

Program in Comparative Literature

The University of Texas at Austin



Director's Note

To say that we live in a “post-factual” world is, for those of us who work in Comparative Literature, a statement which is pressing in its implications for today, but it could equally have been a description offered by Plato or Chuang Tzu of the Greek and Chinese empires in the classical period. As words and images proliferate today, the careful close reading of those words and images, of all modalities of human expression, has never been a more crucial task. Whether in the intellectually driven enterprises of the academy or in engagements with the public and the popular, words matter as do the ideas and values that they express, interrogate, and revise. With such a diverse and accomplished community of students and faculty, our program continues to welcome the chance collegially and collaboratively to engage with the world around us through the investigation of how meaning is made and received. In 2018, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of our program, we affirm the importance of continuing such critical work.

Working in a dozen departments with students at all levels and in all majors, the members of our program energetically and effectively help to ensure that UT's undergraduates are proficient in foreign languages, write with eloquence and critical insight, and emerge from our classrooms better able to understand and transform our world in positive ways. Whether as faculty or as graduate instructors, whether on the 40 Acres or in partnership with Travis County, whether with a student attending their first class ever at UT or a graduating honors student, members of our Comparative Literature community continue their dynamic presence in a variety of classrooms and beyond. Among the many accolades received by our students, about which you will read in the pages that follow, the three students who have been selected for the Mellon “Engaged Scholar Initiative” epitomize the distinctive ways in which members of our program combine a commitment to creative, risk-taking, and public-facing scholarship with a mission of generosity and conviction.

The agility and immediacy of our work was captured by the 2017 GRACLS conference, the centerpiece of our conversations each year. This year's symposium directly addressed the place of the academy within a public and popular conversation, focusing on “Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): Popular Culture and the Public Academy.” With Dr. Richard Rodriguez's keynote “Latino/U.K.: Postpunk's Transatlantic Touches” to inspire us to think seriously and reflectively about unexpected affinities, the conference brought together more than fifty presenters and movingly demonstrated the reach and range of our field and our program.

This year our graduate program is undergoing an external review, and we have spent this spring conducting a process of internal reflection, one in which the strengths of the program, its origins, history, and aspirations have been very much on our minds. Both the faculty and students (including alumni) have taken this activity very seriously, appropriately taking pride in what has been accomplished and striving to make the program ever more successful by seeking out moments when we could have done better, more, or different. In fall 2018, our external reviewers will give us fresh insights and advice. Before transitioning into our next half century, we hope that you will take a moment to enjoy reading about what impressive work our colleagues have done as we continue to celebrate them and our golden jubilee.



Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

Comparative Literature Newsletter Summer 2018

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Undergraduate Courses

C L 305
Afro-Brazilian Diaspora
Omoniyi Afolabi

C L 315
World Literature
Neil Nehring

World Literature
Elliot Turley

C L 323
Diasporic Magic: Lit/Perfrm
Hershini Young

Exhibitionism/Public Spectacle
Katie Arens

Latino Carib Cult/Diasp in US
Cesar Salgado

Russian Cinema: Potemkin-Putin
Petar Petrov

4-Self-Revlatn Women's Wrtg
Michael Hillmann

12-Hans Christian Andersen
Rikke Cortsen

18-Squaring The Vienna Circle
Katie Arens

Graduate Courses

C L 180K
Introduction to Comparative Literature: Proseminar in Methods of
Study and Research
Lynn Wilkinson

C L 381
Black Atlantic Modernisms
Jennifer Wilks

C L 382
Dante's Afterlives
Guy Raffa

Space and Place in Literature
Karen Grumberg

Translation Theory/Practice
Adria Frizzi

Women Writers/Intellectuals
Lynn Wilkinson

C L 390
Contemporary Literary Theory
Lynn Wilkinson

Degree Recipients

Master of Arts:

Spring 2018:

Hamza Muhammad Iqbal, *The Vanishing Guesthouse: Admonition and Asceticism in the Poetry of Nazir Akbarabadi*

Emma Wilson, "Ni Fille, Ni Fils:" *Gender/ Genre Fluidity in Nina Bouraoui's Garçon manqué and Leila Sebbar's L'arabe comme un chant secret*

Doctor of Philosophy:

Summer 2017:

Hannah R. Alpert-Abrams, *Unreadable Books: Early Colonial Mexican Documents in Circulation*

Summer 2018:

Raelene Camille Wyse, *Sounding Jewish Multilingualism: An Aesthetics of Language Survival in Latin American and US Latinx Cultural Production*

