**Director’s Note**

We live in a networked and interconnected world, where rhyzomatically everything is connected to everything else, everything affects everything else, even as our perspectives on that world emerge from the local and the personal. The field of Comparative Literature is itself a network sans frontiers, defined by our mission to “think across cultures and across languages” so as to imagine and explore the human to its limits and maybe even beyond. By its nature, Comparative Literature demands dialogue within and across national borders. The free movement of students and scholars, to and from universities, academic conferences, and other places of research and teaching, is therefore of the utmost importance to our field. In turn, the field and practices of comparative literature are important for fostering mutual understanding and respect across and among cultures, languages, ethnicities, religions, and national boundaries. Situated near our Texas border, with more than thirty languages represented by our students and faculty, our program continues to see the world in terms of collaborative communities of thought whose very diversity ensures that intellectual inquiry remains a passport to understanding. This year saw colleagues make imaginary and actual journeys to places as varied as Morocco and Russia, Germany and China, France and Iran, and allowed us to welcome an incoming class from across the country, Pakistan, and Brazil.

Our conversations this year probed the very question of what it means to be human, to be more or less, or other, than human. Our fall symposium mapped the limits of the human and investigated aspects of the extra-human, problematizing the very idea of individualized subject formation, interrogating the role of the mass (re-)production of objects, identity, and language as discrete entities, and tracing the divisible limits distinguishing “the human,” “the animal,” and “the monstrous.” Dr. Avital Ronell’s keynote address, “The Complaint of the Human,” asked us to think about how complaining defines being human and about the ways in which the “Klage” is necessary to do justice in human existence, from “loser sons” like Hamlet, to Plato, Derrida and Celan. She challenged us to recognize that “those who live in stubborn destitution” and the “sovereigns, those who rule” are “all the same by stating that they can’t complain.”

Whether in archives or at conferences, in classrooms on the Forty Acres or lecture halls in Berlin and Moscow, under the aegis of the Institute for World Literature or in partnership with the Travis County Sheriff’s Office, our students and faculty continue to connect the world in humane and constructive ways. Sarabeth Flowers stepped in as our our program coordinator after Billy Fatzinger’s departure in August 2016, and her capable and positive presence has ensured that the program remains welcoming and functions beautifully. This was also, however, a year of sorrow with the loss of our remarkable and beloved colleague, Barbara Harlow, whose resilience, passion and intelligence have defined and energized our program. She challenged us all intellectually and ethically to make a difference in our world. I hope that you will enjoy reading about, and celebrating, our work from the past year and that you will join me in congratulating all of our colleagues for their intellectual accomplishments and personal successes.
### Degree Recipients

#### Master of Arts:

**Spring 2017:**
- **Juan Avila Conejo**, Silence: History and the existential threat of nuclear war in *Memorias del subdesarrollo* and *Hiroshima Mon Amour*
- **Liza Goodwin**, "Ce monde qui s'écroule en nous": Abdellatif Laâbi’s Apocalyptic Consciousness
- **Monica Mohseni**, Oily Standards: Neocolonization and The Civilizing Narrative in Venezuela
- **Nina Sport**, The Birds and the Bees: Gender Performance in Grandville’s *Scènes de la vie privée et publique des animaux*

#### Doctor of Philosophy:

**Summer 2016:**
- **John DeStafney**, Repressions Of The Open Sea: Testing Modernity In Late-Nineteenth Century Maritime Literature Of Brazil, Britain, And The United States
- **Marina Flider**, Vernacular Via National Mythos: Literariness and Literary Registers in Contemporary Russian, BCS, and Israeli Literature
- **Cory Hahn**, News on Film: Cinematic Historiography in Cuba and Brazil
- **Dusty Hixenbaugh**, The Conquest Of Mexico In The Nineteenth-Century Transamerican Novel
- **Daniel Kahozi**, The Worst Place On Earth To Be A Woman: Novelists, Playwrights, And Memoirists On The Congo Armed Conflicts (1996-2010)

### Undergraduate Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C L 323</td>
<td>Conflict in Literature and Media in the Middle East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 305</td>
<td>Afro-Brazilian Diaspora</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 315</td>
<td>World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 335</td>
<td>World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 336</td>
<td>The Question of Italian Romanticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 381</td>
<td>Classic Legends: Canonicity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 386</td>
<td>Contemporary Literary Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 387</td>
<td>Introduction to Comparative Literature: Proseminar in Methods of Study and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 390</td>
<td>Contemporary Literary Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 395</td>
<td>A Word from the Co-Presidents of GRACLS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 310</td>
<td>Vampire in Slavic Cultures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 311</td>
<td>Thomas Garza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 312</td>
<td>Lars Hinrichs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 313</td>
<td>World Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C L 314</td>
<td>Ernest Kaulbach</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Student News

**A Word from the Co-Presidents of GRACLS**

By Amy Vidor and Kaitlin Shirley

The Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS) had another wonderful year in 2016-2017. We continued to foster a collegial and supportive Comparative Literature community, embracing the diversity of student scholarship and serving as a resource for new and continuing students. Our mentor program helped orient new cohorts to life in Austin by pairing incoming and returning students. Through monthly meetings we have invited the community to maintain connections, voice suggestions, participate in roundtables on Qualifying Exams, and workshop grant and fellowship applications.

The 13th annual GRACLS conference, "The Extra-human," was a resounding success thanks to diligent planning by Nina Sport and Marlena Cravens. The conference brought together work on the translator, language, the sublime, animality, xenophobia, the dead, bioethics, and more. In addition to featuring fifteen graduate and undergraduate research panels, the conference held two digital humanities roundtables on pedagogy and research and awarded its first abstract prize. Dr. Avital Ronell’s keynote address, "The Complaint of the Human," posed questions including what is a complaint and who has the right to complain? Our next conference will be held on October 27-28, 2017. The conference, “Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): Popular Culture and the Public Academy,” which will be held in association with a memorial conference for Barbara Harlow.

