grants>.

New Affiliated Faculty



An Assistant Professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, **Thomas Mazanec** researches premodern Chinese literature and religion, as well as their dialogue with other cultures. He is also interested in world literature, poetics,

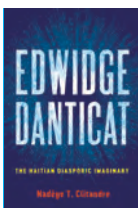
digital humanities, and translation studies. His publications cover a broad range of topics, from the problem of translating rhythm, to the evolution of a Sanskrit literary term in medieval China, to the potential contributions of network analysis to literary history. He is especially fond of the art of literary translation and maintains a collection of bizarre and obscure translations of classical Chinese poetry into English. He is currently revising the manuscript of his first book, *Poet-Monks and the Invention of Chinese Buddhist Poetry*, which explores the formation of a tradition of “poet-monks” during the ninth and tenth centuries, and the ways in which these monks sought to equate poetic and religious practice in their verses. His next project, *Beyond Lyricism: Chinese Poetry in Other Modes*, explores the genres and practices which lie on the borderlines of “poetry” in early and medieval China. Those interested in learning more about his work are invited to visit his website, <http://tommazanec.com>.



An Associate Professor of Religious Studies, **Elizabeth Pérez** is an ethnographer and historian of Afro-Diasporic religions and LGBTQ religious experience. She holds a PhD from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She specializes in innovative religious

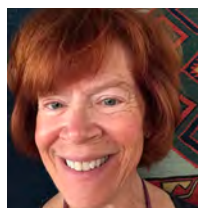
formations that crystallized in the Americas, such as the transnational Afro-Cuban tradition of Lucumí, Puerto Rican Espiritismo, Brazilian Candomblé, and Haitian Vodou. More broadly, her research interests include the aesthetics of altar displays, the construction of historical memory through ritual performance, and Marian devotion in Mexico and the Caribbean. Her first book, *Religion in the Kitchen: Cooking, Talking, and the Making of Black Atlantic Traditions* was published in 2016 by NYU Press as a “signature book” in its North American Religions Series. Honored as a finalist for the 2017 Albert J. Raboteau Prize for the Best Book in Africana Religions, *Religion in the Kitchen* was awarded the 2017 Clifford Geertz Prize in the Anthropology of Religion. Her poetry has appeared in *WSQ*, *The Immanent Frame*, and elsewhere

Updates from Affiliated Faculty



Comparative Literature Board Member **Nadège Clitandre's** newest book, *Edwidge Danticat: The Haitian Diasporic Imaginary* (U of Virginia P, 2018),

investigates the work of Edwidge Danticat, a Haitian-American author whose work has not yet been at the center of an entire interpretive literary analysis, despite her prolific career and international renown. Clitandre examines Danticat's exploration of the dialogic relationship between nation and diaspora, arguing that Danticat's literary movement between genres throughout her variety of works essentially articulates a diasporic consciousness. Clitandre is the Diversity Advocate for Comparative Literature.



Now in production is **Jody Enders's** Introduction to *The Cultural History of Tragedy in the Middle Ages* (forthcoming by

Bloomsbury) in the Cultural Histories series, which she coedited with Theresa Coletti, John Sebastian, and Carol Symes. And, new to the stage at the opening night of the Mostly Medieval Theater Festival (International Congress for Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo): a production of one of the farces that she translated in *Holy Deadlock* (Penn Press, 2017), “Husband Swap,” which was performed on May 8, 2018, with an encore performance on May 11.



Comparative Literature Board Member and Vice Chair **Dominique Jullien** published a new book, *Morphology and*

World Literature: a Morphology of Renunciation Tales (2019), which follows the renunciation story (a king leaves his palace to become an ascetic, a story that possesses great cross-cultural adaptability and powerful political, aesthetic and philosophical resonance) in Borges and beyond, arguing for its centrality as a Borgesian compositional trope and as a Borgesian prism for reading a global constellation of texts (Palgrave-Macmillan, <https://www.palgrave.com/us/book/9783030047160>). She

Updates from Affiliated Faculty

also published “Empire of the Mind: Reading Kipling through Borges’s Renunciation Stories” (*Empires and World Literature*, edited by Piero Boitani and Emilia Di Rocco, AlboVersorio, 2019), and “Wonder in Borges: the Final Chapters” (*Astonishment. Essays on Wonder for Piero Boitani*, edited by Emilia di Rocco, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2019).

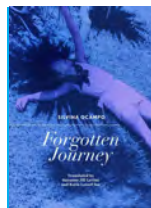
In celebration of the life of Stanley Cavell (1926-2018), and in collaboration with Andrew Norris (Political Science, UCSB) and Thomas Carlson (Religious Studies, UCSB), Jullien organized a two-day international and cross-disciplinary conference on Stanley Cavell. With the collaboration of the UCSB Carsey-Wolf Center, they organized a screening of *The Lady Eve* at UCSB Pollock Theater, followed by a Q&A session with world-renowned Cavell scholars William Rothman and Sandra Laugier (<https://gclr.complit.ucsb.edu/news/event/345>).



Renan Larue was promoted Associate Professor as of July 1, 2019. While concluding another successful year of running

Vegan Studies at UCSB where he has been hosting a variety of speakers and events (<https://www.veganstudies.org/>), Larue also completed his most recent book, *Le Végétarisme des Lumières* (Garnier, 2019). Within his work he explores the shift towards vegetarianism in the eighteenth century for a variety of reasons, including a newly forged awareness of the self and of other sentient beings, along with a preoccupation with a healthier lifestyle that ultimately decreased, and at times completely eliminated meat from the quotidian diet. Larue engages with

the philosophies of Enlightenment thinkers, such as Rousseau and Voltaire, in order to examine the different approaches and goals of the period in regards to vegetarianism. He is also currently finishing a critical edition of *Le Nouveau Gulliver*, which is the sequel of Swift’s *Gulliver’s Travels*, slated to appear in print in 2020 (Honoré Champion), while also working on an *Encyclopedia of Veganism* (PUF), that also has an anticipated 2020 publication date.