CL Proseminar: Professional Strategies for Comparatists in Field Studies

Coordinated and moderated by Dr. David Kornhaber (English), Comparative Literature Graduate Advisor

Scheduled Meetings:

- September 1 Welcome by Dr. Esther Raizen, Associate Dean for Research
- September 8 Dr. Elizabeth Richmond Garza, Director of the Program in Comparative Literature and University Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of English
- September 15 Dr. Lynn Wilkinson, Associate Professor of Germanic Languages and Chair of the Comparative Literature Graduate Studies Committee
- September 22 Dr. David Kornhaber, Associate Professor English and Comparative Literature Graduate Advisor
- September 29 Dr. Karen Grumberg, Associate Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Comparative Literature
- October 6 Dr. Alan Friedman, Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature
- October 13 Dr. Naomi Lindstrom, Gale Family Foundation Professor in Jewish Arts and Culture
- October 20 Dr. Carol MacKay, University Distinguished Teaching Professor of English
- October 27 Dr. Katherine Arens, Professor of Germanic Studies and Women's and Gender Studies
- November 3 Dr. Alexandra Wettlaufer, Professor of French and Comparative Literature and Director of Plan II Honors
- November 10 Dr. Dr. Hannah Wojciehowski, Professor of English and Comparative Literature
- November 17 Dr. Daniela Bini, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature
- December 2 Wrap-up

My thanks go to this year's students and presenters. The proseminar discussions ranged from questions of pedagogy to issues of graduate student professionalization to topics of broad applicability across comparative literary studies. I am grateful to all of our presenters for helping introduce our shared fields of study to our new cohort.

Dr. David Kornhaber

A Word from the Co-Presidents of GRACLS

By *Diana Silveira Leite and Monica Mohseni Sisiruca*



The 2017-2018 academic year was very exciting for the Graduate Organization for Comparative Literature Students (GRACLS). In fall 2017, we welcomed a new cohort of diverse and convivial colleagues from all over the world: Aycan Akçamete, Andra Bailard, Boya Lin, Thais Rutledge, and Alex Thomas. GRACLS' mentorship program, which pairs incoming students with senior Comp Lit members, helped support our new peers as they acclimated to both the program and to life in Austin. GRACLS remains committed to holding monthly meetings in which students' concerns and suggestions are heard, but more importantly, in which we strengthen our community ties. This year, meetings revolved around professional development opportunities, planning for the 2018 GRACLS conference, as well as the program's impending External Review.

GRACLS continues to host roundtables for the program's Qualifying and Comprehensive Exams. In these roundtables advanced students share tips on how to succeed in the program's challenging requirements. During the spring 2018 semester, we also organized new professional development events. The Syllabus Design Workshop, developed by Raelene Wyse with the support of GRACLS's co-presidents, helped students improve their teaching skills under Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza's guidance. The Early Career Roundtable, organized by Monica Mohseni Sisiruca, invited Comparative Literature alumni to share their struggle and success stories in the academic job market. The alumni in attendance were Dr. Marina Alexandrova (PhD 2010), senior lecturer at UT Austin's Slavic and Eurasian Studies Department, Dr. Roanne Kantor (PhD 2015), lecturer in Comparative Literature at Harvard University, and Dr. Jonathan Fleck (PhD 2016) via skype, lecturer in Languages and Intercultural Communication at Rice University.

The 14th annual GRACLS conference was held in October 2017 in association with the memorial conference, "Barbara Harlow: The Sequel". With the title, "Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): Popular Culture and the Public Academy," our conference hoped to bridge the gap between the comic and the novel, the art film and the vine, Occupy and Gramsci, that is to say, between the popular and the academic. Organized by Comp Lit students, Xinyao Xiao, Monica Mohseni Sisiruca, and Tia Butler, the goal of the conference was to allow and envision ways in which the academy could occupy a public space. Focusing on the role of Popular Culture in today's humanistic studies, and remembering the contributions of Dr. Barbara Harlow to education and to the world as a public intellectual, this conference considered how academic scholarship has evolved in its relationship to popular forms of human expression. Dr. Richard Rodriguez's keynote address, "Latino/U.K. Transatlantic Intimacies in Post-Punk Cultures" exemplified in spirit what our conference hoped to address. His speech shed light on the intricate trans-cultural connections and effects pop cultures, such as the British punk and post-punk movements, had on Mexican-American and Latinos in the U.S. In fall 2018 GRACLS will host its 15th annual conference, which will be titled, "Beyond the Break-Down: Reviewing our Disciplines and our World". Planned by students Sarah Ropp, and Andra Bailard, the conference will be held on September 28-29, 2018.