We are excited to announce that our Reading World Literature program will continue to grow next year by partnering with undergraduate and graduate students. Inspired by a Washington Post article about a program teaching Russian literature at a juvenile detention facility, GRACLS members created a similar program at the Travis County Correctional Complex (TCCC) in 2014. As the facility is a pre-trial center, the average length of stay for inmates is three months so classes are 6-weeks long. Each course focuses on one text by authors such as Balzac and Solzhenitsyn. Students seriously engage with the material. They have vibrant discussions about the text and how it applies to contemporary society and their unique perspectives. We have had over 10 successful classes, and even had an undergraduate TA participate in one course. Through the Reading World Literature program graduate students can receive course credit for a one semester commitment to teaching at the TCCC. We continue to recruit more faculty supervisors so that more students may be able to receive course credit in their department for their work. This provides valuable pedagogical experience and an opportunity to support an underserved community.

This year would not have been possible without Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Sarabeth Flowers, and current committee members: Liza Goodstein (Secretary), Nina Sport and Marlena Cravens (Curriculum Committee Representatives), Diana Leite (Social Coordinator), Tia Butler and Xinyao Xiao (Conference Organizers), Emma Wilson (Website Administrator), and Monica Mohensi (Graduate Student Assembly Representative). We are grateful for the continued support of faculty, staff, and fellow graduate students.

---

**2017 - 2018 GRACLS Officers**

**President:** Amy Vidor and Kaitlin Shirley  
**Secretary:** Liza Goodstein  
**Social Coordinator:** Diana Silveira Leite  
**Conference Organizers:** Xinyao Xiao, Monica Mohseni, and Tia Butler  
**Curriculum Representatives:** Nina Sport and Marlena Cravens
Wish to serve as English teaching assistants. The grants are for study and research abroad, closing at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on October 6, 2017. The program is restricted to U.S. citizens. For six years now this endowed fund has advanced research students in our program, allowing them to undertake original archival research and to write up their research. For the seventh year of the award, the program has decided to use the available funds to supplement the studies of current students doing important work in Middle Eastern studies.

Thanks to the generosity of the Fernea Endowment and the College of Liberal Arts, we are able to supplement the studies of Hamza Iqbal, Jamila Davey, and Kim Canuette Grimaldi.

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea has 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.

2017-2018 Fulbright Competition

The 2017-2018 Fulbright U.S. Student competition opened April 3rd, 2017 and is open to graduate students, undergraduates who will have completed their degree by the beginning of the grant period. The competition will close at 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time on October 6, 2017. The program is restricted to U.S. citizens. The grants are for study and research abroad, and are available for most countries. A number of countries also offer grants for those who wish to serve as English teaching assistants.

For more information, visit: http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html

Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships

Fellow, Inaugural Cohort, College of Liberal Arts
Engaged Scholars Initiative (Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)
Amy Vidor (2017-2019)

Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center Graduate Internship
Diana Silveira Leite (2017-2019)

University Graduate Continuing Fellowship
Raelene Wyse (2017-2018)

Ford Foundation Fellowship
Michael Reyes (2015-18)

University Brutton Graduate Fellowship
Nika Setek (2017-2018)

Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships

CL Graduate Excellence Recruitment Fellowship
Ayan Akcamete (2017-18)
Andra Ballard (2017-18)
Boya Lin (2017-18)
Thais Rutledge (2017-18)
Alexander Thomas (2017-18)

University Graduate Summer Project Fellowship
Jennie Wojtasik (2017)
Raelene Wyse (2017)

University Graduate Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Mehdi Torabian (Summer 2017)
Hannah Alpert-Abrams (Summer 2017)

Sherzer Endowed Graduate Professional Development Fellowship
Amy Vidor (Summer 2017)
Xiao Xinyao (Summer 2017)
Michael Reyes (Fall 2016)

Stiles Endowed Graduate Professional Development Fellowship
Hamza Iqbal (Summer 2017)
Diana Silveira Leite (Summer 2017)
Monica Mohseni (Summer 2017)
Marlena Cravens (Sp & Sum 2017)
Xiao Xinyao (Summer 2017)
Reinhard Mueller (Summer 2017)
Emma Wilson (Spring 2017)
Nina Sport (Spring 2017)

University Graduate Professional Development Award
Raelene Wyse (Fall 2016)
Hannah Alpert-Abrams (Fall 2016)
Nika Setek (Fall 2016)
Michael Reyes (Fall 2016)
Diana Silveira Leite (Spring 2017)
Liza Goodstein (Spring 2017)
Xinyao Xiao (Spring 2017)

Student News and Profiles

TIA KATHERYNE BUTLER holds a MA in Iberian and Latin American Literatures from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese here at UT. Tia’s research focuses on the representation of the Afro-Caribbean diaspora and specifically their religious practices in US media and popular culture. She is particularly interested in the horror and science fiction genres, and her Master’s Thesis looked at Haiti and the Dominican Republic in the science fiction genre.

HAMZA IQBAL is a Pakistani national who has worked for the Liberal Core Curriculum at Habib University in Karachi. He has also served as Conference Secretary for the 2nd International Karachi Conference (2014) which aimed to highlight the importance of the city and all facets of its urban existence through a scholarly exercise. In the year 2013, Hamza earned his undergraduate degree in Philosophy from the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Since then, Hamza’s interests have widened towards South Asian and European Literature, Continental Philosophy, Modernity and the Postcolony and he intends to work at the intersection of these fields for his doctoral studies at UT. He will spend the summer of 2017 at Sciences Po in Paris studying French Language and Modern French History.

ABRAHAM LAYMAN holds a B.A in Russian Language and Literature from the University of South Carolina, as well as an M.A in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies from the University of Texas at Austin. He has traveled extensively and has studied at universities in Russia and in France, and at the Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute. He works in Russian, French, and Ukrainian languages. His areas of focus include 19th century Russian literature and history and early Soviet literature. He is particularly interested in the concept of the “city” and spatial representation in Russian literature.

DIANA SILVEIRA LEITE holds a B.A. in English Literature with History with Liberal Arts Honors from the University of Texas at Austin. She recently completed a M.A. in British Studies at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, where she researched the intersection between English and Brazilian romanticism. She is currently researching representations of adolescent sexuality in romantic poetry and continues to investigate transatlantic relationships in nineteenth-century literature. In March 2017, she presented a paper on Manuel Álvares de Azevedo’s masturbatory poetry at the Interdisciplinaty Nineteenth-Century Studies annual conference. She will also be participating in the 2017 Institute for World Literature summer program. Starting in September 2017, Diana will be one of the Graduate Research Assistants at the Harry Ransom Center.

