

Comparative Literature News Spring 2009

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Director's Note

For many the year 2000 served as a time to reflect upon a century and even a millennium gone by. This past academic year, 2008-2009, allowed Comparative Literature to serve as the meeting place for colleagues from across the campus and across the nation to meditate upon what the last forty years have meant to us, both as a world and as an academic community. The central event for our anniversary year, one which once again welcomed outstanding students and colleagues from across our globe, was the symposium of October 2008, "1968: A Global Perspective." With the gracious collaboration of more than a dozen programs from across the college, especially the English and Germanic Studies Departments, more than 200 scholars spent three days thinking hard about our field, its relationship to the world, and what the events of that extraordinary year can help us to understand about our past, and to keep in mind as we frame our future.

At the core of the events of 1968, which changed our field permanently, is the connection between what we as scholars do with the world outside the academy, our obligation to share our research and teaching, and to seek to affect that world for the better. Comparatists vary in their views of that year's legacy, and much of what it encompassed was complex and painful, whether in Chicago or Prague, Paris or Kinshasa. What you will read about in the pages that follow, in this year of global, political, and financial uncertainty, is the excellent and engaged work of our colleagues. Their prizes and publications, their awards and accomplishments, eloquently affirm the central place of international and cultural research and teaching in assisting an often divided world to strive for collaboration and understanding.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

Incoming Graduate Students

by César A. Salgado

Interested in the intersections between philosophy and poetics, **John DeStafney** (BA in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison) is currently traveling in Portugal and Spain to work on his languages. **Mahyar Entezari** (BA in German, UC San Diego; MA in Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin) spent a summer at Bremen's Goethe-Institut, a semester at George-August University in Göttingen, and a year under a Fulbright Fellowship teaching English at Odenburg; he will be studying Turkish under a FLAS fellowship. **Marina Flider** (BA Wellesley) plans to continue her work on 19th/20th century Russian and American literature at UT; she has a special interest in the dynamics of self-authored translation in writers such as Beckett, Brodsky, and Nabokov. **Dustin Hixenbaugh** (BA, Southern Illinois U.) spent a year abroad studying at the Catholic University of Uruguay; with extensive ESL and HS English teaching experience in the Texas border with the Teach For America program, he is interested in translation theory and criticism. **Martino Lovato** has an MA in English and Comparative Literature from the American University in Cairo (his 2006 thesis compared the works of Umberto Eco and Al-Gitani) and a BA in Philosophy, Aesthetics, and French Studies from the University of Bologna (his 2004 thesis there was on Rémy de Gourmont). **Rachael Macaulay** (BA, Brandeis U.) is interested in the cross-cultural folklore and mythology of Imperial and post-Imperial Spain; she plans to do work in Spanish, French, and German. After starting graduate coursework at the University of Tehran and at Brown, **Maryam Shariati** (BA, Semnian University) hopes to apply postcolonial theory to Iranian literature in a comparative context while working on Farsi, English, Arabic, and French. Last year **Roanne Sharp** (BA, UCLA) used Mirabai bhajans to learn Hindi at Delhi University; at UCLA she studied US-based Caribbean writers such as Edwidge Danticat and Junot Díaz as well as Spanish American and Hebrew literature. My deepest thanks to all the CL faculty, staff, and students who worked so hard recruiting these accomplished students.

César A. Salgado
Graduate Advisor

Note from GRACLS

by Lanie Millar, President

We have had another successful year of GRACLS activities, highlighted by last fall's interdisciplinary conference "1968: A Global Perspective." In addition to the department-wide participation of students and professors in a very successful conference event, our students also benefited from a professional development workshop series led by the expert guidance of Drs. Katie Arens, Janet Swaffar, and Karen Pagani. Dr. Arens and Dr. Swaffar held sessions on grant proposal writing and academic publishing, and generously offered their advice and fielded questions from a diverse group of our graduate students. These workshops proved to be an excellent resource for our students as we work towards academic professionalization.

The next year's agenda includes our Sixth Annual Graduate Conference, "Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present," which is headed up by our dedicated conference coordinator Simone Sessolo. We look forward to yet another stimulating conversation with our colleagues from October 16-17, 2009, focused on the cultural production in urban spaces of former empires. Simone has been working with Dr. Richmond-Garza and Dr. Salgado together with a committee of our students to organize and disseminate the call for papers and secure funding, and we anticipate another engaging event that will bring together colleagues from across UT's campus and beyond.

Our annual conference is just one of the opportunities we have to make our students' and professors' involvement in our program visible. GRACLS is looking forward to another year of continued cooperation in strengthening our program.

GRACLS officers:

President: Lanie Millar

Treasurer: Pearl Brilmyer

Secretary: Michal Raizen-Colman

Conference Coordinator: Simone Sessolo

Social Coordinator: Anna Marin

Undergraduate Courses

C L 305

Vampire in Slavic Cultures

Thomas Garza

C L 315

Masterworks of World Literature

Topic: Global Literature and Culture

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

C L 323

Aggadah: Legends of the Jews

Aaron Bar-Adon

Hannah Arendt and Simone de Beauvoir

Lynn Wilkinson

Berlin

Sabine Hake

Caribbean Literature

Jennifer Wilks

Historical Survey of Russian Music

Gilbert Rappaport

Holocaust Aftereffects

Pascale Bos

Introduction to Israeli Literature

Karen Grumberg

Iranian Cinema

Mohammad Ghanoonparvar

From Kafka to Kundera: The Czech Novel

Craig Cravens

Major Works of Tolstoy

Tatiana Kuzmic

Nordic Light

Lynn Wilkinson

Sacred and Secular in Jewish Literature from France, Israel and the U.S.

Karen Grumberg

South Asia and the Novel

Mahboob Mohammad

Literature and Music

Jeffrey Barnouw

Self-Revelation in Women's Writing

Michael Hillman

Graduate Courses

C L 180K

Introduction to Comparative Literature:

Proseminar in Methods of Study and Research

César Salgado

C L 381

Medieval Rhetoric and Poetics

Jorie Woods

C L 382

Fundamentals of Scholarship

Katherine Arens

Staging the Orient

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

CL 386

Current French/Francophone Politics, Culture, and Identity

Hélène Tissières

C L 390

20th Century Literary Theory and Poetics

César Salgado

Please visit the Comparative Literature
Web site for more information:

[http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/
complit/courses/](http://www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/courses/)

Degree Recipients

Spring 2008- Spring 2009

Master of Arts:

Spring 2008: Anthony Arroyo, "Desiring Place: Place, Memory and Ideology"; Pearl Brilmyer, "Plotting Reparation: Monogamy and Its Mournful Subjects"; Elana Thurston-Milgrom, "The Czech Holocaust Novel, Barbarism, Hope, and Death: A Comparative Reading of *Pan Theodor Mundstock* and *Život s hvězdou*"; Jennifer Watson, "'Metre of Diff'rent Kinds'—Nation, Class and Gender in the 'Peasant' Poetry of Janet Little and Isabel Pagan"; **Spring 2009:** Yekaterina Cotey, "The Angelic and the Uncanny: Constructions of Childhood in Dostoevsky's Works"; Francisca Folch-Couyoumdjian, "John Buchan's *The Courts of the Morning*: Fissures of Modernity Recalled by Twilight"; Catherine Grazzini, "Visible Invisibility: A Hypertextual Translation of Italo Calvino's *Invisible Cities*"; Somy Kim, "Mapping Dystopia in Ebrahim Golestan's *Mud Brick and Mirror*"

Doctor of Philosophy:

Spring 2008: Hyungjung Lee, *Global Fetishism: Dynamics of Transnational Performances in Contemporary South Korea*; **Summer 2008:** Chang Tan, *Playing Cards with Cezanne: How the Contemporary Artists of China Copy and Recreate*; Hulya Yildiz, *Literature as Public Sphere: Gender and Sexuality in Ottoman Turkish Novels and Journals*; **December 2008:** Kai-man Chang, *Disrupting Boundaries of Desire: Gender, Sexuality, and Globalization in Tsai Ming-liang's Cinema of the Oppressed*; Moira M. Di Mauro-Jackson, *Decadence as a Social Critique in Huysmans, D'Annunzio, and Wilde*; Jennifer Phillips, *Traces of Beckett: Gestures of Emptiness and Impotence in the Theater of Koltes, Kane, De La Parra and Duran*; **Spring 2009:** Ingrid Goggan Lelos, *The Spirit in the Flesh: The Translation of German Pietist Imagery into Anglo-American Cultures*; Matthew Russell, *Feeling Forgotten: The Survival of Romantic Memory in Charlotte Smith, William Godwin, and Walter Scott, 1784-1815*

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Memorial Endowment Fellowship



Elizabeth Warnock Fernea devoted her life to greater understanding between the Middle East and the West. Herself an intrepid traveler, scholar filmmaker, and ambassador for intercultural exchange, Dr. Fernea was honored by friends, colleagues, and admirers upon her retirement by the creation of an endowment. It supports graduate research in Comparative Literature which focuses on the Middle East with a special emphasis on gender issues.

For five years now this endowment has funded advanced research students in our program, allowing them to undertake original archival research and to write up their research.

We hope that our ability to supplement the Fulbright Fellowships of Mr. Daniel Migumbu Kahozi of the Congo and Ms. Fatma Tarlaci of Turkey, thanks to the generosity of the endowment and of the College of Liberal Arts, is precisely what Dr. Fernea would have desired. At the core of her career and life were a passion to bring cultures face-to-face, and the Program in Comparative Literature remains deeply grateful to her for making it possible for us to continue this work.

Gratitude to Elizabeth Warnock Fernea

By Daniel Kahozi



Ordinary people are generous and can help others only when they are alive. Once they leave this world, no one receives help from them anymore. Extraordinary people are generous and keep on helping others even when they leave this world. Elizabeth Warnock Fernea deservedly ranks among those extraordinary people who have generously devoted their time, energy and love to helping others achieve their goals. It is no surprise that she was honored by friends, colleagues, and admirers upon retirement by the creation of an endowment. Although Dr. Fernea is no longer with us, her works and passion for cultural exchange and greater understanding between people still go on through this endowment.

This endowment has funded advanced research students in the Comparative Literature Program for many years. In 2008, the available funds enabled students from different places of the world to join the program. And it is through the generosity of the Fernea endowment that Ms. Fatma Tarlaci and I were able to receive a supplement to our Fulbright Fellowships. Indeed, we feel honored and privileged for having received this precious support that came at a moment when Fatma and I did not know where to turn to for help. Thanks to the Fernea award, we both were able to complete successfully and painlessly our first year in the program. We would like here to express our deep gratitude to the Program in Comparative Literature for their support and to Dr. Fernea for her unceasing generosity.

Elizabeth Fernea Fellowship

By Fatma Tarlaci



As a Comparative Literature student from Turkey, being awarded the Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Endowment Fellowship was an honor for me. The late Dr. Fernea's devotion to the improvement of the intercultural understanding between the Middle East and the West makes the award much more meaningful in my case as I bring my individual eastern identity and knowledge together with western correspondents in my research. By entering into this dialogue, I am attempting to move beyond blind dichotomies in literary and cultural discourses and to contribute to solidifying the bridges of mutual understanding between the cultures from the East and the West. The Fernea Fellowship has provided one of the pillars of my personal bridge of education and research, allowing me to continue in this important work.

Prizes and Fellowships

Continuing Fellowships

Endowed Graduate School Fellowship
[Aména Moïnfar](#) (2009-2010)

Hutchison Endowment Fellowship
[Marina Potoplyak](#) (2008-9)

University Continuing Fellowships
[Pilar Cabrera-Fonte](#) (2008-9)
[Lanie Millar](#) (2009-2010)
[Jillian Sayre](#) (2009-2010)

David Bruton, Jr., Graduate Fellowship
[Aména Moïnfar](#) (2008-9)

Pre-Emptive Fellowships

Prestigious awards offered by the Graduate School to attract top quality graduate students to the university.

[Roanne Sharp](#) (2009-2010)
[Cynthia Francica](#) (2008-9)
[Jayita Sinha](#) (2008-9)

University Fellowships and Awards

Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship
[Pearl Brilmyer](#) (2008-9)

Center for Arabic Studies Abroad (CASA) Fellowship
[Johanna Sellman](#) (2009-2010)
[Banafsheh Madaninejad](#) (2008-2009)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships
[Francisca Folch](#) (summer 2009)
[Anna Marin](#) (summer 2009)
[Marina Potoplyak](#) (summer 2009)
[Michal Raizen-Colman](#) (2008-2009, summer 2009)
[Somy Kim](#) (2008-9, 2009-2010)
[Banafsheh Madaninejad](#) (2008-9)
[Franklin Strong](#) (summer 2009)

McIlhany Endowed Presidential Fellowship
[Aména Moïnfar](#) (2008-2009)

George H. Mitchell Excellence in Graduate Research Award

[Naminata Diabate](#) (2009)

Rehder Award from the Department of Germanic Studies

[Johanna Sellman](#) (2009)

Research Grant, University Swedish Endowment
[Johanna Sellman](#) (Summer 2009)

University Co-op/ Graduate School Awards for Excellence in Graduate Education: Outstanding Dissertation Award

[Hülya Yildiz](#) (2009)

Other Fellowships and Awards

American Association of University Women Austin Branch Doctoral Fellowship
[Andrea Hilkovitz](#) (2008-9)

Polish Ministry of Higher Education Scholarship
[Marcin Rusinkiewicz](#) (2008-9)

The Susan Sontag Prize for Translation
[Roanne Sharp](#), Fall 2009 incoming student for her translation of Juan Jose Saer's *La Mayor* (2009)



Supervisors Kamran Ali and Ann Cvetkovich accepting the Outstanding Dissertation Award on Hülya's behalf

First Year Student Profiles (2008-9)

Flora Fu-Ying Chuang received her B.A. from National Sun Yat-Sen University and her M.A. in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies from the University of New Mexico. Her previous research interests primarily focused on feminism and American minority discourses on the issue of home. She is currently working to broaden her understanding of the concept of home, and she hopes to explore this theme in the context of East Asian literatures, primarily from China, Japan, and Taiwan.

Nora Eltahawy received her B.A. in English and Comparative Literature from the American University in Cairo. She is primarily interested in the intersection of Arab American fiction with Arabic literature and literature of the minorities in the U.S.

Cynthia Francica earned her B.A. in TESOL (Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Instituto de Enseñanza Superior en Lenguas Vivas "Juan Ramón Fernández" in Buenos Aires, Argentina. She studied Social Communication at the University of Buenos Aires and English at Universidad Nacional de Cordoba. She spent a year at Wabash College, Indiana, teaching Spanish as a Fulbright grantee. She is currently working on gender studies, queer theory, Latina literature, and postcolonial writing in English, French, and Spanish.