GRACLS could not function without the unwavering support of the program's faculty, staff and fellow graduate students. Special thanks are due to our program director, Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, graduate advisor, Dr. David Kornhaber, and graduate program coordinator, Anne Bormann. We are also indebted to our current committee members: Hamza Iqbal (Secretary), Nina Cline and Marlena Cravens (Curriculum Committee Representatives), Aycan Akçamete (Social Coordinator and Graduate Student Assembly Representative), Andra Bailard and Sarah Ropp (Conference Organizers), Claudio Moura de Oliveira (Digital Officer), and to the graduate students overseeing this year's internal and external review preparations: Amy Vidor, Kaitlin Shirley, Nina Cline, and Marlena Cravens.

2018 - 2019 GRACLS Officers

Co-Presidents: Diana Silveira Leite and Monica Mohseni Sisiruca

Secretary: Hamza Iqbal

Social Coordinator: Aycan Akçamete

Curriculum Representatives: Nina Cline and Marlena Cravens

Conference Organizers: Andra Bailard and Sarah Ropp

Digital Officer: Claudio Moura de Oliveira

Student News and Profiles

First Year Student Profiles (2017-18)

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 attends 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 returned 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.



From left to right: Thais Rutledge, Boya Lin, Andra Bailard, Alex Thomas, and Aycan Akcamete.

Raelene Wyse will defend her dissertation, “Sounding Jewish Multilingualism: An Aesthetics of Language Survival in Latin American and US Latinx Cultural Production,” completed under the supervision of Professor Naomi Lindstrom, on August 7, 2018. In March 2018, her article, “Reframing Jewish Forms of Speaking to God: The Use of Apostrophe in David Rosenmann-Taub’s *Cortejo y epinicio*,” was published in *Studies in Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature*. In late March, she presented her research on Argentine Yiddish radio at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference at UCLA.

Thais Rutledge organized and chaired “Woolf Spaces”; a panel sponsored by the International Virginia Woolf Society at MLA 2018. Her paper was titled “The Experience of Space and Place in Virginia Woolf’s *To the Lighthouse*.”

This summer, PhD candidate, **Marlena Cravens** presented at LASA 2018 in Barcelona about the role that missionary grammars and dictionaries played in the conquest of the New World. In addition to her current digital work at the Benson Library, she will continue her dissertation research at the Biblioteca Nacional de España, the Archivo General de las Indias, and the Catedral de Toledo with the support of two Kennedy Fellowships. She will also be attending the Middlebury Language School with the support of a Summer FLAS Fellowship.

Jamila Davey presented papers at the 10th annual Summer Institute for Scholars convened by the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT) and the 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion (AAR). Jamila was also awarded a University Graduate Continuing Fellowship for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Sarah Ropp published an article entitled “Fictionalizing the Real: Imagined Publics and Constructions of Self in Etty Hillesum’s *Diary*” in *Dutch Crossing: A Journal of Lowlands Studies* as well as an article entitled “El HIJO y el Niño argentino: El futurismo reproductivo en *Los topos* de Félix Bruzzone” in *SCOLAS Journal*. She presented papers at the Society for Comparative Literature and the Arts Annual Meeting in Baltimore; the Symposium on Gender, History and Sexuality at UT-Austin; the GRACLS Conference at UT; the Southwestern Council on Latin American Studies Conference in San Antonio; and the American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting in Los Angeles.

Amy Vidor will be overseeing the Comp Lit internal review and external review preparation for graduate student portion, along with Kaitlin Shirley, Nina Cline, and Marlena Cravens.

Rama Hamarneh presented papers at the South Atlantic MLA Annual Conference in November 2017 and at the Popular Culture Association Annual Conference in March 2018. Rama also spearheaded a successful fundraiser as Coordinator of the Refugee Student Mentor Program, raising over \$10,000 for volunteer transportation.

Aycan Akçamete presented her paper “Psychoanalytic Sublime in Martin Crimp’s *Attempts On Her Life*” at the GRACLS conference. In April, she participated in a graduate student panel to talk on her work as a theater critic and its connection to the archive at the symposium “Theatre and Thought in the European Tradition: An International Symposium” organized by Dr. David Kornhaber. In March, she was a speaker at a panel about graduate school held by University Leadership Network at UT Austin, which provides funding for underrepresented students with demonstrated financial need.