EMMA WILSON graduated from Mills College, where she obtained a B.A. in English Literature with a minor in Literary and Cultural Studies. She studies Francophone women writers from North Africa and the Caribbean, with a focus on 20th and 21st-century novelists. Working in French, English, and German, her research focuses on the intersections between postcolonial studies and feminist and queer theory. In March 2017 she presented a paper on race and the body as spectacle in Elizabeth Gaskell’s Lois the Witch at the annual Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference in Philadelphia.

Prizes and Fellowships

Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Memorial Endowment Fellowship

For more information, visit:
http://us.fulbrightonline.org/home.html

Summer 2017

Comparative Literature

From left to right: Tia Butler, Emma Wilson, Diana Silveira Leite, Abraham Layman, & Hamza Iqbal

First Year Student Profiles (2016-17)
 Incoming Graduate Students
By David Kornhaber, Graduate Adviser

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the incoming Comparative Literature graduate student cohort for 2017-2018. These five graduate students were selected from global pool of outstanding applicants. The scope of their interests and breadth of their expertise speaks to the coverage of the Comparative Literature Program itself, and we are excited to be welcoming these students (or welcoming them back) to Austin. Special thanks go to the Comparative Literature admissions committee and the expert readers from across the program who helped select our next generation of Comparative Literature scholars.

Aycan Akcamete comes to us from Bogazici University in Turkey and holds M.A. and B.A. degrees from Hacettepe University in Turkey. With expertise in Turkish, English, German, and Italian, she intends to study modern drama and performance in an international context, with a special focus on Modern British and Turkish drama. She is widely published as a theatre critic and arts journalist in several prominent Turkish and international venues.

Andra Bailard will be coming to UT via Princeton University, where she completed her A.B. in Comparative Literature in 2016. She brings language skills in French and Italian and a strong interest in Romanticism, Symbolism, and the Gothic. She is especially interested in the theory and practice of translation, which will form a central part of her studies.

Boya Lin joins UT after completing an MA degree at Peking University and a BA degree at Xiamen University. Conversant in Chinese, English, and French, her primary interests concern trauma studies and twentieth-century fiction. Combining pathological, narratological, and social-cultural perspectives, she intends to chart a course through literature from the American, European, and Chinese traditions.

Thais Rutledge will be returning to UT, where she received her B.A. degree in English, after completing an M.A. degree at Texas State University. A native of Brazil, she is conversant in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. She intends to pursue a focus on comparative modernisms and has to date published on Joseph Conrad, presented at the Virginia Woolf Society, and chaired a session at the Modern Language Association.

A native of England, Alexander Thomas holds a BA degree from Cambridge University and an MA degree from the University of Manchester; he has additionally completed language study at the University of Canterbury. He has taught in England, Mexico, and Chile and is adroit in Spanish, French, and German. He intends to study issues of identity formation in the context of early modern colonialism, applying the methodologies and insights of postcolonial studies.

Looking back at the 13th Annual GRACLS Conference on “The Extra-human”
by Nina Sport and Marlena Cravens

The 13th GRACLS Conference on September 24th and 25th, 2016 was nothing less than an “extra-human” collaborative effort from start to finish. Seeing everything come together after many months of painstaking planning was one of our proudest moments as graduate students. Visiting scholars, professors, and graduate students with highly diverse research interests were able to unite as an intellectual community to interrogate the limits of humanity.

Dr. Avital Ronell’s spirited keynote address, “The Complaint of the Human,” reminded us that interrogating what it means to be human is necessary in a world that extends digitally and textually so far past our fingertips. In the interest of expanding the limits of our conversation, we were able to record and share Dr. Ronell’s talk on the Comparative Literature website thanks to the assistance of the Digital Writing and Research Lab.

Some highlights of the weekend included 2 lively Digital Humanities roundtables on pedagogy and research, many fascinating graduate panels, and 2 panels of undergraduates presenting their work in a scholarly context for the first time.

We are especially thankful to Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Dr. Diane Davis, Dr. Avital Ronell, Ms. Sarah Beth Flowers, our wonderful panel moderators and volunteers, and the Conference Organizing Committee for helping us to make the conference’s success possible.

Click here to see the 2016 GRACLS Conference Program
**Student News and Profiles**

**Adventures in Arabic Translation**
*by Liza Goodstein and Rama Hamarneh*

This spring, we had the opportunity to study Arabic literature and translation with Dr. Richmond-Garza. In addition to translation theory, we read Arabic short stories and novels in their original and their translations into English and French.

Using the theories of Spivak, Venuti, Nabokov, Borges, and others, we analyzed translation choices with particular emphasis on the Arabic context. We were excited to read the works of Nagib Mahfouz, Yusuf Idris, Mohammed Zafzaf, Ghalib Halasa, Tayeb Salih, and Ibrahim al-Koni.

We had the unique opportunity to interact with a number of stories that were translated multiple times or into multiple languages. These translations provided a space for discussions of the different ways that translators take an Arabic text and bring it to life in the target culture.

Our reading demonstrated the difficulties that many translators face with Arabic texts. We appreciated translators who reflected openly on their translation process, like Denys Johnson-Davies, which allowed us to concretely see the ways in which they worked to make potentially foreign aspects of the source culture live comfortably in the translated text.

We’ve also been working together on the original, Arabic-language texts in order to more thoroughly compare their translations. For our final projects, we will be producing our own translations of Arabic texts in collaboration with the Department of Middle Eastern Studies. Through this experience, we have reflected on the process of translation and adopted strategies for our translations of Arabic into English, which will benefit us in all of our future academic work.

---

**INCS Conference 2017: Odd Bodies**
*by Diana Silveira Leite and Emma Wilson*

We attended the Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS) conference this year with the topic Odd Bodies. We were both excited to present our papers since this was our first conference as graduate students. I had attended conferences before, but never presented my work, and Emma had presented in undergraduate conferences. Reading at INCS allowed us the opportunity to share each other’s works, as well as Nina Sport’s and Sarah Le Pichon’s, who are fellow graduate students in the Program in Comparative Literature and in the French Department. Emma and I study wildly different topics, she focuses on Women Writers in North Africa and the Caribbean and I focus on Brazilian and British literary intersections in the romantic period, so we rarely have the chance to become acquainted with each other’s works in a professions setting, although we often discuss our ideas and give each other reading suggestions. INCS provided the perfect environment for a professionalized sharing or research interests and presentation styles.