Forgotten Journey, translated by **Katie Lateef-Jan** and **Suzanne Jill Levine**, features deeply personal and fantastical stories that border

on the nightmarish, exploring the nature of memory, family, and the difficult imbalances of love. It was first published by *Sur* in 1937. A story from this volume will come out this summer in *The New Yorker’s* online summer flash fiction issue. *The Promise*, translated by Suzanne Jill Levine and Jessica Powell, is Ocampo’s only novel and tells the story of a dying woman’s attempt to recount her life, revealing the fragility of memory and the illusion of identity. *La Promesa* was posthumously published in 2011.



Comparative Literature Board Member

Xiaorong Li (East Asian) published her second book, which is titled *The Poetics and Politics of Sensuality in*

China: The “Fragrant and Bedazzling” Movement (1600-1930) (Penn P, 2019). “Fragrant and bedazzling” (xiangyan) is a Chinese phrase synonymous with sensual and bewitching feminine beauty and, in literature, eroticism. Drawing on extensive archival research, this book argues that

sensual lyricism is more political than its sensuous surfaces—and China’s lyrical tradition is sexier and more “modern”—than existing histories have led us to believe.



Alan Liu is continuing to direct the “WhatEvery1Says” Project in its second year of Mellon Foundation

funding. Extending his work on digital humanities and the public humanities in a new direction, he has also been helping to develop the new field of “critical infrastructure studies”—giving papers, visiting the Mellon Foundation in February 2019 to discuss scholarly infrastructures and the public good, and developing the Clstudies.org site and bibliography (<http://cistudies.org>). In the past year his latest monograph book came out, *Friending the Past: The Sense of History in the Digital Age* (Chicago UP, 2018). Throughout the work Liu interrogates the ability of modern social media to encapsulate a sense of history within its state of flux. While he argues that it is not impossible, he explores the paradigm shift that needs to occur in order to classify the current constant flow of information as historical, while redefining the essence of history itself. Additionally, at MLA 2018 he gave his paper titled “Digital Humanities Diversity as Technical Problem,” and wrote “Open Letter to the Polish Government: “The Fate of Cultural Studies in Poland” that can be found on his blog (<http://liu.english.ucsb.edu/data-moves/>).



Comparative Literature Board Member **Didier Maleuvre’s** new book, *The Legends of the Modern: A Reappraisal of Modernity from*

Updates from Affiliated Faculty

Shakespeare to the Age of Duchamp (Bloomsbury, 2019), interrogates what made art modern, and what it means to be modern art, demystifying the ideas and “legends” that have shaped our appreciation of modern art and literature. Beginning with an examination of the early modern artists Shakespeare, Michelangelo, and Cervantes, Maleuvre demonstrates how many of the foundational works of modern culture were born not from the legendry of expressive freedom, originality, creativity, subversion, or spiritual profundity but out of unease with these ideas. This ambivalence toward the modern has lain at the heart of artistic modernity from the late Renaissance onward, and the arts have since then shown both exhilaration and disappointment with their own creative power. *The Legends of the Modern* lays bare the many contradictions that pull at the fabric of modernity and demonstrates that modern art’s dissatisfaction with modernity is in fact a vital facet of this cultural period.



Catherine Nesci has been working on her book series “Culture and Conflict,” which she is co-editing with Isabel Capeloa

Gil (Catholic University of Portugal) and Paulo de Medeiros (University of Warwick) for de Gruyter (Berlin/Boston). She worked on two of the four new titles in the series: vol. 11, *Disruption in the Arts*, edited by Lars Koch, Tobias Nanz, and Johannes Pause, 2018 (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/496371>) and vol. 14, *Narratives of Annihilation, Confinement, and Survival*, edited by Anja Tippner and Anna Artwi ska, 2019 (<https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/513099>). Her 2014 collective volume co-edited with

Olivier Bara was re-edited in 2019: *Ecriture, performance et théâtralité dans l’œuvre de George Sand* (2nd edition, UGA Editions, 2019). She completed an entry on Austerlitz by W. G. Sebald for the Medical Humanities volume entitled *Médecins, soignants. Osons la littérature. Un laboratoire virtuel pour la réflexion éthique*, edited by Maria Cabral and Marie-France Mamzer (Sipayat, 2019, pp. 106-08).



Over the last year **Sowon Park** has presented at seven conferences in the United States and Great Britain. Her most recent ones

include her paper given the ACLA in Georgetown in March of 2019, titled “Writing and the Human Mind: A Comparative Perspective” and “Impostures of Personality: Deictic Shifts and the Healing of Renee,” given at the UCLA Understanding Medical Humanities International Conference in November of 2018. Additionally, as part of the Prismatic Translation project, a conference and an exhibition on script took place at UCSB in late May where Park presented on Multi-Script Writing. Her latest publications include “Writing the Vote: Suffrage, Gender and Politics,” co-authored with Katherine Laing, in *British Literature in Transition*, Vol. 2. (edited by Charles and McNeill Dougal, Cambridge UP, 2018, pp. 91-107) and “Scriptworlds” in *The Cambridge Companion to World Literature* (edited by Ben Etherington and Jarad Zimler, Cambridge UP, 2018, pp. 100-115).



Eric Prieto published the entry “Space” in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature* (<https://>

oxfordre.com/literature). He also published a review of Adam Barrows’ *Time, Literature, and Cartography After the Spatial Turn* in *MFS* (vol. 65, no. 2, Summer 2019) and gave a paper titled “Transductive Representations of African Urbanization” at the annual meeting of the American Association of Geographers (Washington D.C. April, 2019).



Comparative Literature Board Member **Roberto Strongman** is the incoming Undergraduate Advisor for Comparative Literature as of fall 2019.

In 2018-19 he was on sabbatical, working on his new book project, and also traveled through Asia. His latest book *Queering Black Atlantic Religions. Transcorporeality in Candomblé, Santería, and Vodou* was published by Duke UP in May 2019.

Cynthia Skenazi was the co-editor of a special issue of the journal *French Forum* on “Altérité et Différences à l’aube des temps modernes” (43, 2: 2018). She has also given several papers, including an invited lecture on “Portraits of the Other from the New World in Montaigne’s time” at the American Institute for Levinasian Studies at UCLA.