Hamza Iqbal attended Sciences Po in Paris and Alliance Francaise in Karachi for French language levels A1 and A2 in 2017. For Summer 2018, he has been selected to participate in a seminar at the Institute of Critical Social Inquiry at the New School and to attend Harvard’s Institute of World Literature in Tokyo. In Spring 2018 Hamza also taught in the Reading World Literature initiative in the Comparative Literature Program and is finishing his MA as well.

Nina Cline was appointed co-director of Reading World Literature in May 2017 and co-taught 3 courses at the Travis County Correctional Complex throughout the 2017-18 academic year. In the Fall 2017 semester, she was awarded a 2017-2018 scholarship by UT’s Retired Faculty and Staff Association. She also received a Professional Development Award from the Graduate School for her participation in the panel discussion, “In Shadowy Places: Invisible, Anonymous, and Absent Translations,” at the 53rd Comparative World Literature Conference in April 2018. Nina was re-elected as one of GRACLS’ Curriculum Committee Representatives for 2018, and she also served on the Department of Rhetoric’s 2018-19 First-Year Forum Selection Committee. In January 2019, Nina will present at the annual MLA Convention in Chicago with her paper “Containing la voleuse: Woman as Winged Thief in Grandville’s *Scènes des animaux*.”

Xinyao Xiao co-organized the GRACLS conference, “Reclaiming the Swamp(thing).” She published an article, “Oxymoronic Ethos: The Rhetoric of Honor and Its Performance in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*” in *Philological Quarterly* (2018 summer). She also participated in “Translating the Complete Corpus of Ovid’s Poetry into Chinese with Commentaries,” a multi-year project sponsored by a Chinese National Social Science Foundation Major Grant (2015-2020). Her article “Teaching Ovid’s *Ars Amatoria* in the Medieval Classroom,” together with her translation of Ovid’s *Ars Amatoria* 1.1-100 appeared in *The World Historical Review* 2 no.2 (2017): 305-317; 318-328.

Reinhard G. Mueller attended the 2017 IWL summer school and defended his prospectus for his dissertation project on ‘Nietzsche and Joyce.’ He has two publications forthcoming: “Perspektivischer Kosmopolitismus: Lessing und Nietzsche” in the *Lessing Yearbook* 2018 and “The ‘Breeding of Humanity’: Nietzsche and Shaw’s *Man and Superman*” in the *Journal of Bernard Shaw Studies* 2019. His translations of papers by Werner Stegmaier will appear in 2018/2019: “Orientation within Nihilism” and “‘Socrates fascinated’ – and so did Nietzsche.” For 2018-2019, he also received the Graduate Continuing Fellowship.

Attending the Institute for World Literature

by *Diana Silveira Leite and Monica Mohseni Sisiruca*

The Institute for World Literature (IWL) seminar held at the University of Copenhagen in the summer of 2017 was a fun, lively and informative experience. We learned and discussed a variety of topics with renowned academics and ended our time there with lasting friendships. In the seminar, “Debating World Literature,” Dr. Hendrik Birus, professor at Jacobs University, Bremen, discussed the history of the discipline in a truly global classroom. There, students from four continents debated the origins of World Literature and its possibilities in academia today. The diverse class settings of the IWL seminars revealed the importance of a postnational scope of literary studies.

In addition to theoretically robust seminars led by specialists from Denmark, the United States, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and the United Kingdom, the IWL 2017 section highlights included Sara Danius’s lecture “How to get the Nobel Prize in Literature,” where she discussed the selection process for Nobel Prize laureates from an insider perspective. Danius is the Permanent Secretary of the Swedish Academy. Additionally, David Damrosch, the program’s director provoked a lively debate on the challenges and possibilities of researching and publishing cross-nationally in his plenary lecture, “What Isn’t World Literature? Problems of Language, Context, and Politics.”

Although the seminars and lectures at the IWL provided invaluable learning opportunities, the best discussions happened between classes. At Copenhagen University’s campus cafeterias, during boat trips in the canals, while at happy hours at Papirøen (the Street Food Market), on the train to Kronborg Castle or the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. We discussed a variety of topics, from the importance of de-centering the study of comparative literature, to zooming in on the peripheries of the European and American empires. We left Copenhagen with lasting friendships and many scholarly contacts.