In addition, at INCS we had the opportunity to learn about the state of the field. What is being studied and why? What makes one presentation more engaging than another? We noticed INCS was dominated by Victorianists and French and British studies scholars and that colonial issues, disability studies and photography are the topics of the moment. Coincidentally, both mine and Emma’s work stand in the periphery of this trend, but both our works were received with enthusiasm and insightful questions by our audience, moderator and colleagues on our panel.

We also met several scholars, mostly in French Studies, and discussed our work with them. Some of those scholars hold professorships, and gave us some insight into what to expect once we acquire our doctoral degrees and transition into the professional world.

---

**My Fulbright in Berlin**
*by Jennie Wojtusik*

My Fulbright project in Berlin is based on research outlining how Russian intellectuals utilized the diverse programs of the German Pre-Romantic and Romantic eras beginning with Johann Gottfried Herder’s notions as the general conception and interpretive methodology of Russia’s Imperial Academy of Sciences.

While my project's methodology unites and investigates how the cross-correlation of ethnology, philosophy, philology, literature, science, and culture created a new way of thinking about political identity in Imperial Russia, such an interdisciplinary approach to history cannot be achieved in America's highly specialized university. Indeed, the University of Texas at Austin offers no courses available in German or Central European history. As such, the University of Texas at Austin offers no courses available in German or Central European history, such an interdisciplinary approach to history cannot be achieved in America's highly specialized university.

In addition, the University of Texas at Austin offers no courses available in German or Central European history, such an interdisciplinary approach to history cannot be achieved in America's highly specialized university. Indeed, the University of Texas at Austin offers no courses available in German or Central European history, such an interdisciplinary approach to history cannot be achieved in America's highly specialized university.

In Berlin, Slavic and German scholars at Humboldt University and Max Planck Institute are helping me to reconstruct German social and philological sciences in the nineteenth century. I am excited to be presenting some of my research, in the sole context of Russia’s intellectual climate, at the annual Krakow Conference on Russian Philosophy and the 2nd World Congress on Logic and Religion in Warsaw.

---

**Dora Walbey, master’s candidate in Philosophy at the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos joined us as a visiting scholar in spring 2017. Supported by a CONACYT scholarship, she is completing a thesis on a study of a theory of openness and complexity based mainly on Mikhail Bakhtin’s dialogism, Mauricio Beuchot’s analogic hermeneutics and the Deleuzean fold. She is shown here with the Foundations of Literary Theory seminar (back row from the left: Hamza Iqbal, Sundas Amer, Abe Layman, Teri Fickling Elizabeth Richmond Garza; from row from the left: Emma Wilson, Dora Walbey, and Diana Leite)
Attending the Institute for World Literature

by Nina Sport & Marlena Cravens

Our summer at the Institute for World Literature was theoretically formative and intellectually rewarding, bolstered by rich discussions with the likes of David Damrosch, Mariano Siskind, Paul Bandia, Margaret Cohen, and Homi Bhabha.

Even though the Institute took place nearly 2000 miles from Austin, we decided to drive to Boston to see parts of the United States that we normally skipped over via airplane. We never regretted it for a moment—the blue, Smoky Mountains were a sight to behold, and the barbecue in Nashville, the lobster rolls in Connecticut, and the fresh lobster in Maine left us speechless. We discovered that in an effort to travel sustainably and cheaply, we also learned a lot about each other and the country that we lived in during our long hours on the road.

Upon arriving at the IWL, we were offered a nearly unparalleled academic opportunity to learn from and network with other graduate students that came from as far away as Monash University and the University of Macau. Though we presented papers and conducted original research at the Widener Library, what we will remember most are the memories we made with our future colleagues and with each other.

Reading World Literature (RWL) is an educational initiative established in 2014 by the Graduate Comparative Literature Students’ Organization (GRACLS). The program has developed into a co-venture by the Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of English. Working in conjunction with the Travis County Sheriff’s Office (TCSO), it provides an opportunity for our graduate students in Comparative Literature and English to engage with the community, share their passion for literature, and develop as teachers. The mission of Reading World Literature is to provide incarcerated students with the opportunity to read and learn from literary works of enduring value, with the guidance of experienced teachers provided by the Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of English at The University of Texas at Austin.

Applications for 2017-18 teaching opportunities will be posted soon along with further details about the program at: http://liberalarts.utexas.edu/complit/index.php

My Summer 2016 on “Nietzsche’s Balcony”

by Reinhard Mueller

After working for many years on Nietzsche's philosophy, I was very excited when I was accepted as a “fellow in residence” at the “Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche” to spend the months of June and July 2016 on “Nietzsche’s Balcony” in Weimar, Germany.

The Villa Silberblick was once Nietzsche's home during the last years of his benighted life, 1897-1900, and then became the official Nietzsche archive during 1897-1946. Closed under Soviet occupation, it was restored as a museum in 1993 and established the “Kolleg Friedrich Nietzsche” in 1999, which organizes conferences and hosts “fellows in residence” in the name of Nietzsche's notion of “free spirits,” i.e. philosophers who fearlessly question present day prejudices, in critical distance from dominant moralities. Former “distinguished fellows” have been famous scholars, such as Baudrillard, Agamben, Vattimo, and Žižek.

As a fellow I stayed in Nietzsche’s former apartment, whose balcony has been remodeled as a sun (and work) room, still overlooking the beautiful Weimar inner city. In the famous Anna Amalia Library, I engaged in a research project under the title “Lessing and Nietzsche: Pioneers of a Philosophical Cosmopolitanism,” where I explored Lessing’s and Nietzsche’s ethical ideals of a “love for the Other” in connection with Spinoza’s amor Dei intellectualis.

At Weimar’s annual conference “Thinking in the Polis,” I presented my research in the opening presentation and was able to connect with former fellows and many Nietzsche researchers. The fellowship also included free access to Weimar’s famous museums, such as the Schiller, Goethe, Herder, and Bauhaus museum. Summer 2016 in Weimar will always be remembered as a wonderful and greatly productive experience.
On Travel and Writing  
_by Mehdi Torabian_

Writing, it is often said, calls for both mental and material stillness. But during the summer and fall of 2016 I was writing my dissertation while on the move in Europe and the Middle East, going from Pembroke College Library at Cambridge to Bibliotèque Nationale in Paris to the National archives in Iran.