Comparative Literature’s Placement Officer **Sara Pankenier Weld** was nominated for the University

of California Women’s Initiative for Professional Development in 2019, received the Munich International Youth Library Fellowship for the same year, as well as the Stockholm University Guest Researcher Fellowship for 2018-2019, all while being a guest researcher in the Comparative Literature Department

Updates from Affiliated Faculty

at Stockholm University during her 2018-2019 sabbatical from UCSB. Weld gave four papers, including "Impossible Infants': Catherine the Great's Writings for Children," an invited talk at the Department of Culture and Aesthetic at Stockholm University, Sweden on September 26, 2018. Her publications include her recent book, *An Ecology of the Russian Avant-Garde Picturebook* (John Benjamins, 2018) in which she explores new ways of looking at picturebooks from the 1920s and 1930s by prominent Russian writers. She also published "Paradoxes of the Russian Empress Catherine the Great's Writings for Children" in *International Research in Children's Literature* (vol. 11, no. 2, 2018, pp. 147-159) along with a review of *Nabokov and the Question of Morality: Aesthetics, Metaphysics, and the Ethics of Fiction*, edited by Michael Rodgers and Susan Elizabeth Sweeney (*Nabokov Online Journal*, vol. 11, 2018).

Critical Infrastructure Studies

cistudies.org



In fall 2018, Alan Liu taught a new seminar that explored "the hypothesis that critical infrastructure studies is one of today's renewed forms of cultural criticism and

media theory. Looking at the world from the point of view of infrastructure — and of the people (and creatures) who at once shape and are shaped by infrastructure — allows us to ask different questions than those posed in the frame of 'culture' or 'media.'" alanyliu.org/course/english-238-critical-infrastructure-studies-fall-2018/

Newly Graduated



In September 2018, **Alexandra Magearu** defended her dissertation: "Senses of Vulnerability: Gender, Embodiment, and Dis-Orientation from the Algerian War to the War in Iraq." Her committee included Professors Mauriza Boscagli (English)

and Dwight Reynolds (Religious Studies) as co-Chairs and Professors Catherine Nesci (French and Italian), Eric Prieto (French and Italian) and Elizabeth Weber (German and Slavic) as readers. In 2018-19 Dr. Magearu was Lecturer of Comparative Literature at UC Santa Barbara, teaching Comparative Literature 36 (*Global Humanities*), Comparative Literature 100 (*Introduction to Comparative Literature*), Comparative Literature 101 (*Introduction to Literary and Critical Theory*).



In September 2018 **Tegan Raleigh** also defended her dissertation entitled: "Authors of Authenticity: Translation, the Fairy Tale, and Illusions of Originals." Her committee included Professors Dominique Jullien (French and Italian), and Sara Pankenier Weld

(Germanic and Slavic), as co-Chairs, and Suzanne Jill Levine (Spanish and Portuguese), Eric Prieto (French and Italian), and Jack Zipes (University of Minnesota) as readers. In 2018-19 Dr. Raleigh was Lecturer of German and Comparative Literature at UC Santa Barbara, where

she taught Comparative Literature 128A (*Children's Literature*) and Comparative Literature 191 (*Fantasy and the Fantastic*).



In fall 2018 **Lacey Smith** defended her dissertation entitled: "Appropriating (Sub)Urban Space: Inhabited Counter-Narratives as Resistant Spatial Intervention in Contemporary American and German Culture." Her committee included Professors Maurizia Boscagli (English) as Chair, Colin Gardner (Art), and Jocelyn Holland (Germanic and Slavic). In 2018-19 Dr. Smith was a Lecturer in German at the University of Colorado, Boulder.



On June 13, 2019, **Alvaro Luna** successfully defended his dissertation entitled: "Postmigration Narratives: A Comparative Study of Franco-Maghrebi and Chicana/o Fiction." His committee included Professor Ellen McCracken (Spanish and Portuguese) and Professor

Eric Prieto (French and Italian), who have been wonderful mentors, and Catherine Nesci as third member. Alvaro has secured a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Research Center of France (CNRS) for the next two years; in 2019-20, he will also be a Lecturer at the Institute of Political Science, Reims Campus (SciencePo Reims, France).

ABD David Hur on IHC's Prison Correspondence Program

David Hur, Interdisciplinary Humanities Center

2018-2019 Graduate Teaching Fellow



After eight months of participation in the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center's Graduate Teaching Fellowship, or, Prison Correspondence Course, I am most thankful for the opportunities to exchange thoughts with students about a particular text. My choice

of preposition is specific, because this exchange is a matter of written echolocation in relation to a text. The motivating interest for me to participate in this program is the focus of written correspondence, and my own interests in sound and separation. The written word is foregrounded in this program, as the sole representation of our beings. Students and instructors alike are limited to written articulations of being. The delimited interactions are highly productive, because the medium reveals the mediation of language, through our meditations on the select texts from our curriculum.

As an instructor, the program offered me an opportunity to juxtapose learning experiences in two different environments. In the classroom at UCSB, students are able to visit me outside of class-time, at my regular office hours, and they are free to reach out to me at any time via e-mail. In this program, the frequency of student-instructor correspondence is defined by one student response and one instructor response per text.

Again, the structure of the Correspondence Course reveals something like the "value" of the study-time that students and instructors share. I have therefore learned to improve how I can better engage each student through my written response to the student's writing, perhaps the word is *honestly* in terms of engagement. Of course, this structure may also increase an instructor's pressures to return "high quality" responses due to the reduced frequency of interactions. However, I think this can also be an instructive experience, especially for those with perfectionist tendencies—to sit down, engage the student, and move on to another work. A quick digression, it may take anywhere from fifteen to forty-five minutes to read and assignment and compose a response.

My students have especially taught me lessons in reading, in my own negotiations with cultural grammars as a reader. And the written page is a great isolation of various learned grammars in the topology of the inscriptions on the page (often heavily stamped with prison approvals, sometimes ironically imbricating an interesting, i.e. implicating thought as expressed by the student).

In 2019-20, **Daniel Martini** and **Jordan Tudisco** will be Graduate Teaching Fellows for the IHC's Prison Correspondence Program.

New Doctoral Candidates



Dustin Lovett, ABD, effective Spring 2019. His prospectus is entitled: "Enchanted Science: Magic, Devils, and the First Two Centuries of Faust," in which he explores the first two centuries of the Faust legend in print, roughly the time between the late-

sixteenth-century publication of the *Historia von D. Johann Fausten*, the first Faust tale in print, and Goethe writing his *Urfaust* in the late eighteenth century coincide with a period of immense intellectual and spiritual tumult in Europe. His dissertation proposes to show how the persistence of superstitious thinking from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century motivated the various adaptations of the Faust legend while simultaneously enabling its translation and reception into numerous European languages. His dissertation committee includes Professor Wolf Kittler and Professor Cynthia Skenazi as co-Chairs, and Professor Christina Vagt as third committee member.