Max Hinton received his B.A. in Humanities from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. He is in his second (and final) semester of coursework for the M.A. at UT and he plans to complete his thesis this summer. His literary interests include Latin America and the Caribbean, the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands, and diasporic communities, with specific research interests in hegemonic relationships within Borderland contexts, as well as gender roles and sexuality in Latin American cultures.

Daniel Kahozi earned his B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Kinshasa, DRC. A Fulbright graduate student, his research interests include the intersections between tradition, corruption, poverty, and war in African literature, history, and politics.

Julianna Leachman received her B.A. in Comparative Literature and Russian from Vanderbilt University. Her research interests include Dostoevsky and other 19th and early 20th century realist writers of Russia, America, and France, particularly regarding questions of identity and the intersections of religion and literature.

Student News and Profiles

Alexandre Mattan received his B.A. in English and Economics from St. Louis University. He works with Dutch and English literatures, more specifically colonial and Great Depression literatures. Apart from economic theory he also has a growing interest in social Darwinism, translation, and plagiarism.

Jayita Sinha received her B.A., M.A., and M.Phil in English Literature at the University of Delhi. Her interests include Mysticism, Indian women's writing, and vernacular writing in post-independence India.

Franklin Strong earned his B.A. in Spanish and English from the University of Texas at Austin, his M.Ed. in Secondary Education from the University of St. Thomas, and his M.A. in English Literature from the University of Houston. His interests include Caribbean and Latin American literature, the writings of the Spanish Golden Age and the English Renaissance, and intersections of literature and musical performance.

Fatma Tarlaci received her B.A. in American Culture and Literature from Kadir Has University in Istanbul, Turkey. Her areas of interest include 19th and 20th century English and American literatures, contemporary Turkish literature, and literary and cultural theory, particularly psychoanalytic theory and Orientalism-Occidentalism.

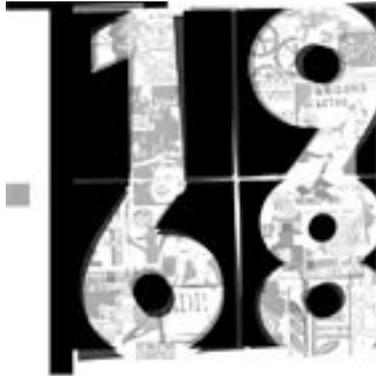
Bhavya Tiwari received her B.A. in English Literature from Calcutta University, India and her M.A. in Comparative Literature from Jadavpur University. Other than reading literatures of all kinds from various geopolitical locations, her areas of interest include parallels between Latin American and South Asian literatures.



Franklin Strong, Cynthia Francica, Daniel Kahozi, Nora Eltahawy, Bhavya Tiwari, Julianna Leachman, Alexandre Mattan, Max Hinton, Jayita Sinha, Fatma Tarlaci. Not Pictured: Flora Fu-Ying Chuang.

2008 GRACLS Conference

by Miguel Santos Neves



From October 7th-12th, 2008, the Program in Comparative Literature held a conference in tandem with the Fifth Annual Graduate Comparative Literature conference entitled "1968: A Global Perspective," which reflected on the events from that year and their legacy today. Under the leadership of Drs. Katherine Arens, Hannah Chappelle Wojciehowski, and Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, the organizing committee put together a conference that boasted five keynote speakers and over 80 panelists and roundtable participants.

A film series that ran prior to the start of the conference, entitled "Celluloid for Social Justice: The Legacy of 1968 in Documentaries," brought events from 1968 into the present. Comparative Literature graduate student Margaret Woodruff-Wieding

poured all of her passion into its realization. We remember Margaret fondly for her indefatigable commitment to a successful conference.

The first of our five plenary speakers, Daniel Ellsberg, delivered a compelling talk entitled "Secrecy and Presidential Wars: Lessons of 1968." Panels and roundtables began with Harvard University's Dr. Diana Sorensen's speech, "Law, Violence and the Politics of Passion: Tlateloco 1968 in a Comparative Perspective." That evening, Dr. Kathleen Cleaver of Emory Law School and Yale University gave a reading from her forthcoming memoir, *Memories of Love and War*; a candid question and answer session followed. The next day, Dr. Kristin Ross of New York University offered her interpretation of the May 1968 Parisian student protests in a compelling speech, "The Actuality of '68." Our final keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Hardt from Duke University, offered his viewpoint on the revolutionary tradition in 1968 and where it stands presently in his talk "Revolution, 1968 and Today." The Sunday panels concluded a conference that linked Austin and UT and was marked by vigorous idea exchanges and debate and the celebration of a year that revolutionized the academy and the world beyond it.

The committee would like to thank a number of people and organizations whose generous support made the 1968 conference possible: Randy L. Diehl, Dean, College of Liberal Arts; Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Director, Program in Comparative Literature; Elizabeth Cullingford, Chair, Department of English; The Texas Union Student Events Center CoSponsorship Committee; Betty Sue Flowers, Director, Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum; Kamran S. Aghaie, Center for Middle Eastern Studies; Kirsten Belgum, Past Director, Center for European Studies; Douglas Biow, Director, Center for European Studies; John M. Hoberman, Chair, Department of Germanic Studies; Evan Carton, Director, Humanities Institute; Victoria E. Rodriguez, Vice-Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies and the George W. Jalonick III and Dorothy Cockrell Jalonick Centennial Lectureship; Bryan Roberts, Director, The Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies; B. Glenn Chandler, Director, School of Music; Esther Raizen, Chair, Department of Middle Eastern Studies; Daniela Bini, Chair, Department of French and Italian; Madeline Sutherland-Meier, Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Leo Zonn, Chair, Department of Geography and the Environment; Alan Tully, Chair, Department of History; Janet Davis, Past Chair, Department of American Studies; Steven Hoelscher, Chair, Department of American Studies.



The Program in Comparative Literature also thanks the following sponsors for their generous support: The College of Liberal Arts, Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores, The Stiles Endowed Professorship.

Kathleen Cleaver, of Emory Law School and Yale University, reads from her memoir in progress,

"*Memories of Love and War*."

The complete conference program can be found on the program's Web site:

www.utexas.edu/cola/progs/complit/conferences/

My Interview with Novelist Frieda Ekotto

by Naminata Diabate



Naminata Diabate

How do I write Chapter One of my dissertation on a novel that failed to attract critical attention? Is an interview with the author worthwhile? To what extent should the interview influence my reading of the novel? These were a few of the questions I struggled to answer when trying to write

on Frieda Ekotto's 2001 novel, *Chuchote pas Trop*. Taking my dissertation committee's advice, I soon found that interviewing the author could enrich my reading of her work.

The Program in Comparative Literature and its chair, Professor Richmond-Garza, generously assisted in defraying the cost of my trip to Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Ekotto teaches Comparative Literature. I contacted the novelist for an interview, to which she graciously agreed. My prior experience interviewing Professor Bernth Lindfors became useful in effectively interacting with the novelist. The interview was extremely productive, offering me more insights than I had expected. For example, hearing about the steps leading to the publication of the novel was helpful in understanding the politics surrounding the publication of certain texts in West Africa.

During the interview, it became apparent that the novelist and I have differing readings of several sections of the novel. For example, Ekotto argues the voicelessness of protagonists who I think do have a voice through their diaries and letters. Whose reading should have primacy—the novelist's or the critic's? I agree with Roland Barthes's seminal essay, "The Death of the Author" (1968), which argues against fetishizing an author's readings. In other words,

interviews with authors add an additional layer to the literary critic's readings but should not supersede them.

The interview is now being considered for publication in several African Studies journals.

Paris Summers

by Elizabeth Erbeznik



Elizabeth Erbeznik in Paris last summer.