Although my research focuses on nineteenth-century European travelers’ adventures in the Middle East, the experience of writing about travel while on the road brought to light for me a fresh perspective on the relationship between travel and writing, that the two are not always in conflict.

The experience made it possible for me to see in clearer focus the correlations between, for instance, Edward Browne’s diaries of his one-year stay in Iran before the 1905 Constitutional Revolution, Foucault’s field notes and articles about his first-hand observations at the time of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, and my own dissertation as a reflection on these texts at the peak of the controversy over the departure of UK from the European Union.

As new parallels emerged between my own position as a researcher in the field and the traveler writers I was studying, the distinction between travel and writing proved to be less and less clear-cut. As my writing moved forward, I felt more convinced by Michel Butor’s conviction that “to travel is to write and to write is to travel.”

Teaching CL 323 While in Candidacy  
_by Nika Setek_

In Spring 2017, I had the opportunity to design and teach CL323: From Utopia to Dystopia, a course related to my dissertation topic. The class focuses on utopic and dystopic narratives in a variety of contexts, ranging from Early Modern Spanish picaresque to contemporary Russian science fiction. While it originated in Comparative Literature, the class was cross-listed with Spanish & Portuguese and Slavic & Eurasian Studies Departments, and received Writing and Global Cultures Flags. Because of this, it has attracted students in a variety of fields, from Film to Physics. With such diverse backgrounds, the students each bring a unique point of view, which has resulted in some fascinating papers and class discussions.

Creating a course around my own research interest has been incredibly rewarding. The students have truly engaged with the themes of the course, and some have expressed the desire to take similar classes every semester. Their discussions have become increasingly lively and nuanced and, with each essay, their writing is more convincing. Not only have our class meetings helped me gain perspective on my project, but the students’ enthusiasm has also been contagious, reigniting my own excitement for my research.

The Value of Teaching Language during Graduate School  
_by Claudio Eduardo Moura de Oliveira_

My relationship to the study of languages is long and passionate. I started learning foreign languages when I was six years old, I have studied six different languages, I have been through countless different classrooms in four different countries and chose to study English and Portuguese in college and to do a Masters in Language Studies. The language classroom inspires and stimulates me and to have the University of Texas give me the opportunity to teach UT Austin’s student body is indescribable. My classes have been nothing but memorable learning experiences with students eager to learn with great sense of respect for the classroom.
**Student News and Profiles**

### The American Council’s Advanced Russian Language Program in Moscow

*by Juan Avila Conejo*

When learning a foreign language there is no substitute for real-world, full-time immersion; I was fortunate to experience this during the summer of 2016 when I had the opportunity to participate in the American Council's Advanced Russian Language program in Moscow. Being immersed in Russian culture, and surrounded by native Russian speakers, allowed me to significantly improve my proficiency and understanding of Russian.

I had the opportunity to roam the streets of Moscow and see many historical monuments and places, which are both of academic and personal interest to me, including the Kremlin, Red Square, Park Pobedy, and VDNKh, among many others. The program included a trip to Karelia, where I came in contact with Karelian culture and got to see an often overlooked part of Russia. However, impressive as Soviet monuments and great northern lakes can be, the most valuable part of my experience was the people I met; including professors, fellow scholars, and friends. Staying in touch with them has extended the learning experience beyond the timeframe of my visit and into the future.

### The “Globalizing Ovid” Conference in Shanghai

*by Xinyao Xiao*

In June 2017, I attended a very productive 3-day conference on “Globalizing Ovid” in Shanghai where I met many of the leading classicists from the US and Europe. As one of only a handful of graduate students at the conference, I presented on “teaching Ovid’s Ars amatoria in the medieval classroom.” The conference was part of a larger project to translate the entire corpus of Ovid into Chinese with commentaries for the first time. My paper has been selected for publication, and I have also been invited to participate in the translations themselves. I am excited to be part of this undertaking. This opportunity will greatly benefit my research on classical reception in the Renaissance.

**Faculty News**

### Surreal Beckett: Samuel Beckett, James Joyce, and Surrealism

*by Dr. Alan Friedman*

Due in September 2017, *Surreal Beckett* situates Beckett’s writings within the context of James Joyce and Surrealism, distinguishing ways in which Beckett forged his own unique path, sometimes in accord with, sometimes at odds with, these two powerful predecessors. Beckett was so deeply enmeshed in Joyce’s circle during his early Paris days (1929 - late 1930s) that James Knowlson dubbed them his “Joyce years.” But Surrealism and Surrealists rivaled Joyce for Beckett’s early and continuing attention, if not affection, so that Raymond Federman called 1929-45 Beckett’s “surrealist period.” Considering both claims, this volume delves deeper into each argument by obscuring the boundaries between these differing studies. These received wisdoms largely maintain that Beckett’s Joycean connection and influence developed a negative impact in his early works, and that Beckett only found his voice when he broke the connection after Joyce’s death. Beckett came to accept his own inner darkness as his subject matter, writing in French and using a first-person narrative voice in his fiction and competing personal voices in his plays. Critics have mainly viewed Beckett’s Surrealist connections as roughly co-terminus with Joycean ones, and ultimately of little enduring consequence. *Surreal Beckett* argues that both early influences went much deeper for Beckett as he made his own unique way forward, transforming them, particularly Surrealist ones, into resources that he drew upon his entire career.

### Translating the Queer: Body Politics and Transnational Conversations

*by Dr. Hector Dominguez-Ruvalcaba*

Dr. Hector Dominguez-Ruvalcaba published his *Translating the Queer: Body Politics and Transnational Conversations* in the fall of 2016. In this book, Dominguez-Ruvalcaba examines how concepts of queer knowledge and its representations have been disseminated throughout Latin America, a dissemination that has been accompanied by processes of translation, adaptation, and resistance. Héctor Dominguez Ruvalcaba discusses the formation of pre-gay identities as well as today's LGBTQI political movement in addition to alternative forms of non-heterosexual practices that have emerged from within marginal populations. He analyzes how queer theory is employed as a means to understand varied cultural and political expressions, and he asks: How far can the queer really go as a conceptual tool?