Arpi Movsesian, ABD, effective Fall 2018. Her prospectus titled "Shakespearean Fools in Dostoevsky: Toward an Ethics of Love" outlines her comparative study of Shakespeare's tragic fools and Dostoevsky's holy fools employing a historicist, historiographic,

and interdisciplinary approach in its explication of each author's functional implementation of the fool to illuminate ethical concerns. Her point of departure is the archival evidence illustrating Dostoevsky's preoccupations with Shakespeare as a mind productively engaged with the so-called "accursed questions" (*prokliatye voprosy*), the puzzling nature of life, and what it means to be an ethical being. This comparison will confront the slew of problems and anxieties in the politically-saturated historical periods of each writer and show how Shakespeare and Dostoevsky use their art and, specifically, the ethical-literary fool, as an instrument for transmitting certain truths. The figure of the

New Doctoral Candidates

fool has long been endowed with rich cultural, religious, historical, literary, and, for Dostoevsky, Shakespearean heritage. In the morass of literature, Shakespeare and Dostoevsky give us more than just a picture of real life folly indefatigably raising its head, reminding us again of its constancy; they propose the necessity of an ethics of unconditional, active love through a common, yet enigmatic literary phenomenon: the fool. Arpi's Dissertation Committee includes Professor Sara Pankenier Weld as Chair from Germanic and Slavic Studies, Professor Elliot Wolfson from Religious Studies, and Professor Jim Kearney from English.



John Schranck, ABD, effective Fall 2018. His prospectus, titled "Sonic Alterities," describes a dissertation that will bring together sound studies, intersubjectivity and comparative literature to theorize a novel way of listening to sounding beings. It draws on

literature, poetry and film to articulate a theory of sonic recognition that extends alterity beyond a self-limiting predilection for the human gaze. His doctoral committee includes Professor Kay Young (English), as Chair; Professor Greg Siegel (Film and Media Studies) and Professor Candace Waid (English).

Jordan J. Tudisco on Queering Comparative Literature



Jordan answered questions on their scholarly perspectives.

CN: *In what ways does your work approach the nexus of queer/transgender studies and Comparative Literature?*

Jordan J. Tudisco: To me, doing research in Trans Studies is not just out of academic interest or curiosity; it is a matter of survival. My work stems from a desire to highlight and create more representation and visibility for trans, non-binary, and intersex people in language, literature, life, and society; from a hope that a bigger presence will lead to a safer existence. As a field offering an alternate perspective on society and the way its founding principles have been shaped by a very specific group of people and through very distinct structures of power, Trans Studies intersect quite organically with the field of Comparative Literature. In my opinion, each field has the potential to be informed by the other: Trans Studies often (but not always) remains centered on Anglo-American contexts and issues and could learn from a holistically comparative approach to gender, sex, and sexuality; Comparative Literature, on the other hand, often fails to include trans, non-binary, and intersex identities in the global literary conversations and investigations it conducts.

CN: *You are both interested in Linguistics and Translation Studies. What do such disciplines bring to your comparative work?*

Jordan J. Tudisco: My research always aims at having an impact and being relevant for our world outside academia – and since the world is not divided into strict disciplines, my work does not belong to a strict discipline either. I truly believe that my research can only interrogate society and bring changes to it by existing at the nexus of various fields. Since we all make sense of ourselves and the world we live in through language, my work has been to make visible and highlight the various power structures and constraints indexed directly in our languages' syntaxes and grammars. The field of Linguistics has thus been very influential for my research and has allowed me to combine literary analysis and discourse analysis, and have a more complex understanding of genres, narratives, ideologies, representations, etc. And since my work has also been to break away from the English-centeredness of Trans Studies and interrogate how notions of gender, sex, and sexuality are constructed through language, Translation Studies provides many useful tools and concepts to analyze how the form and meaning of a text vary from one language to another, and how notions such as gender or transgender cannot easily be translated or transposed from one linguistic and cultural context to another.

Welcoming New Graduate Students



Sage Freeburg is a graduate from Reed College, where she earned her BA in English Literature. She is interested in postcolonial studies, ecocriticism, and translation. She will be exploring the literary presentation of diaspora populations and the ways in which they

relate to the environment and demonstrate the affective realities of colonial spaces in the face of environmental crisis. A poet, Sage was awarded Honorable Mention from the Mary Barnard Academy of American Poets. She was a recipient of the Jean Belin Fellowship and a Regents Fellowship in 2018-19.



Shanna Killeen studied at Oregon State University, where they earned their BA/MA program in English. Their MA thesis, entitled "Bleeding Assemblages Translating Borders in the Bilingual Poetry of Irma Pineda Santiago," focuses on the study of the bilingual

poetry of indigenous women writers, such as Spanish and Isthmus Zapotec-poet and self-translator Irma Pineda Santiago. They were awarded a Fall Fellowship from the Graduate Center for Literary Research and a Regents Fellowship for 2018-19. Their field of studies include Indigenous poetry, Disability Studies, and Linguistic Anthropology. They will be adding a Graduate Optional Emphasis in Translation Studies.



Mariam Lmaifi completed her Master in Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures in English, with a specialization in Literary Translation, at the University of Paris-8 Vincennes Saint-Denis. Her scholarly interests include Translation Studies & Translation Theory; First and

Second Language Acquisition, Second Language Writing & Creative Writing; Cognitive Linguistics, Cognitive Grammar, Cognitive Semantics; Translation, Remediation & Transcreation; E-Learning & Multimedia Enhanced Learning. In fall 2018 she was awarded a Fellowship from the Graduate Center for Literary Research. She will of course complete the Optional Emphasis in Translation Studies.



Reem Taha completed her MA in English, Book History, and Print Culture at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on Mediterranean Studies and al-Andalus/Medieval Iberia. She is working on researching the divide between medieval and early modern

in the Mediterranean, and planning to study the Arabo-Islamic background to the European Renaissance. She will also develop her work on the History of the Book and Print Culture. She will be adding a Graduate Optional Emphasis in Translation Studies.