Reading World Literature (RWL), Comparative Literature’s community-based learning program, continues to grow! In the last year we have offered fifteen courses on texts such as *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*, *Macbeth*, *The Master and Margarita*, and many more. Additionally, we have offered teaching excellence scholarships to our dedicated instructors, who hail from Comparative Literature, English, the Michener Center for Writers, Middle Eastern Studies and Religious Studies. As part of the interdisciplinary ethos of Comp Lit we have created a learning community among our graduate student instructors and online via our social media presence. But the success of the program amounts to more than our ability to fund instructors—it is also a reflection of the dedication of the students in the facility. Our students tell us they enjoy reading out loud together, debating the characters & plot twists back in the block, and we have a cohort taking all seven classes offered this semester! Moving forward, our goal is to ensure that RWL remains a sustainable program led by Comp Lit graduate students.

Find us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#), using the hashtag #ReadWithRWL.

Attending the Institute for World Literature

by Reinhard G. Mueller

The 2017 IWL in Copenhagen was an amazing academic opportunity to get to know many leading researchers in the field of 'World Literature.' I was thrilled to attend David Damrosch's seminar on "Globalization and Its Discontents" and Christian Dahl's "The Globalization of Greek Tragedy." In my colloquium, I was able to discuss some ideas about my dissertation in a presentation on "Expanding the World through Literary-Philosophical Textualities: Nietzsche and Joyce." But the most exciting part about these 4 weeks was living in this beautiful city and befriending students and professors from all over the world, with whom I am still in touch. The IWL made the summer of 2017 my most enjoyable summer in graduate school.



Translation Project: What Is Orientation? A Philosophical Investigation

by Reinhard G. Mueller

From the original German *Philosophie der Orientierung* by Werner Stegmaier (700 pages; abridged English version: approx. 350 pages); to be published in 2018/2019 with Walter de Gruyter. 'Orientation' is spoken of everywhere, but what it itself is has not been clarified. This book offers a foundational orientation regarding the concept of orientation. Orientation is considered the achievement of finding one's way in new situations by making out promising opportunities to act and to master the situation. This study not only investigates how our orientation operates under the conditions of uncertainty and time pressure, but it also explores the complexities of individual, social, societal, and global orientation worlds. Redefining fundamental philosophical concepts, it seeks to establish a new philosophical language and, in this sense, a new *prima philosophia*.



Organizing the Ethnic and Third World Studies Sequels Symposium

by Michael Reyes Salas

During my fourth year in the UT Comp Lit program I have motivated myself to continue a path of creating scholarship engaged in political and social questions through extracurricular activities. For example, becoming a main organizer for the 17th Annual Ethnic and Third World Studies (E3W) Sequels Symposium.

Having the opportunity to plan an event premised on my research interests featuring scholars who have become mentors during my academic journey has been rewarding on several levels. It has provided me with the opportunity to reconnect with a History professor from my undergraduate institution Robin DG Kelley and an alumni of UT Comparative Literature Roanne Kantor, both of whom I personally invited to be keynote speakers.

Our planning committee—comprised of Prof. Neville Hoad, English PhD student Amrita Mishra and myself—dubbed the E3W symposium: “Afterlives: The Futures of Resistance.”

In addition to maintaining my connection with academics outside of UT, becoming an E3W symposium planner also enriched my relationship with fellow co-organizers here at UT. It goes without saying that I would not have been able to plan the E3W symposium without the support of others. Upon arriving to UT in fall 2014, I was recruited as a special section editor for the E3W Review of Books by the late Barbara Harlow. Ever since then she encouraged me to remain involved in E3W. Along the way I was shown the ropes of E3W symposium organizing by Prof. Barbara Harlow, Regina Mills and Prof. Neville Hoad, as well as Prof. Simone Browne.

As I begin dissertating this summer and look forward to entering the job market in a couple of years it behooves me to sustain and nourish these academic relations.

Afterlives was the first sequels conference following the passage of [Barbara Harlow](#), a guiding presence in the field of Comparative Literature for three decades.

The poster features a central graphic of two hands, one green and one red, holding a black circle. Inside the circle, the text reads "FUTURES OF RESISTANCE". Above the hands, the word "AFTERLIVES" is written in large, bold, white letters. In the top right corner, it says "E3W 17TH ANNUAL SEQUELS SYMPOSIUM".