Offering an essential look at queer history, culture, and politics in Latin America, *Translating the Queer* will be an invaluable resource for anyone interested in the evolution of queer theory and identity in recent decades.

### Reform Cinema in Iran

*by Dr. Blake Atwood*

In *Reform Cinema in Iran*, Blake Atwood examines how new industrial and aesthetic practices created a distinct cultural and political style in Iranian film between 1989 and 2007. Atwood analyzes a range of popular, art, and documentary films. He provides new readings of internationally recognized films such as Abbas Kiarostami’s *Taste of Cherry* (1997) and Mohsen Makhmalbaf’s *Time for Love* (1990), as well as those by Rakhshan Bani, Masud Kiami, and other key Iranian directors. At the same time, he also considers how filmmakers and the film industry were affected by larger political and religious trends that took shape during Mohammad Khatami’s presidency (1997-2005). Atwood analyzes political speeches, religious sermons, and newspaper editorials and pays close attention to technological developments, particularly the rise of video, to determine their role in democratizing filmmaking and realizing the goals of political reform. He concludes with a look at the legacy of reform cinema, including films produced under Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, whose neoconservative discourse rejected the policies of reform that preceded him.
Faculty News & ACLA 2017

German Modernities From Wilhelm to Weimar
Co-edited by Dr. Tracie Matysik

What was German modernity? What did the years between 1880 and 1930 mean for Germany’s navigation through a period of global capitalism, imperial expansion, and technological transformation?

German Modernities From Wilhelm to Weimar brings together leading historians of the Imperial and Weimar periods from across North America to readdress the question of German modernities. Acutely attentive to Germany’s eventual turn towards National Socialism and the related historiographical arguments about ‘modernity,’ this volume explores the variety of social, intellectual, political, and imperial projects pursued by those living in Germany in the Wilhelmine and Weimar years who were yet uncertain about what they were creating and which future would come. It includes varied case studies, based on cutting-edge research, which rethink the relationship of the early 20th century to the rise of Nazism and the Third Reich.

A range of political, social and cultural issues, including citizenship, welfare, empire, aesthetics and sexuality, as well as the very nature of German modernity, are analyzed and placed in a global context.

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association

Utrecht University
in Utrecht, the Netherlands
6-9 July

Members of our program who will be presenting their research include:

Chienyn Chi, PhD candidate, “Mad and Black: The 1939 Notebook of the Evolué”
Dr. Thomas J. Garza, “Gogol’s Hand: Neo-Nostalgia for Ukraine in Russian Cultural Production”
Dr. Sabine Hake, “Ernst Thälmann, Working-Class Hero”
Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, “Frenetic Humanity: Queer Horror in Oscar Wilde and Boris Akunin”

Future meeting locations of the ACLA’s Annual Meeting include:

2018: March 29-April 1, 2018 - UCLA, Los Angeles, CA
2019: March 7-10, 2019 - Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Alumni Profiles

“The Fear of the Known” Jillian Sayre on H.P. Lovecraft for PBS

Dr. Jillian Sayre was recently featured on an Emmy® award-winning arts and culture show nationally syndicated on PBS called Articulate. Dr. Sayre is an Assistant Professor at Rutgers University, Camden and currently teaches courses on postcolonial literatures, women’s writing, horror, and literary theory.

She graduated from the Program in Comparative Literature in the Fall of 2010, where she was invaluable in developing on-line presence for the Southern Comparative Literature Association and their journal The Comparatist. A beloved and highly successful classroom presence in both world literature and composition while at UT, Dr. Sayre continues to transform the field of Hemispheric Studies with an attention to narratives of nation formation. She is currently preparing a monograph based on her impressive dissertation, “The Work of Death in the Americas: Narrative, Necropolitics and the Historical Romance in the Post-Revolutionary Era,” supervised by Drs. Martin Kevorkian and Nicolas Shumway.

The segment explores 20th century horror writer H.P. Lovecraft has been frightening readers for generations. The segment, “Fear of the Known,” explores how his novels serve as inspiration for other works. It includes Jillian’s commentary on Lovecraft’s work, and how it mirrors the reader’s acknowledgment of the unknown. The episode was posted online and you can watch the short segment here: http://www.pbs.org/video/3000289636/

FLAS Fellowship Award Information

The highly competitive Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship is funded by the U.S. Department of Education and assists meritorious graduate students undergoing intensive training in modern languages and related area or international studies.

Academic Year Awards: $15,000, plus tuition and required course-related fees up to $18,000 per academic year.
Summer Awards: $2,500, plus tuition and fees for an intensive language course (up to up to $5,000)
Application Deadlines: Vary, but generally mid-December
Barbara Harlow, Louann and Larry Temple Professor of English Literatures in the English Department at the University of Texas, died of cancer on 28th January, 2017. Surrounded by her family and friends, she orchestrated her removal from life support as a celebration: in plastic cups filled with wine and tonic we toasted her courage, and we toasted resistance. Released from the bondage of tubes and restraints, she was able to smile for the first time in days.

Barbara, the daughter of Lawrence and Lucille Harlow, was born in 1948. Her academic career began in high theory: she wrote her doctoral dissertation at Princeton and produced a translation of Jacques Derrida’s Spurs in 1979 (something she later dismissed as “juvenilia”). But during her first academic post, at the American University in Cairo, the trajectory of her career changed utterly. She became passionate about contemporary Arab literature, the legacies of Empire in the Middle East, and the Palestinian question, and she produced her landmark translation of Ghassan Kanafani’s Palestine’s Children. In 1985 she brought her passions and her political commitment to the English Department at the University of Texas.

Barbara was an original. From the day she came to the week she died, her clothes exemplified her stylish rejection of style: she wore idiosyncratic loose-fitting trousers that she sewed herself, always to the same pattern, accompanied by plain t-shirts and big silver earrings. Her lovely house in Clarksville was sparsely furnished and her kitchen was fuller of cats than of comestibles, but asceticism had its limits: there was always wine in the fridge, and sometimes there was hummus too. Her Clarksville neighbors didn’t know she was a famous academic, but they valued her faithfulness to her community. They will miss her coming and goings, and the light in her study window.