As an Assistant Instructor in the French Department, I have always encouraged my students to study abroad. After writing numerous letters of recommendation for students ap-

plying to go to France, I was excited when I got the opportunity to "go abroad" again myself. As Program Liaison for the McComb's CIBER program, I traveled to Paris last summer with 60 UT business students. Part translator, part guide, and constant crisis manager, I helped the students negotiate and enjoy an unfamiliar city.

One of the best parts of my job was arranging weekly cultural excursions. Since everyone could find the Louvre and Eiffel Tower on their own, I tried to think of what students might miss – like going up to the top of Notre Dame or taking the train out to Versailles. Although I had been to Paris before, it was a new experience to be there with students who were exploring the city for the first time.

No experience is without its challenges and we had our fair share of mishaps. Metro passes suddenly stopped working, students got sick or sprained body parts (giving me the chance to learn the French word for "crutches"), and a purse forgotten on the beach in Barcelona was stolen (along with the passport inside). As I helped the students with these (and other) problems, I ad-

mired their resiliency and good humor.

Having had such an amazing experience, I knew even before I left that I wanted to participate in the program again. I am eager to return to Paris this summer with the next group of students.



Elizabeth (far right) and some of the CIBER students in Paris last summer.

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad, or CASA by Banafsheh Madaninejad



Banafsheh Madaninejad

Studying at The Center for Arabic Study Abroad, or CASA, has come to represent a rite of passage for the academic study of Arabic in the US. Kamran Aghaie, UT's Center for Middle Eastern Studies director and himself an alumnus of the program, once called CASA a professional degree in itself, and I have to concur.

The year-long program is divided into three semesters beginning in the summer. The summer is intense and the purpose, I believe, is to give the incoming student enough Arabic, fast enough, to make him or her comfortable coping with daily needs. The fall semester is also intense; there are three required classes: colloquial Arabic, classical listening, and reading. By the spring, students are given more freedom in their choice of classes. They are required to take a writing class, and they can choose their additional three classes from a list of classes taught in the past. If there is enough interest, students can even petition for a new class altogether.

I can't say enough about the staff and faculty at CASA. Professor Al-Batal, the main program

director, is the happiest academic I've ever met, and he's strongly dedicated to maintaining CASA standards. The program director and faculty member in Egypt, Nevenka Korica, is a tower of wisdom who goes to extended lengths to keep the students content and productive. Heba Salem and Abeer Haydar, professors extraordinaire, were also essential in helping me find housing and cope with the hard adjustment period in the fall.

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad

The Center for Arabic Study Abroad (CASA) was established in 1967 to offer intensive advanced Arabic language training at the American University in Cairo, Egypt. Since its inception, CASA has trained more than 1,350 American college level students, graduate students, and professors specializing in various areas of Middle Eastern Studies.

For more information, please visit:
<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/centers/casa/>

Summer of 2007, my first semester at CASA, was a magical period, partly because Egypt is magical but also because I went from not being able to even understand my Egyptian husband's family's colloquialisms in the beginning of the summer, to carrying out simple political conversations by the end. My abilities grew when I returned for the year-long program beginning in the Fall of 2008. The pedagogy program is bar none the best learning environment I have ever experienced. The fun and interesting methods push students beyond their limits every day.

To sum up, I have to say that if you ever get the chance, go and relish the opportunity to live in Cairo and learn the language while in a supportive and fun environment.

Course Development - A New Teaching Experience

by Lanie Millar



Lanie Millar

One of the great advantages of being a graduate student at a university as large and diverse as UT is the wide variety of teaching experiences offered, assuring we will be well-prepared instructors upon leaving UT. From 2007-2008, several grad students and I had the opportunity to work with Drs. Rafael Salaberry and Delia Montesinos in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese to develop and teach an upper-division pilot course in Advanced Spanish Grammar and Composition. Rather than depending on a traditional grammar textbook, we were charged with creating all the classroom and homework materials ourselves.

The idea behind this seemingly huge task was not to reproduce the kinds of activities found in most textbooks, but rather to give students examples of native Spanish language use and create activities that required them to analyze grammatical structures, vocabulary, and other language features found in the selections. We worked with a wide variety of written, spoken, and visual texts, from short stories to hip-hop song lyrics. By working with free-use videos from YouTube, news articles found online, and other widely available media sources, the course is designed to adapt and change from semester to semester within a similar model of presentation. Since all the course materials are available to the students and instructors online, instructors can create new activities for a movie or article with which we have already worked or select a new text to present a topic.

After the initial semester in which it was offered when only two of us taught the pilot sections, Spanish 327G was opened up to five graduate in-

structors the second semester and over the past year has become one of the regular course offerings taught by graduate students. While the first year required more work than I have ever put into teaching a single course, it was an incredible experience to participate in creating a course curriculum from its inception to its final classroom presentation and to be able to adapt the materials according to the students' response and input. Despite the amount of work required, developing and teaching Spanish 327G with the mentorship of our language program directors was a great way to learn how course development works and to be able to teach material not normally offered to graduate instructors. It is certainly one of the highlights of my professional development experiences at UT.

My First ACLA Conference Experience

by Bhavya Tiwari

As a first year graduate student in Comparative Literature, participating in this year's ACLA conference was one of the best moments of my graduate life in UT. It was really a very rewarding experience, and I want to take



Julianna Leachman and Bhavya Tiwari at the 2009 ACLA conference in Boston.

this opportunity to thank Professor Richmond-Garza for making it so wonderful.

Other than reading my paper, "Dalit Testimonial Literature" in the panel entitled "Re-envisioning South Asian Literatures: Theories, Aesthetics, and Influence in Local and Global Contexts," I also worked during the conference as a UT representative, which instilled in me a new sense of belonging towards my department and university. During the conference I discovered a new side of my personality and exciting intellectual ideas that will keep me engaged for some time, perhaps until the next ACLA conference.

Publications

by Dafydd Wood

Dafydd Wood published an article entitled "Apollinaire's Late Lyrics" in the volume *Dialogism and Lyric Self-Fashioning* edited by Jacob Blevins and published by Susquehanna University Press. In this article he refutes Bakhtin's assertion that heteroglossia solely exists within the novel, arguing that a multiplicity of voices, even a variety of speakers, can be present within a lyric poem which is not a form, as often viewed, limited by a self-conscious narrator focusing on a private emotion—an understanding of lyric poetry exclusively informed by Romanticism. He argues that some of Apollinaire's poems should be read intratextually as unified cycles and sequences in which multiple voices and subjects blend in a dialogic fashion. Wood was also solicited to write the entry on "Sound" for the forthcoming edition of the Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics.

Additionally, Wood published in the *McNeese Review* "Adaptation of the Orpheus Myth in Five Operas" which examines the use of the narrative in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice*, Haydn's *L'Anima del folsofo ossia Orfeo ed Euridice*, Offenbach's *Orphée aux enfers*, and Glass' *Orphée*. He argues that the differences in the narratives and the discrepancy in emphases clearly reveal the intellectual milieu of each period through careful formal study.

ELIZABETH WARNOCK FERNEA



Elizabeth Warnock Fernea, professor emerita of comparative literature and Middle Eastern studies who taught for 24 years at The University of Texas at Austin, died Dec. 2, 2008, at the age of 81.

Known as "B.J." to her friends and family, Fernea was a noted writer, filmmaker, and scholar of women's issues in the Middle East. Her bestselling memoir "Guests of the Sheik: An Ethnography of an Iraqi Village" (1965), details her cultural immersion into the lives of the women of Al-Nahra when she accompanied her husband Robert there for his doctoral field study.