Maria Anna Zazzarino completed her MA in Anglophone literary and cultural studies with distinction at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. In 2017-18 she researched Caribbean Francophone and Anglophone literatures at the University of Louisiana,

Baton Rouge, as a Fulbright awardee. In summer 2017, she attended the Harvard Institute for World Literature at the University of Copenhagen, where she gave a paper entitled: "The Unpolished Diamond: Édouard Glissant's Utopia in *Poetics of Relation*." She was awarded a Chancellor Fellowship by UCSB's Graduate Division. She will be adding a Graduate Optional Emphasis in Translation Studies



Students Bhavi Bhagat and Katie Lateef-Jan at the Literature Now Conference

Other Graduate Student Updates



Ghassan Aburqayeq

successfully completed two field examinations this year. In Winter, he completed

an examination on Trauma Theory (Second Major Field, with Professor Elisabeth Weber as Chair, Professor Catherine Nesci, and Professor Bernadette Andrea). In Spring Quarter, he completed his minor field on medieval Islamic studies, and his committee members included Professor Dwight Reynolds as Chair, Professor Racha El Omari, and Professor Ahmad Ahmad.



In the past year **Christene d'Anca** presented six conference papers, including her most recent at MLA 2019 in

Chicago, titled "Writing the Self in Search of Cultural Identity: Memory, Trauma, and Free Speech," and "The Currency of Queens: Blanche de Navarre's Bequeathed Books" at the conference in honor of Cynthia J. Brown at UCSB, which Christene co-organized. She will be chairing panels at the upcoming MLA in Seattle and PAMLA conference in San Diego. Her recent publication is "English Royal Tombs and Their Flemish Connection" (*Mausolus: The Journal of the Mausolea and Monuments Trust* 14 :2018, 15-27) that evolved from a presentation she gave at the International Medieval Congress at Western Michigan University in May of 2018. She also published two book reviews for the *Romanian Studies Association of America Journal* (<http://thersaa.org/journal>). She is currently working on contributions for a festschrift on medieval studies, and an edited collection on Easter European post-communist poetic

criticism. She was also a recipient of the Jean Belin Fellowship in 2019.



Margarita Delcheva

presented "'Censor's Trinity' and 'How to Fly Like a Bird': Pawel Petasz's Intermedia

Mail Artworks in 1970's Poland" at the Graduate Slavic Colloquium at UCLA in April of 2019 and will also present "Transforming Bureaucracy: The Rhizomatic Mail Art Network and its Artistic Practices in Cold War Eastern Europe" at the ASEES conference in November. She completed two major Field Examinations this year, one on Mail Art (Minor Field, with Sven Spieker as Committee Chair, and Alan Liu and Sare Weld as members) and the second on Russian Literature and Minimalism (First Major Field, with Sara Weld as Committee Chair, and Yunte Huang and Sven Spieker as additional members).



Dr. Elena Festa

successfully completed her minor exam in Memory Studies under the guidance of Prof. Fogu,

Prof. Nesci and Prof. Rothberg from UCLA. Sections of her paper entitled "Digital Cultural Remembering," an enquiry of how digital media are changing the way we remember at both individual and social levels, were also presented at the CICIS (California Interdisciplinary Consortium of Italian Studies) Conference at Stanford, and at the Annual GCLR Interdisciplinary Conference at UCSB in May 2019. She also collaborated with the Memory Studies Group at UCSB. In spring 2019 Elena taught her first upper-division class on Italian postcolonial culture and literature for the Department of French and Italian. Yale Graduate

Literary Magazine *Palimpsest* published her piece of creative writing, entitled *The Suspension*.



On June 7, 2019, **Sebaah Hamad** defended her MA thesis, a 60-page essay entitled: *The Poetics of Memory and Space*

in *Palestinian Women's Life Writings*, which also includes a survey on place and space in Arab women's writing. Her committee included Professor Dwight Reynolds (Religious Studies) as Chair, Professor Bernadette Andrea (English) and Professor Catherine Nesci (French and Italian).



David Hur had some of his poems recently published online at *Deluge* by Radioactive Moat Press. He is also finishing

his dissertation that reads Korean American hip hop cultural texts through the apparatus of Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's *DICTEE*. He presented a distilled variant of his dissertation project at USC's Korean Studies Institute's Annual Graduate Student Symposium.



Naz Keynejad

successfully completed her first field examination (English literature) in Fall of 2018.

Her committee members included Professor Bernadette Andrea (English) as Chair, Professor James Kearney (English), and Professor Elliot Wolfson (Religious Studies). Her excerpt on digital humanities, "The Countess of Dellwyn Project" was published in *Engaging the Age of Jane Austen* (University of Iowa Press, 2018). She was also

Other Graduate Student Updates

the recipient of the Comparative Literature department's Outstanding Teaching Assistant award for the 2018-2019 academic year (nominated by Professor Didier Maleuvre). Naz is currently working on her minor field examination in Persian literature, investigating the uniquely defining characteristics of the female hero in Fakhraddin Gorgani's Persian romantic epic, *Vis O Ramin*, and tracing the applicability of Western-centric heroic models on a non-Western literary text. Her committee members include Professor Dwight Reynolds (Religious Studies) as Chair, Professor Bernadette Andrea (English), and Professor Domenico Ingenito (Near Eastern Studies - UCLA).

Naz has been our Social Media Coordinator Extraordinaire. Thanks, Naz!



In fall 2018, ABD **Katie Lateef-Jan** taught Comparative Literature 170, our core required course for the

Translation Studies Minor. She also actively mentored Carolina Paz (Chicana/o Major and Translation Studies Minor) and supported the completion of Paz's capstone project for the TS Minor. The research project Paz completed under her mentor's advising was presented at our Comparative Literature Undergraduate Conference on May 11, 2019. Katie was the Lead TA in Comparative Literature in 2018-19; she organized the Fall Orientation Teaching Workshop in Comparative Literature, a Winter Workshop for Teaching Writing in large GE courses, with Jeff Bellomi and Daniel Martini as Guest Speakers, and a Spring Workshop on Syllabus Creation and General Education Learning Outcomes with Professor Leo Cabranes-Grant as Special Guest.