In 1986, with her colleagues Ben Lindfort, Wahneeema Lubiano, and Ramon Saldivar, Barbara founded the Ethnic and Third World concentration, E3W, which was dedicated to studying the literature of recently decolonized nations alongside the literature of ethnic minorities in the United States. Her book Resistance Literature, which appeared in 1987, was the first English-language study of the fiction produced during Third World national liberation struggles. Lucid and direct, the book announced her departure from the world of high theory and its strictures to a call for a humanism, commitment to liberation, and unwavering concern for the wretched of the earth. She was one of the first scholars who followed her lead. As she put it in the preface of an essay, “My academic children are teaching now all over the country.”

The enthusiastic reception of Resistance Literature led to numerous international speaking engagements; Barbara was an avid traveler, in both her physical and literary life. Her second book, Barred: Women, Writing, and Political Detention, which appeared in 1992, engaged with writings by and about women political prisoners in Northern Ireland, El Salvador, Israel, Egypt, South Africa, and the United States; while After Lives: Legacies of Revolutionary Writing (1996) focused on the works of assassinated political authors: Kanafani, the South African Ruth First, and Roque Dalton from El Salvador. Working across disciplines, regions, and national languages – in close collaboration with colleagues in African Studies, the South Asia Institute, Middle Eastern Studies, and the School of Law – Barbara demonstrated the vitality and necessity of the Humanities in understanding the crises of the contemporary world, and building intellectual foundations for resisting them. In conjunction with the Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice and the Bridging Disciplines Program, she championed an interdisciplinary undergraduate program on literature and human rights, and when she died she was teaching and writing on the imprint of drones in contemporary film and literature. She has left us too soon: we need her example of resistance now.

Barbara is survived by her sister Ann, her sister Karen and her brother-in-law Brian, and her beloved nephews and nieces, Sean, Ryan, and Katie. With them she spent traditional Christmases, and summers at the beach on Cape Cod, drinking wine and eating crab cakes. She took them all with her to South Africa, and transformed the children’s view of the world. The loss to them, and to us, her academic family, is immense. Donations in Barbara’s memory to the ACLU or to the Center for Constitutional Rights will honor her lifelong fight against injustice.

Written by Elizabeth Cullingford, Karen Kelleher, Neville Hoad, Kamran Ali, Tarek El-Ariss, Mary Reed, Yoav DeCapua, Mia Carter, and Karen Engle.
News in Brief

University of Oslo to discuss continued collaboration between the two universities, and to propose a new collaborative project on “Culture in Peace Studies.”

Dr. Michael Harney was promoted to Full Professor this year, effective Sept. 1st, 2017.

Dr. Geraldine Heng was awarded an ACLS fellowship for 2017-18 and an Institute for South Asian Studies fellowship in Singapore for 2018-19. Her 500+ page book, The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages, was accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. In September, MappaMund, the digital platform of the Global Middle Ages Project (G-MAP) notched up 28,851 page views, with 9,414 unique visitors, a year after being launched. She founded and directed G-MAP: www.globalmiddleages.org. She delivered one of the Kanner Forum Lectures at UCLA in January, one of 4 lecture invitations accepted out of 9. In May she will deliver a public lecture at Caltech, and in October, she will address the English Institute and deliver the Lora Heberle lecture at the University of Michigan. As of today, her 2-part article, “The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages” has totaled 23,190 document views, and continues to keep her in the top 0.5% of academics whose research is consulted on the academic research site, Academia.edu.

Dr. David Kornhaber completed his second year as Graduate Adviser for the Program in Comparative Literature. He is at work on a number of projects, including an edition of George Bernard Shaw’s essays and reviews for Oxford, a collection of essays on Tom Stoppard for Cambridge, and a short monograph on theatre and its relationship to knowledge for Palgrave-Macmillan’s Theatre & Series. This spring, he delivered the keynote address at the “Tragedy and American Drama” conference at the University of Augsburg in Germany.

Dr. Naomi Lindstrom (Spanish and Portuguese; Center for Jewish Studies) presented her work at the First MLA International Symposium in Dusseldorf and the annual meetings of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association and the Association for Jewish Studies. She published “O romance naturalista hispanoamericano” in the volume O naturalismo. She is now coordinating the Galle Collaborative on Jewish Life in the Americas at the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies.


Dr. Tracie Matysik published a co-edited volume, German Modernities from Wilhelm to Weimar: A Contest of Futures (London: Bloomsbury) as well as an article in the journal History and Theory (“Writing the History of Spinozism”). In August she became co-editor of the journal Modern Intellectual History.


Dr. Raelene Wyse was promoted to Full Professor this year, effective Sept. 1st, 2017. She presented her paper, “The Child of 9/11: Reproductive Futurism in Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” at the conference “Nationalism in American Studies” in Austin, Texas in March.

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza’s research this year concentrated on contemporary Russian politics and culture. She published “Detecting Conspiracy: Boris Akunin’s Dandifical Detective, or a Century in Queer Profiles from London to Moscow” in Crime Fiction as World Literature, edited by Louise Nillson and David Damrosch (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017: 271-89) and presented a paper, “The Mysteries of Moscow: In Which Boris Akunin Impersonates a French Writer and Reveals a Terrible Secret,” at the annual meeting of American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Literature in San Francisco. She was one of the co-organizers of “Gothic Trespass,” an interdisciplinary symposium at UT and was invited to speak locally in several contexts on Bram Stoker’s Dracula as part of celebrating the 120th anniversary of its publication. She is currently serving on the Dean’s Committee on “Unrequired Reading,” whose charge is to create a list of works that all UT students would find engaging and/or provocatively to read.

Sarah Ropp presented her paper, “The Child of 9/11: Reproductive Futurism in Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” at the conference “Nationalism in American Studies” in Austin, Texas in March.

Dr. David Kornhaber completed his second year as Graduate Adviser for the Program in Comparative Literature. He is at work on a number of projects, including an edition of George Bernard Shaw’s essays and reviews for Oxford, a collection of essays on Tom Stoppard for Cambridge, and a short monograph on theatre and its relationship to knowledge for Palgrave-Macmillan’s Theatre & Series. This spring, he delivered the keynote address at the “Tragedy and American Drama” conference at the University of Augsburg in Germany.