Fernea joined the university as a senior lecturer in 1975 shortly after Robert became director of the university's Center for Middle Eastern Studies. She was chairwoman of the university's Women's Studies Program from 1980 to 1983 before retiring in 1999.

In addition to her prolific career as a writer, Fernea also was an avid film producer, earning two National Endowment for the Humanities grants for her work. Her films include "Saints and Spirits," "Reformers and Revolutionaries: Middle Eastern Women," "The Struggle for Peace: Israelis and Palestinians," "The Road to Peace: Israelis and Palestinians" and "Living with the Past."

Fernea earned a bachelor's degree from Reed College in Portland. The State University of New York at Plattsburg awarded her an honorary doctorate in 1994.

Please see her full obituary [here](#).

MARGARET STARCKE WOODRUFF-
WIEDING



Margaret Starcke Woodruff-Wieding, a retired professor and a graduate student in Comparative Literature, died on December 3, 2008, from a pulmonary embolism. She was 66 years old.

Although she was born in Seguin, Texas, Margaret grew up in Austin and graduated from S.F. Austin High School in 1959. Margaret received her B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in German from the University of Texas and then worked at UT as a German instructor and a staff member at the Bureau of Business Research and the Linguistics Research Center from the early 1970s to the mid 1980s. Margaret also taught at Austin Community College and Texas Lutheran College (later Texas Lutheran University).

Margaret began working toward her second Ph.D., this time in Comparative Literature, in 2002. She worked with other graduate students to organize the film series "Celluloid for Social Justice: The Legacy of 1968 in Documentaries" that preceded the Fifth Annual Graduate Comparative Literature conference in the fall of 2008. She had completed her coursework and was working on her dissertation when she died.

Click [here](#) for Margaret's full obituary and guestbook.

New Comparative Literature Faculty

Tatiana Kuzmic, Assistant Professor of Slavic and Eurasian Studies. Graduate work at the University of Illinois. Languages: Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, Russian, German. Research interests: nineteenth century novel (Russian, South and West Slavic, English, German), realism, theories of the novel, imperialism/nationalism, gender studies, the novel of adultery as indicative of national(istic) anxieties. Recent publications: "The Mind, the Body, and the Love Triangle in *Anna Karenina*" in *Tolstoy Studies Journal* (2007) and "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage in the Balkans" in *Comparative Critical Studies* (journal of the British Comparative Literature Association, 2007).



Thomas Cable, Professor and Jane Weinert Blumberg Chair of English. Graduate work at University of Texas at Austin. Research interests: poetics and linguistics; history of the English language including the influences of other languages; Old and Middle English prosody. Dr. Cable is interested in learning from students and colleagues in Comparative Literature about the phonology and prosodic systems of other languages. Recent publications: "Kaluzsa's Law and the Progress of Old English Metris" in *Development in Prosodic Systems* and "Connoisseurs of Sound and the New Formalism" in *La Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines*.



Niyi Afolabi, Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese. Graduate work at the University of Wisconsin - Madison.



Languages: Portuguese, French, Yoruba, English. Research interests: the Lusophone Atlantic Triangle (Lusophone Africa, Brazil, and Portugal), issues of transnationalism, migrations, and exile,

parallels between the centrality of Yoruba mythology in the African diaspora, and the interface between literature and historicism with particular focus on Afro-Brazil. Recent publications: *The Golden Cage: Regeneration in Lusophone African Literature and Culture*, and *Afro-Brazilians: Cultural Production in a Racial Democracy*.

The Program in Comparative Literature draws faculty from many different departments across campus, including English, French and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, Middle Eastern Studies, Germanic Languages, Slavic and Eurasian Studies, and many more.

“The Collective Unbound” and Neurocriticism

by *Hannah Wojciehowski*



This past year I completed a book manuscript entitled “The Collective Unbound,” a study of the formation and transformation of group identities during the Renaissance. The thesis of this book, put simply, is that the Renaissance may be characterized as an era during which collective identities were unbound and then reorganized through the accelerating processes of global transculturation.

Using a method of investigation both philological and psychoanalytic, “The Collective Unbound” explores the complex etymologies of words and concepts such as *group*, *cannibal*, *machine*, and *slave*, together with their cognates and translations across world languages. By analyzing the impact of these diverse concepts on collective identity formation during the Renaissance within the context of specific cultural encounters, this book seeks to develop a new approach to the theorizing of what I call ‘group subjectivity’—i.e., the identity, behavior, and psychic processes of collectives as distinct from those of individuals—and its historical evolution. Moving between Europe, the New World, Africa, and India, each chapter explores the ways in which these key words and concepts surface within literary texts, the visual arts, historical documents, and other modes of representation, generally in connection with specific fantasies about the group, its ‘body,’ and its survival or demise.

I’m also working on a new set of projects concerning the emergent field of neurocriticism. In May, I interviewed renowned Italian neuroscientist Vittorio Gallese about his research on the human Mirror Neuron System, empathy, and intersubjectivity. That same month, I

attended the American Association of Italian Studies in Taormina, Sicily, where I presented a paper on the discovery of the human MNS and its potential impact on literary studies. I gave a related lecture on the MNS, attachment theory, and narrative at the University of California, Berkeley, in November. I'm very excited about this new interdisciplinary field, which is likely to have a significant impact on literary theory.

In February, my essay "O Dente do Bugio: Relics, Religion and Rivalry in 16th-Century Ceylon and Goa" appeared in *Santa Barbara Portuguese Studies IX*.

A Brief Introduction

by Lynn Wilkinson

I have taught at UT since 1988, as an assistant, then associate, professor in the Department of Germanic Studies, with affiliations in Comparative Literature, Women's and Gender Studies, European Studies, and most recently, French Studies. A comparatist by training, I have been able to teach courses cross-listed in different departments and programs across campus and to work with graduate students across campus. I am deeply grateful for the remarkable range of opportunities UT offers faculty and students interested in interdisciplinary work, as well as for the extraordinary resources, especially its libraries, that make such work possible.

I came to UT with a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from UC Berkeley, where I focused on French, Scandinavian, and German literature and wrote a dissertation on the reception of Swedenborg and Swedenborgianism in French literature and popular culture. A revised version appeared as *The Dream of an Absolute Language: Emanuel Swedenborg and French Literary Culture* (SUNY, 1995).



My research and teaching focus on western European literature and culture during the long nineteenth century, roughly 1775 to 1925, with particular emphases on European Modernism, the "Modern Breakthrough" in Scandinavia during the last decades of the nineteenth century, the French novel, women writers, critical theory, and the interconnections between modern or modernist drama and silent film. I also teach courses on Scandinavian film, including one on the work of Ingmar Bergman, and I am on the faculty advisory board for the undergraduate Bridging Disciplines Program in film studies.

I recently completed a book manuscript on a nineteenth-century Swedish writer by the name of Anne Charlotte Leffler. Born in 1849, the same year as the (perhaps undeservedly) more famous August Strindberg, she published about fifteen plays, many of which were performed to critical acclaim throughout Scandinavia, as well as two novels and many shorter works. I am also working on a comparative study of nineteenth-century women playwrights. One of the articles I published this past year is related to this project: "Marriage, Remarriage, and Other Language Games: Emma Gad's *Ægtestand* and *De unge Drømme* and the Comedy of Remarriage." *Orbis litterarum* 63:3 (2008):177-194. I also published "Culture and Power in Balzac's Rubempré Novels: The View from Bourdieu." *Romance Quarterly* 55:2 (2008): 153-160. An article on Ingmar Bergman's television adaptation *Bildmakarna* or *The Image Makers* is forthcoming in *Tijdschrift voor Skandinavistiek*, and a chapter on Strindberg's Chamber Plays will appear in *The Cambridge Companion to Strindberg*.