On March 7, 2019, **Alvaro Luna** co-organized with Professor Crystel Pinçonat the international conference, "Raconter

la Postmigration: Approche Interdisciplinaire/ Narrating Postmigration: Interdisciplinary Approaches," at Aix-Marseille Université. The conference gathered junior and advanced scholars working in the broad field of Postmigration Studies and had as invited speakers Myriam Geiser (Université Grenoble-Alpes) and Moritz Schramm (University of Southern Denmark). A publication of the proceedings is planned. He has also recently had his first French publication, titled "Décoloniser l'habiter: pour une approche transnationale de l'habiter dans Caramelo de Sandra Cisneros" (*À l'épreuve* 5: 2019, <http://www.alepreuve.org/content/d%3%A9coloniser-l%2%80%99habiter-pour-une-approche-transnationale-de-l%2%80%99habiter-dans-caramelo-de-sandra>).



Daniel Martini joined the interdisciplinary Unconscious Memory project (Crossroads Fellowship) with

Principal Investigators Professor Sowon Park (English), Professor Ken Kosik (Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, Neuroscience Institute), Professor Matthew Turk (Computer Science) and Professor Matthew Gazzaniga (Psychology, the SAGE centre). Daniel's research for the Oxford project Scriptworlds continues to develop. He is also excited to join the Mellon Engaging Humanities project at UC Santa Barbara led by the Division of Undergraduate

Education in Spring 2019. He was a recipient of the Max Kade Foundation Fellowship in 2019, the Crossroads Fellowship, Unconscious Memory project, UC Santa Barbara in 2019, and the Mellon Engaging Humanities Graduate Fellowship at UCSB in 2019. His recent publication is "Vantchev de Thracy, Athanase. 2018. Dis seulement une parole - Sig Kun Et Enkelt Ord." (Paris: Éditions Institut Culturel de Solenzara. [Translation: French to Danish])



Arpi Movsesian was awarded a Dissertation Research Fellowship from the Association for Slavic, East

European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Spring 2019 to do archival research on F.M. Dostoevsky in Russia. She is also the recipient of the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation European Studies Fellowship for Dissertation Research, 2019-20, which will help her do research in various prestigious institutions in France on nineteenth-century Russian intelligentsia's involvement in the French political and literary scene. Arpi also presented at numerous conferences, the most recent of which was at PAMLA (Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA, November, 2018), where she presented a paper entitled, "Destiny, Nationalism, Meaning: The Imperative of the Poetic Word to a People in Dostoevsky and Heidegger." In Winter Quarter, Arpi had the inimitable experience of teaching her own course, "Dostoevsky and His Fools." In addition, she recently completed the first two chapters of her dissertation, and is looking forward to the fruitful new finds the overseas research will offer and add to her next chapters.

Other Graduate Student Updates



John Schranck: Before heading to France for the 2018–2019 academic year as part of our program’s Paris-8

exchange, in spring 2018, John completed his second major field exam in Literature and the Mind on intersubjectivity, memory and the senses. In July of 2018, he completed his minor field exam on the musicoliterary, which explored language and music through a neurocognitive lens. John drew substantially from both bodies of research to re-design and co-teach Comparative Literature 27, a neurohumanities course on mind, brain, memory and the musicoliterary, alongside Dr. Jualia Acosta-Uribe, M.D., of Dr. Kenneth S. Kosick’s Neurobiology Lab—a course he was delighted to reprise in summer 2019. In France, John served as a *lecteur* at Université Paris-8 at its Center for Languages (*Centre de langues*), teaching various courses on English grammar and oral production to hundreds of students. Finally, working toward his sound studies dissertation at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, John was able to conduct deep research on cicadas in 17th–20th century Provençal literature, including their appearance in the works of Jean Aicard and in numerous rare volumes.



In Summer 2018, **Wendy Sun** received funding from Comparative Literature and the GCLR to attend the Harvard

World Literature Institute in Tokyo, Japan. In the fall, she co-chaired the Asian Comparative Literature panel at the Rocky Mountain MLA and presented her work on World Literature and Cognitive Translation

(Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 4-6); she also presented her research on W.G. Sebald and Primo Levi at the Holocaust Educational Foundation Annual Conference (Washington University in St. Louis, Nov. 1-4). Wendy also received a Max Kade Fellowship in Winter 2019 and was honored to study with prominent scholars Michael Berry (UCLA) and Michael Rothberg (UCLA). As of June 2019, she has completed her coursework and last field examinations (on gender and the Holocaust, and on the works of Ingeborg Bachmann), and looks forward to working on her dissertation prospectus and carrying archival research on Jewish refugees in Shanghai. Since fall 2018 She has been the Graduate Coordinator for UCSB Memory Group and helped organize the joint GCLR and Memory Studies Group Conference in May 2019.



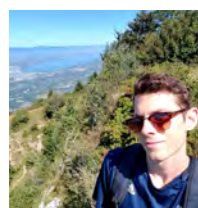
Reem Taha presented three conference papers this year, including “Did Leo Africanus Kill Othello? On Othello’s Blackness

and Self Construction/Destruction,” which she workshopped at the GCLR roundtable and for which she received the GCLR travel grant. She spoke at *How to be Global in the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds*, the Early Modern Colloquium held at the University of Michigan (February 2019) and at the Graduate Conference *The Relevance of Reading, Translating, and Adapting*, held at the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Boston College (March 2019). She also presented her paper “Denial of Coevalness in the Colonial Discourse of Columbus and Las Casas,” at the annual colloquium of the Early Modern Center, entitled *World Making, 1500–1800*, at UC Santa Barbara (February 2019).



Jordan J. Tudisco successfully completed their first field examination in Winter of 2019 on the literary

representations of trans identities in French and Francophone literature. Their committee members included Prof. Catherine Nesci (French & Italian) as chair, Prof. Lal Zimman (Linguistics), and Prof. Laure Murat from UCLA (French and Francophone Studies). Jordan also delivered two conference papers on the possibilities for non-binary expression in French: “In Livia’s Footsteps: Writing Non-Binary, Intersex, and Transgender Characters through Literary Uses of Linguistic Gender in French and Francophone Literature” for the 26th international Lavender Languages and Linguistics conference in Gothenburg, Sweden, May 2-4, 2019; and “For a Non-Binary French: Disrupting the Grammatical Gender Binary through Linguistic Innovation” for the 25th Annual Conference on Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO) at the University of California, Santa Barbara, May 17-18, 2019. In addition, Jordan attended the Lavender Languages and Linguistics summer institute (June 16-25) at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) in Boca Raton, Florida, for the second year in a row. From January to June 2019, Jordan also took part in the School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society (SKILLS) program and taught linguistics and anthropology to AVID students at Santa Barbara High School.