Dr. Naomi Lindstrom (Spanish and Portuguese; Center for Jewish Studies) presented her work at the First MLA International Symposium in Dusseldorf and the annual meetings of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association and the Association for Jewish Studies. She published “O romance naturalista hispanoamericano” in the volume O naturalismo. She is now coordinating the Galle Collaborative on Jewish Life in the Americas at the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies.


Dr. Tracie Matysik published a co-edited volume, German Modernities from Wilhelm to Weimar: A Contest of Futures (London: Bloomsbury) as well as an article in the journal History and Theory (“Writing the History of Spinozism”). In August she became co-editor of the journal Modern Intellectual History.


Dr. Raelene Wyse was promoted to Full Professor this year, effective Sept. 1st, 2017. She presented her paper, “The Child of 9/11: Reproductive Futurism in Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” at the conference “Nationalism in American Studies” in Austin, Texas in March.

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza’s research this year concentrated on contemporary Russian politics and culture. She published “Detecting Conspiracy: Boris Akunin’s Dandifical Detective, or a Century in Queer Profiles from London to Moscow” in Crime Fiction as World Literature, edited by Louise Nillson and David Damrosch (London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2017: 271-89) and presented a paper, “The Mysteries of Moscow: In Which Boris Akunin Impersonates a French Writer and Reveals a Terrible Secret,” at the annual meeting of American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Literature in San Francisco. She was one of the co-organizers of “Gothic Trespass,” an interdisciplinary symposium at UT and was invited to speak locally in several contexts on Bram Stoker’s Dracula as part of celebrating the 120th anniversary of its publication. She is currently serving on the Dean’s Committee on “Unrequired Reading,” whose charge is to create a list of works that all UT students would find engaging and/or provocatively to read.

Sarah Ropp presented her paper, “The Child of 9/11: Reproductive Futurism in Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close” at the conference “Nationalism in American Studies” in Austin, Texas in March.
Call For Papers
Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): Popular Culture and the Public Academy
The 14th Annual
Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature
In Association with the “Barbara Harlow, The Sequel” Conference
27th-28th October 2017
The University of Texas at Austin

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Richard T. Rodriguez

When the DC comic Swamp Thing debuted in 1971, the border between human and vegetal was crossed. This conference hopes to bridge the gap between the comic and the novel, the art film and the vine, Occupy and Gramsci, the poetry slam and the classical stage, that is to say, between the popular and the academic, so as to allow the academy to occupy a public space.

The Graduate Conference of Comparative Literature Students presents the 2017 Graduate Student Conference, “Reclaiming the Swamp (Things): Popular Culture and the Public Academy.” Focusing on the role of Popular Culture in the Humanities today, and remembering the contributions of Dr. Barbara Harlow to education and to the world as a public intellectual, this conference considers how academic scholarship has evolved in its relationship to popular forms of human expression, in a fever medium in a world that has always been filled with cultural objects and discourses. It also imagines what future directions in such work might take.

Often dismissed as an insignificant, transient form, popular culture plays a persistent and powerful role with political and social consequences. In 2016, the Oxford English Dictionary named “post-truth” as the international word of the year, insisting that the affective had supplanted the analytical and that popular culture and media had erupted into the political sphere. Reality TV, comedy skits, social media posts, and memes became the vehicle for public discourse in a historical moment that demands an understanding of how and why popular culture and media operate so effectively across borders and across spheres.

Long-standing divides between “high” and “low” culture, which have always been both accepted and suspect, have been revealed as inadequate to accounting for either past or present circulations of culture, let alone imagining future potentials. From the inception of humanistic studies, the movement from one cultural sphere to another has been fluid, allowing works to be promoted, however popular their origin, to the advantage of such popular and commercial artists as William Shakespeare or François Rabelais. The study of popular culture does more than expand the canon, however, it also shifts our intellectual paradigms to consider what is beyond the academy and to expand and delimit its narrow conceptions of what it means to be a scholar and of what the humanities can do. Our conference invites the examination of such forms of popular cultural inquiry and expression, both within academia and beyond. Papers on instances in earlier periods of the popular-academic tension are warmly invited. Possible paper topics might include:

- The distinction between “high” and “low” culture
- Generational differences within and between academia and society
- Film and media studies and/or their impact on humanities and changing textualities
- Studies of social media as methods of global networking
- Issues of surveillance and privacy in contemporary America
- Canonization of “low” culture
- Re-thinking humanities and their relationship to professionalization and careers
- The framing of globalization as threat/destiny
- Scholarship, activism, and the role of the public intellectual
- Development and Ecocriticism
- New approaches to postcoloniality and notions of the “other”
- Borders, crossing borders, borderlands
- Deterritorialization, diaspora and exile
- Visual and audio cultures
- Fan studies
- Kitsch and nostalgia
- Mass media and virtuality
- Trans- and Re-mediation

The deadline for abstracts is 25 August 2017. Abstracts of a maximum 250 words should be submitted via email as a Word document to graclsconference2017@gmail.com. We also welcome panel proposals of 3-4 speakers. For additional information about the conference, please contact the organizers Xinyao Xiao, Tia Butler, and Monica Mohseni at graclsconference2017@gmail.com or visit https://graclsconference2017.wordpress.com/
Hannah Alpert-Abrams will begin a two-year CLIR postdoctoral fellowship at LLILAS Benson (University of Texas at Austin) beginning this fall.

Jonathan Fleck will begin his second year in a lecturer position in Portuguese and Spanish at Rice University's Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication (through Summer 2018).

Cynthia Francia was hired in a tenure track Assistant Professor position at the Literature Department of Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez in Santiago, Chile. In March she was named Director of the MA Program in Comparative Literature, the only program in Comparative Literature in Chile.

Roanne Kantor has been appointed as a senior lecturer in Comparative Literature at Harvard University.

Johanna Sellman has been appointed as an assistant professor of Arabic literature in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Ohio State University.

Fatma Tarlaci was admitted to the Master's Degree in Computer Science Education at Stanford University, a fully-funded one-year degree program for people who already hold a Ph.D. in another discipline and who already have a track record of success as teachers.

Attention Alumni:

The Program in Comparative Literature welcomes contributions about any aspects of your post-UT Austin lives and careers. The newsletter’s goal is to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty and share important news about our alumni.

It is your successes and undertakings which have made this such a strong program, and we would like the opportunity to congratulate you publicly.

Please send your news for publication in the 2018 newsletter to:

complit@austin.utexas.edu