In spring 2007 and 2008, I was visiting professor of literature at Mälardalen University, which is located in Västerås and Eskilstuna, about an hour from Stockholm. At Mälardalen, I taught classes on film adaptations and nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature, and I also participated in

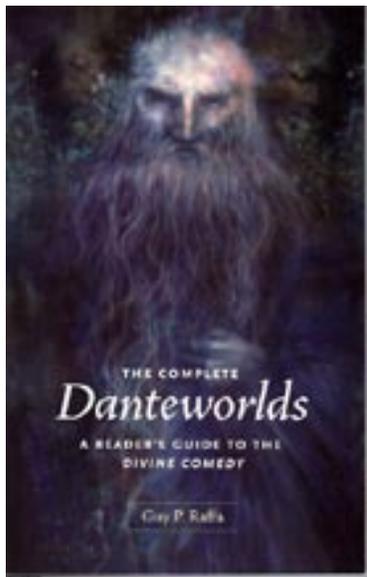
a research group on literature and ecology. This June, the group will meet up at the biannual conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment at the University of Victoria. I will present a paper on the representation of the landscape in Ingmar Bergman's *The Passion of Anna* as part of a panel organized by our research group at Mälardalen.

Many of you know me either from the Comparative Literature proseminar or the second part of the theory sequence required of all graduate students in the program. I have taught both many times, and I have particularly enjoyed the theory course, which brings together students from a variety of linguistic and disciplinary perspectives. To my delight, sometimes the most opaque theories have given rise to the liveliest discussions, challenging us to communicate despite – and because of – our differences.

The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Divine Comedy"

by Guy Raffa

Guy Raffa's *The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Divine Comedy"* was published



this spring by the University of Chicago Press. The heart of the book is an original scholarly commentary on the three canticles of Dante's *Commedia*—*Inferno*, *Purgatorio*, and *Paradiso*—based on a fresh examination of the written sources and historical events from the ancient world to the late Middle ages that fired the poet's imagination. Commentaries on the *Commedia*

are part of long tradition in Dante studies dating back to soon after the poet's death in 1321—early commentators include Dante's two sons and Giovanni Boccaccio.

Consistent with the poet's extraordinary visual imagination, Raffa's commentary is distinguished by its geographic organization. This arrangement allows readers to parallel their textual journey with the physical journey of Dante and his guides through the circles of Hell, terraces of Purgatory, and spheres of Paradise. The commentary, based on Raffa's original research, contains detailed entries on all the characters appearing in Dante's afterworlds and on the most significant theological and philosophical ideas, historical and political events, classical and biblical references, and literary allusions that inform the *Commedia*. The entries make ample use of accounts and anecdotes written closer to Dante's day to bring to life historical figures and episodes from the Middle Ages.

Dante scholars and other specialists will not be the only ones to profit from *The Complete Danteworlds*: each chapter-region contains features—an overview of the action, selected verses (in Italian and English), and study questions—for the benefit of teachers and their students, and the book is complemented by the award-winning [Danteworlds Web site](#), which contains over four hundred images. The site was selected for inclusion on [EDSITEment](#) as "one of the best online resources for education in the humanities," and was featured in the [literary blogs of the New Yorker](#) and the [Los Angeles Times](#).

Recent graduates

Kai-man Chang (Ph.D., 2008) was offered a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Asian Studies at The University of Texas at Austin for Spring Semester 2009. In addition to revising his dissertation, "*Disrupting Boundaries of Desire: Gender, Sexuality, and Globalization in Tsai Ming-liang's Cinema of the Oppressed*" into a book manuscript, he has been assisting the department in organizing lectures, workshops, and symposia as well as creating and maintaining a website/listserv devoted to scholarly exchange on Taiwan-related topics. In February, he organized a talk by Prof. Feng-Ming Chen, who is the Dean of the Graduate Institute of Taiwan Literature at the National Chengchi University. Prof. Chen is one of the most distinguished scholars on Taiwan's colonial and postcolonial history. In addition to the talk, Kai-man also put together a history/politics workshop for graduate students to learn from Prof. Chen about the intricate relationships between literary, cultural, and political developments in contemporary Taiwan. He was recently offered a tenure-track position as an assistant professor of Chinese in the Department of Languages at the University of Tulsa, where he will be teaching upper-division classes in Chinese and Chinese literature, cinema, and popular culture in English. He will also be in charge of creating a Chinese program and working closely with the Confucius Institute in Tulsa to enhance cultural exchanges between China and the United States. His recent publications include "Drifting Bodies and Flooded Spaces: Visualizing Heteronormativity in Tsai Ming-liang's *The River*" in *Post Script* and "Gender Hierarchy and Environmental Crisis in Tsai Ming-liang's *The Hole*" in *Film Criticism*.

Moira Di Mauro-Jackson (Ph.D., December 2008) is currently teaching French & Italian at the Department of Modern Languages at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. She is also the French Honor Society (Pi Delta Phi) Advisor & French Club Moderator at Texas State. This summer, she will teach an Intermediate Italian & an Italian culture course in Florence, Italy. She designed and maintains the Texas State Modern Languages department website at www.modlang.txstate.edu. With an article in an Italian journal and a book chapter on Oscar Wilde already published, she is working on the following publications:

"All Art is a Kind of Confession: Brendan Behan's *The Quare Fellow* and *The Hostage* as Portals of Sociocultural Political Studies," *Proceedings of the 55th Annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference* (Wake Forest UP, forthcoming)

"There Is No Place on Earth Like the World": The Cultural and Sexual Politics of Identity in Behan's Prison Plays," *Literature and Prison, Modern Perspectives on Literature* (Rodopi Press: Amsterdam, forthcoming)

Book review of Valentina Glajar & Domenica Radelescu, eds., *Vampirettes, Wretches and Amazons: Western Representations of East European Women*, *The Comparatist*, Vol. 29 (2005)

"Musicologia Texana," *The Mellophonium: Periodico Saltuario di Cultura Musicale* Volume X (Autunno) (Pubblicazione a cura del K.I.P. (Kenton Information Point): San Remo, Italia, October 2003)

"Double-Consciousness and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*," *Oscar Wilde: The Man, His Writings and His World*, *AMS Studies in the Nineteenth-Century*, Robert N. Keane, ed. (Hofstra UP, March 2003)

ACLA 2009

As usual, members of the Program in Comparative Literature were well represented at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, which was held the last weekend of March at Harvard University. Among those who presented papers were:

Carlos Amador, "*Prenderle fuego por los cuatros costados al mundo: Biopolitics, Revolution, and the Novels of Roberto Arlt*"

Katherine Arens, "*Stunde Null (Zero Hour) or Alltagsfaschismus (Everyday Fascism): Two Different Unconquered Pasts*"

Pascale R. Bos, "Postmemory as Cultural Memory: Beyond the Local?"