David Vivian delivered two conference papers on Patrick Modiano’s novel *Dora Bruder*: “The Spatio-temporal Poetics of Memory: Patrick Modiano’s *Dora Bruder*,” for

Other Graduate Student Updates

the Charles F. Fraker Graduate Student Conference “Complex Spaces: Navigating Text and Territory,” University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, February 15-16, 2019; “The Haunting Past: Trauma, Time, and (Post) Memory in Patrick Modiano’s *Dora Bruder*,” for the University of Toronto’s Centre for Comparative Literature’s 29th Annual Conference, March 29-30, 2019, where he had the pleasure of hearing memory studies specialist Ann Rigney deliver the keynote. He also began translating André Breton’s *Nadja* for Comparative Literature 260 (the core requirement for the Graduate Emphasis in Translation Studies), for which he was awarded a Graduate Certificate of Excellence. He also gave the paper “Meat and Toxic Masculinity” at a panel entitled “Veganism and Gender,” at the Vegans of UCSB Conference organized by Professor Renan Larue, November 27, 2018. He was one of the collaborators of UCSB Memory Studies Group.

Writing the Dissertation Prospectus

On June 3, 2019, **Dr. Robby Nadler** organized a workshop on writing the dissertation prospectus Part map, part blue print, and part contract, the prospectus is a vital element in dissertation production.

But what is a prospectus, and what makes a good prospectus succeed? Dr. Nadler discussed strategies to help students write the individual components of the prospectus and transition from the dissertation to conceptualizing and writing the dissertation.

Dr. Nadler is the Graduate Writing Specialist at UC Santa Barbara, where he specializes in service, teaching, and research related to graduate writing as a nontraditional site of basic writing. Prior to this appointment, he directed the writing centers at the University of Georgia. For these efforts, he was recognized by the Council on Basic Writing with its highest prize, the Innovation Award.

We thank him for his helpful and generous advice.

Our Grads at the 2018 Institute for World Literature



In the summer of 2018 several students from Comparative Literature, Arpi Movsesian, Dustin Lovett, Wendy Sun, and Jeff Bellomi participated in Harvard Institute studies in Tokyo where they studied under scholars such as David Damrosch and Zhang Longxi. It was a life-changing experience where everyone came together to create a scholarly environment, replete with a healthy exchange of ideas about literary works from all over the world. The participants especially enjoyed reading and discussing the works that are yet to be on the world stage, the ones patiently waiting in the periphery.



UCSB Memory Studies Group

With the support of Professors Claudio Fogu (French and Italian), Harold Marcuse (History), and Catherine Nesci, doctoral students Dr. Elena Festa, Linshan Jiang (East Asian Studies), Dr. Alexander Noi (History), Wendy Sun, and David Vivian created and animated UCSB's Memory Studies Group. The group held seven reading sessions, exploring issues such as trauma, gender, and traveling memory; collective memory and historical studies; media, memory, and Shoah studies. Our guest moderators included Professor Ute Holl (Basel University), our Kade Visiting Professor in Winter

2019, and Professor Sabine Frühstück (East Asian Studies), who discussed recent work on memory studies in Japan. On May 4, 2019, we held a conference in collaboration with the GCLR, and the keynote address was given by Michael Rothberg (UCLA). On May 29, 2019, we welcomed Professor Wulf Kansteiner (Aarhus University). We invite our UC Santa Barbara colleagues as well as friends from other universities interested in exploring the cultural, cognitive, and technological facets of memory and forgetting to join us. <https://ucsbmemorystudies.wixsite.com/home/people>

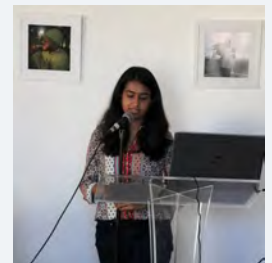
Literature Now, Comparative Lit. Undergraduate Conference



Literature Now is UCSB Comparative Literature Society's inaugural conference promoting the undergraduate study of literature and translation. What is literature? (And what isn't?) How can we understand the function of literature in culture at large, and what is its function in cultural preservation? The expanding meanings and uses of literature as a category of analysis open doors to new sites of comparison and translation. This conference seeks to contextualize literature in reference to contemporary texts, music, and film.

On May 11, 2019, Literature Now, the Comparative Literature Undergraduate Conference, took place in the

MultiCultural Center Lounge. The event was organized by the newly revived Comparative Literature Society, headed by their President, Dominick Ojeda, a double major in Comparative Literature and French. Several undergraduate students gave insightful and well-researched papers. Doctoral student Daniel Martini and ABD Katie Lateef-Jan moderated panels, and Lateef-Jan also delivered the keynote address.



10:00-10:15am: Opening Remarks Dominick Ojeda and Bhavi Bhagat, Comparative Literature Society

10:15-11:45am: **Preservation and Representation through Translation and Literary Criticism**

Session Chair: Katie Lateef-Jan, Comparative Literature

"Mujer Divina: A Granddaughter's Reimagining of Agustín Lara's Reinvented Works," Carolina Paz, Department of Chicana/o Studies

"Religion and (Re)presentation in Ms. Marvel vol. 1 (2014)," Bhavi Bhagat, Department of Religious Studies

"Combating Climate Change through Creativity," Cheryl Truong, Interdisciplinary Major

11:40am-12:15pm: **Keynote Address "Intersectional Approaches to the Study of Children's Picturebooks,"** Katie Lateef-Jan, Comparative Literature.