S. Pearl Brilmyer, "The Nietzschean 'Impulse' in Pierre Klossowski"

Philip Masterman Broadbent organized the seminar **Divided by a Common Language: Cultural Divides and New Global Maps**

Michael A. Johnson, "Allegory and the Pauline Body"

Tatiana Kuzmic, "'Spheres of Existence' in *Anna Karenina*: A Reading of Tolstoy through the Prism of Kierkegaard's Philosophy"

Alexei Lalo, "The Nightmare of Pedophilia and Hobgoblin of Pornography Revisited: How Rules of Attraction Work in Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*"

Julianna L. Leachman, "Literary Art and Visions of Reality in *The Adolescent* and *A Sentimental Education*"

Keith Livers, "The Rise of the Collective Body: Sorokin's 'Den'oprchnika'"

Anna M. Marin, "Multiple-Margins and Identity Intersections: The 'Sicaria' and the 'Malandra' in Contemporary Literature"

Christopher D. Micklethwait, "The Estridentista Manifestos between the Mexican and International Avant-Gardes"

Simone Sessolo, "The Color of Death; The Filmic in Derek Jarman's *Blue*"

Bhavya Tiwari, "Dalit testimonial literature"

Lynn R. Wilkinson, "Gender, Spectatorship, and Freud's Readings of Ibsen's *Rosmersholm* and *Little Eyolf*"

Jennifer Wilks, "A Tale of Two Carmens"

For the remaining papers, please see "News in Brief" below.

[Samer Ali](#) published an article in Dec. 2008 entitled “The Rise of the Abbasid Public Sphere: The Case of al-Mutanabbi and Three Middle Ranking Patrons,” in a special issue of the Madrid-based journal, *Al-Qantara* 39: 2. The article explores the emergence of new-money humanism and political participation in the 10th-century Middle East. He also received a Faculty Research Assignment for 2009-10 to work on the Abbasid public sphere project, which will enable him to conduct research on Arabic manuscript in Berlin and Cairo.

[Daniela Bini](#), who is in her fifth year as Chair of the Department of French and Italian, recently published the essay “Fifty Years of Vitellonismo: Fellini, Monicelli, Muccino” in *Rivista di Studi Italiani* and “Der Last van de waarheid. De actualiteit van Carlo Michelstaedter” in *Europees humanism in fragmenten*. Last spring she was the keynote speaker at the Conference on Italian Film Comedy at Yale University and spoke on “Leopardi and Music” at the University of Mary Washington. She also delivered a paper on Italian cinema at the annual American Association for Italian Studies at Colorado College. Last summer she presented her paper “Carlo Michelstaedter Today: The Burden of Truth and the Proliferation of Rhetoric” in Amsterdam at the Nexus International Conference. This past fall she was invited to give a lecture at Middlebury College and was a keynote speaker at the symposium “The Leopard 1958-2008” at UCLA. In December she presented a paper on Luigi Pirandello at the MLA in San Francisco. She also gave a lecture at Middlebury College on “*I Vitelloni* Yesterday and Today” and spoke on “An Antihero in the Sicily of the Risorgimento at UCLA.

[Marc Bizer](#) presented a paper entitled “From Lyric to Epic and Back: Joachim Du Bellay’s Epic Regrets” at the 2008 Modern Language Association Annual Convention in San Francisco.

[Pilar Cabrera](#) had her second son, Marlo, in March of 2009. She published the article “Prótesis y sexualidad en ‘Un hombre es así’ y ‘Cuando vengan a buscarme’” in *Revista Iberoamericana* (issue 226, January-March 2009) as part of a dossier on Virgilio Piñera. In 2008 she presented the paper “Mass Media and Vengeance in the Cuban Family” at the SCLA conference in Auburn, Alabama.

[Yekaterina Cotey](#) presented a paper entitled “From 1968 to 1825: Impact of Prague Spring on Dissident Poetry” at the Interdisciplinary Conference “1968: A Global Perspective” in Austin.

[Naminata Diabate](#) published an essay, “Rene Maran’s *Batouala* and Africa: The Limits of the Alliance”, in *Oral and Written Expressions of African Cultures*. Ed. Toyin Falola and Fallou Ngom. Durham: Carolina Academic Press, 2009. She presented a paper entitled “Jean Pierre Bekolo’s *Les Saignantes* and the Dialectic of Resistance of the African Female Body” at the 2009 ACLA conference at Harvard University in March. She was awarded the 2009 George H. Mitchell Award Excellence in Graduate Research Award.

[Francisca Folch](#) has been awarded an internship at the Harry Ransom Center for 2009-2010. She also presented a paper entitled “Operatic Vampires in Delibes’ *Lakmé*: Locating the Vampire in Orientalist Visions of the Other” at the 2009 ACLA conference at Harvard University in March.

[Alan Friedman](#) and [Charles Rossman](#) have just co-edited a special issue of *TSLL* (Texas Studies in Literature and Languages) 51.1 (March 2009) Samuel Beckett in Austin and Beyond.

Thomas J. Garza (Slavic and Eurasian Studies) presented "Avatars and Anime: Animation in MTV Russia" at the annual convention of the MLA in San Francisco in December. His article "From Aga Khan to Dim Sum: New Russia's Asian Appetite" appears in vol. 11 of *Ulbardus*. He also published "Ne Trozh' Molodëzh! A Portrait of Urban Youthspeak and the Russian Language in the 21st Century" in the 2009 issue of *Russian Language Journal*. He presented a paper entitled "Twelve Angry Russians: Mikhalkov's 12 as Nostalgia for the Present," at the 2009 ACLA conference at Harvard University in March.

Daniel Kahozi presented a paper at the fifth annual graduate conference entitled "Congo Crucible: Re-interpreting the Independence Meaning". He has also published a review of Bernth Lindfors' *Early Soyinka* in the Spring 2009 issue of the *E3W Review of Books*.

Somy Kim received a 2009-10 FLAS fellowship for the study of Arabic.

Ingrid Lelos has a forthcoming article entitled "The Sufferings of a 'Captive Maid': Jane Hoskens and the Quaker Reformation" in *Early American Literature* 44.3 (2009).

Naomi Lindstrom's article titled "Judaic Traces in the Narrative of Clarice Lispector: Identity Politics and Evidence" was published in *Latin American Jewish Cultural Production*, David William Foster, ed. Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 2009. 83-96. She was also appointed to chair selection committee for the Katherine Singer Kovacs Prize of the Modern Language Association and named to the editorial board of the *Americas Series*, Texas Tech University Press.

Banafsheh Madaninejad became a candidate in May 2008 and spent the fall semester in Cairo on a CASA fellowship. She organized a panel called "Reflections on Tafsir and Islamic Hermeneutics" and presented the paper "Soroush and the Finality of Revelation" for the 2008 Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) conference in Washington, DC. She also gave a talk entitled "Islamic Identity and Privilege" at Austin Community College's Ethics Resource Center Fall semester conference in February.

Christopher Micklethwait presented a paper on the manifestos of the Mexican avant-garde at the 2009 ACLA meeting at Harvard University.

Lanie Millar presented a paper entitled "Abolition of a Nation: J. E. Agualusa's *Nação crioula*" at the 2009 African Literature Association Conference, and the paper "Rediscovery of the Americas: Alejo Carpentier and the Gendered Discourses of Colonialism" at the 2009 ACLA Annual Meeting. She also published a review of *Mother Africa, Father Marx: Women's Writing in Mozambique, 1943-2002* in the 2009 edition of the *E3W Review of Books*.

Marina Potoplyak's book review was published in the *E3W Review of Books*. In November, she will present the paper "S Toj Storony Zerkal'nogo Stekla: Arseny Tarkovsky's Poetry in Andrei Tarkovsky's Films *Zerkalo* and *Nostalgia*" at the annual AAASS conference in Boston, MA.

Guy Raffa's *The Complete Danteworlds: A Reader's Guide to the "Divine Comedy"* will be published by the University of Chicago Press (June 2009). His Danteworlds Web site was featured in the literary blogs of the *New Yorker* (Jan. 8, 2009) and the *Los Angeles Times* (Jan. 14, 2009).