12:45-2:15pm: **Literature in the Self: Identity Formation and Storytelling**

Session Chair: Daniel Martini, Comparative Literature

"A Brief History on British Caribbean Identity through Poetry and Song," Idril Miller, Department of English

"We Know this Place: Manifestations of AntiBlackness," Dominick Ojeda, Comparative Literature & French

2:15-2:45pm: Closing Remarks

Undergraduate Honors Reception

The Comparative Literature Honors Reception was held on May 13, 2019, in Mosher Alumni House. The Reception celebrated the many undergraduate students who have demonstrated their outstanding abilities throughout the year, while also reserving some time to award exceptional graduate students who participated in undergraduate education as their Teaching Assistants and Associates. Amidst the festivities, Comparative Literature Chair Catherine Nesci was honored for her many years of service to the program as she hands off the position to Dominique Jullien, who will begin next year as Chair. We also honored our Undergraduate Advisor, Elizabeth Fair, who is starting graduate school in Art History at UC Berkeley in fall 2019.

Outstanding Students in a Comparative Literature

Lower-Division Section (nominated by Jeff Bellomi, Sebaah Hamad, Dustin Lovett, Daniel Martini, João Gabriel Rabello Sodr , John Schranck and Juliana Acosta-Uribe): Casidy Chen, Emma deZarn, Vince Feliciano, Emma Kogler-Franklyn, Maryam Koreal Yilan, Liao Thomas Nedungadan, Eva Parsa, Jayden Taylor, Vonnie Wei, Madeline Wolf, Tony Zhang.

Certificates of Excellence for outstanding work in an upper-division Comparative Literature course

(nominated by Richard Hecht, Katie Lateef-Jan, Ellen McCracken, Catherine Nesci, and Tegan Raleigh): Kate Bell, Zo  Gray En Bowlus, Zhiyuan Du, Abigail Flores, Anthony Giusti Shindelus, Krista L. Kenny, Noa Nabeshima, Docean Park, Harley Phillips, Christian Puga Teran, Mariana Trujillo Marquez, Maggie Young.

Certificate of Excellence in Translation Workshops were presented by Suzanne Jill Levine and Katie Lateef-Jan

to undergraduates Michelle Dalarossa, TJ Keeling, and Renata Rodriguez; and to graduate students David Vivian and Maria Anna Zazzarino.

Distinction in the Translation Studies Minor was presented by Suzanne Jill Levine & Katie Lateef-Jan to Bhavi Bhagat, Daniela Guerra, Karina Ornelas Lozano, and Carolina Paz.

Distinguished Service to the Comparative Literature Program was presented by Catherine Nesci to major Dominick Ojeda for his organization of the Comparative Literature Undergrad Conference and work for the Comparative Literature Society.

Distinction in the Comparative Literature Major was presented by Catherine Nesci to Rozlind Silva (Winter 2019) for her 30-page Honors Thesis entitled *The Women We Left Behind: A Literary History of Diverse Filipina Poets*, directed by Dr. Rick Benjamin.

Recognition as Distinguished Graduating Seniors in Comparative Literature was presented by Catherine Nesci and Elizabeth Fair to Annette Ding, Konrad Neithercutt, and Jingyan Zhang, who also received Certificates of Excellence this year.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards in Comparative Literature were presented by Didier Maleuvre and Christina Vagt to ABD Jeffrey Bellomi and doctoral student Naz Keynejad

ABD Katie Lateef-Jan was recognized as **Outstanding Teaching Associate** in Comparative Literature.

Major Jingyang Zhang, 2019 Commencement Speaker



Our Comparative Literature major (also a major in Linguistics), and an Honors Student, **Jingyang Zhang**, delivered a moving Commencement Speech for the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts on Sunday, June 16, 2019. An exceptional student, Jingyang was also awarded the 2019 Dean's Commencement Award for the Division of Humanities and Fine Arts.

Farewell to Mary, Elizabeth, & Thomas and Hello to Teresa, Melissa, Tyler, & Adrian

After 40 years of service to the university and her most recent appointment as the Director of the Phelps Hall Administrative Support Services, **Mary Gay** retired at the end of the Spring quarter. Professors, staff, and students from the many departments who relied on her for so long came by on June 27th to see her off and wish her the best of luck. Mary will remain in Santa Barbara, and will take the opportunity of her retirement to spend more time with her family.

Teresa Salinas, who was PASC Manager for Financial and Academic Services, has been appointed as our new Director of PASC and is already putting her meticulous, elegant, and efficient touches to all PASC facets and operations.

Our wonderful **Elizabeth Fair**, who served as Undergraduate Staff Advisor for German, Slavic, Comparative Literature, French and Italian, and Translation Studies left us on June 14, 2019, to pursue a doctorate in Art History at UC Berkeley. We wish her the best in her new adventure!

Graduate Program Coordinator **Thomas Huff** accepted a position as the Undergraduate Staff Advisor for the English Department, and he too left at the end of the Spring quarter, migrating across campus to South Hall.



We welcome our new Graduate Program Coordinator, **Tyler McMullen**. Tyler earned his MA degree in French and Francophone Studies from California State Long Beach in 2019, where he was recognized as an outstanding MA student. In 2014

he received his BA in language studies (with a French emphasis) from UC Santa Cruz; in 2013-2014 he spent a year abroad at the University of Lyon II Louis Lumière. In 2015-16, he was an English Assistant in a lycée in Agen,

France. Tyler not only taught French, he also worked as Program Assistant for CSU Long Beach Study Abroad Program. *Bienvenu, Tyler!*



Among all the departures, we have also had another welcome arrival. **Melissa Powell** is the new Undergraduate Staff Advisor for Comparative Literature and Translation Studies, Germanic and Slavic Studies, and French and Italian.

Melissa comes from the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences where she was an Academic Peer Advisor while finishing her BA in Psychology at UCSB. Welcome to Melissa!

Finally, our dear **Iryna Zdanovich**, who was our topnotch Financial Coordinator for Comparative Literature, French and Italian, and Germanic and Slavic Studies, was promoted to her new position as Financial Analyst for PASC.



Adrian Mejia, who earned his BA in Sociology at UCSB where he was also a UCSB Veteran Student Writer (a program directed by Prof. Susan Derwin, Director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center) is coming in as our new Financial Coordinator.

We thank all our staff for their excellent and dedicated work. **Carol Flores**, our Student Service Manager, has been working to hire and train our new advising staff, and **Loida Chan**, our Academic Personnel Coordinator, has been supporting all new appointments, including lecturers, and all merit and promotion cases. Loida and Carol survived the launching and first year of UC Path, the new Payroll system for the University of California. Kudos to them for their heroic efforts at navigating these new risky paths! We are all looking forward to a bright year as of Fall 2019.

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