Michal Raizen-Colman presented a paper, "Mental Illness and the Double Vision of the Orphan in Yoel Hoffmann's *ketschen* and Aharon Appelfeld's *badenheim 'ir nofesh*," at the 2008 National Association of Professors of Hebrew Conference Montreal. In July 2008 she interviewed the author Eli Amir at his home in Gilo, Israel. In October 2008 she presented "From Paris to Al-Quds With Love: An Afterword to 1967 in Eli Amir's *yasmin*" at the "1968: A Global Perspective" conference at UT. Her review of Todd Hasak-Lowy's *Here and Now: History, Nationalism, and Realism in Modern Hebrew Fiction* was published in the 2009 issue of the *Journal of Jewish Identities*.

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza continued as director of the Program in Comparative Literature as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Comparative Literature Association, whose annual meeting of more than 2,100 participants she organized at Harvard University with the invaluable assistance of two graduate student assistants, Andrij Bamber and Julianna Leachman. She continued her service for the ADFL job market workshops at the 2008 MLA meeting and was elected to the MLA delegate assembly. She continued as a member of the National Humanities Alliance and the American Council of Learned Societies, and was elected to the CAO executive committee of the ACLS. She delivered scholarly papers at both the MLA annual convention, "Moscow's Hamlets: Scene from the New Europe or from a Superfluous Nation," and at the ACLS's annual meeting, "Who Would Listen? The Dissonance of the Self in Mallarmé, Schönberg and Rilke."

César A. Salgado did research for his manuscript on Caribbean archivology at the Sala Puertorriqueña collection in the University of Puerto Rico at Río Piedras and at the Lola Rodríguez de Tió archives in Interamerican University at San Germán in October of his fall 2008 leave. In November he watched the U.S. election night results at the Hotel Meliá-Cohiba in Habana; the day after he gave a paper on *origenista* literary anthologies at the Instituto de Literatura y Lingüística conference *400 Years of Cuban Literature*. He spent the following week reading original copies of the reformist 1860s newspaper *El Siglo* at the Biblioteca Nacional José Martí. In Spring 2009 he returned as Graduate Adviser in the CL program after a six year hiatus. He presented the paper "Notes on Afro-Caribbean Archival Collection Practices: Arthur A. Schomburg's Unfinished Book on Black Atlantic Painters" at the ACLS Conference at Harvard. He gave the second plenary address, "Nuevos hallazgos sobre Tapia en Cuba," at the Ateneo Puertorriqueño Symposium on the Puerto Rican 19th century writer and playwright Alejandro Tapia y Rivera on April 4 in San Juan.

Jillian Sayre presented on memory in the digital age for the panel "Is Aristotle on Twitter?" at the South By Southwest Interactive Conference.

Johanna Sellman published an article, "Un paysage plus grand que nous: Orality as Healing in Nabile Farès's *Mémoire de l'absent* (forthcoming in 2009 in *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies / SITES*), a book chapter, "Narration and Vernacular in Mohammed Berrada's *Lu'bat al-Nisyan* (forthcoming in 2009 in *Facts, Fictions and African Creative Imaginations*, Routledge 2009), and a book review of Jane Mayer's latest book *The Dark Side: The Inside Story of How the War on Terror Turned*

into a *War on American Ideals* in the 2009 *E3W Review of Books*. She also presented a paper on Kateb Yacine's popular theater troupe at the 1968 conference.

Lynn R. Wilkinson taught as visiting professor of literature at Mälardalen University in Sweden for the second time during spring 2008. She also published two articles: "Marriage, Remarriage, and Other Language Games: Emma Gad's *Ægtestand* and *De unge Drømme* and the Comedy of Remarriage," *Orbis litterarum* 63:3 (2008), 177-194, and "Culture and Power in Balzac's Rubempré Novels: The View from Bourdieu," *Romance Quarterly* 55:2 (2008): 153-160, and presented papers at the ACLA in Long Beach, the Eighteenth International George Sand Conference, the 34th annual Nineteenth-Century French Studies Colloquium, and the MLA.

Seth Wolitz has a large exhibit, named *Futur Anterieur, L'Avantgarde Yiddish 1900-1939*, going on in Paris at the Musee D'art et D'histoire Du Judaïsme, 71 Rue Du Temple, on the Avantgarde in Eastern European Jewish art 1900-1939. The museum has put out a superb catalogue in which Seth Wolitz has the lead article on the cultural history of Jewish participation in modernity and in all forms of avantgarde pictorial and literary activities. He was also invited to present a lecture on the reception of Sholem Aleykhem in America at the 150th anniversary of the birth of the author at the Institute of Jewish Studies at Columbia University in March 2009. Dr. Wolitz also has a new publication in collaboration with Richard Fein, *With Everything We've Got*, a volume of Yiddish poetry in translation with the introduction and critical biographical studies, Hostos Press 2009. In February, he presented a paper entitled "Holocaust Memory in the Theater of Jean-Claude Grumberg" at the Jewish Theater International Conference in New York at the Jewish Theological Seminary.

Attention Alumni:

The Newsletter welcomes contributions from alumni about any aspects of your post-UT Austin lives and careers. The newsletter's goal is to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty currently in the program and at the same time to share important news about our alumni.

It is your successes and undertakings which have secured us a national ranking of 21st in the country according to the National Research Council's survey, and we would like the opportunity to congratulate you publicly.

We encourage you to share your accomplishments with us. Please send your news for publication in the 2010 newsletter to the Program's email address:

complit@austin.utexas.edu

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Sixth Annual Student Conference

Call for Papers: Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present, UT Austin 16-17 October 2009

The age of globalism that shapes the world today is both a cause and effect of postcolonial actualities: effect because of the cultural influences (imposed or transmitted) of colonial powers on colonized lands through the centuries; cause because the supposed end of the colonialist era started world events of migration, hybridity, multiculturalism and relocation in the urban centers of former colonial powers. Several critics have already shaped the postcolonial discourse—such as from Said to Bhabha, from Achebe to Rushdie, from the Subaltern Studies Group to Anzaldúa—and the reality of our world today continues to offer numerous possibilities for discussion on postcolonial issues.

The interdisciplinary conference Postcolonial Actualities: Past and Present at the University of Texas at Austin will focus on how the immigrant flux of colonized populations between urban spaces of former colonizing countries and colonies has reformed the politics of literature, sociology, art, and culture in the cities of former colonial powers. The conference aims to create discussions investigating how major cities of former empires and colonies have become the stage of hybridity, multiculturalism, and new social dynamics. Participation is open to graduate students and scholars from all disciplines and national/cultural study areas.

Proposals and Information:

Proposals are invited for 20-minute papers that explore the influence of immigration, hybridity, class formation, etc. in any urban space that was once part of a colonizing empire. Likewise, papers that deal with centers that suffered an outgoing emigration are also invited. A list of possible topics is appended to this page.

Submit your abstract of 150-250 words in an email (no attachments) to postcolonial2009@gmail.com along with a brief biographical statement (max. 250 words) that can be used to introduce you. Please put "ABSTRACT: POSTCOLONIAL ACTUALITIES 2009" in the header of your email. The deadline for submitting an abstract is June 15, 2009.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Literature of diasporic communities
- Changing soundscapes
- The city and the visual
- Public and private spaces
- Politics and aesthetics of translation
- Dynamics of race and ethnicities
- Projections of/on the future
- Utopias and dystopias
- Choices in language
- The law of the city

(Any additional topics in the spirit of the Call for Papers are welcome)