Thursday, April 19th
Glickman Conference Center
CLA 1.302B

7:00 pm **Keynote Lecture by Robin D.G. Kelley:**
Spirit of '68: Remembering Revolution in these Dark Times
Respondent: Eric Tang

Friday, April 20th
SAC room 2.120
UT Alumni Keynotes

9:30 am **Roanne Kantor:**
Meet me at the Harry Ransom Center: Literary Patronage and its Afterlives at UT Austin

11:00 am **Roger Reeves:**
Sorrow, Incorporated

12:00 pm **Lunch in the Parlin Courtyard**

2:00 pm **Fast Futures**

Nick Bloom American Studies	Monica Mahseni Sisifua Comparative Literature
Joanna Beltrán Girón LULIAS	LaKaysia Williams AADS
Nighan Gorman-DaRif English	Jocelyn Wright French
Charles Holm AADS	Nelson Yang Anthropology
Chantaneice Kitt AADS	

3:15 pm **Closing Round Table**

2018. Presented by Ethnic & Third World Studies and the Department of English
Poster design by Diego Romero

Graduate Internship at the Harry Ransom Center

By Diana Silveira Leite

In a normal work day, I may come across a lock of Mary Shelley's beautiful auburn hair, Aleister Crowley's photography collection and the manuscripts of Charles Algernon Swinburne's poems handwritten in light blue paper, among other wonders. Handling the collections of some of my favorite authors is only part of my job's perks, as a Harry Ransom Center graduate research associate. During the first year of my internship I learned how to curate classes and display exhibits using archival materials. Most importantly, I developed my public service skills, helping researchers at the Harry Ransom Center with their projects. I look forward to my second year at the Ransom Center.



Refugee Student Mentor Program

By Rama Hamarneh and Kim Canuette Grimaldi

The Refugee Student Mentor Program began at the University of Texas at Austin in 2015, when a Middle Eastern Studies professor connected graduate student speakers of Arabic, Dari, and Pashto with an AISD elementary school with a significant refugee population. Since 2015, the program has grown to serve 20 AISD schools with over 60 volunteers in Spring 2018, including a number of Comparative Literature PhD Students. Currently, Rama coordinates volunteers for the program and provides translation support for AISD administration. Kim has worked with 17 children from kindergarten to fifth grade at Harris Elementary School.



We have been involved in the program since Fall 2016. Through the program, we have used our language skills to strengthen the bonds between the comparative literature program and our community. As teachers, we have watched our students become better speakers and language learners through their interactions with refugee children who are also learning a new language. As language learners ourselves, we have gained valuable experience with multiple Arabic dialects and reinvigorated our love of both English and Arabic through play.

Incoming Graduate Students

By David Kornhaber, Graduate Adviser

I am very pleased to introduce the incoming Comparative Literature graduate student cohort for 2018-2019. These four emerging scholars were selected from a global pool of applicants across a broad array of fields. The strength of their backgrounds and scope of their interests speaks to the rigor and breadth of the Comparative Literature Program. 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. We are excited to be welcoming them to Austin in the fall.

Kathleen Field comes to us from Tulane University in New Orleans, where she received undergraduate degrees in English and Latin American Studies. She also completed coursework at La Universidad de la Habana in Cuba. A native of Florida and long-time resident of New Orleans, she is developing a project on Gulf Coast culture across the US, Mexico, and the nations of the Caribbean.

Caroline Kraft will be coming to UT via Brown University, where she completed her B.A. in Comparative Literature. She also completed coursework at L'Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV). A native of Texas, she is interested in the intersections of nineteenth-century French literature and twentieth-century literature of the American South, particularly in relation to questions of the Gothic.

Saeed Nikourazm joins UT after completing his BA and MA degrees in Theater at Islamic Azad University in Tehran. A practicing playwright with language skills in English, German, and Arabic, in addition to his native Persian, he is interested in studying the intersections of philosophy, theory, and theatre, with a particular focus on German idealist philosophy of the nineteenth century.

Another Texas native, **Bianca Quintanilla** holds a BA in Comparative Literature from Stanford University. She is interested in applying the frameworks of comparative literature to the study of Chicano literature and the literatures of the U.S.-Mexico border. She is particularly interested in the work of Sandra Cisneros, though her studies have ranged from Persian poetry to the European novel.

Spring 2018 Syllabus Design Workshop

By Raelene Wyse

During the 2017-18 academic year, GRACLS prepared a series of professionalization workshops designed to support graduate students currently on the job market as well as those planning for the next steps of their graduate student career. As part of this series, Hannah Alpert-Abrams and I co-organized a CV and cover letter writing workshop for late September with Dr. Richmond-Garza, Dr. Grumberg, and Dr. Kornhaber as our faculty speakers. For early March, I organized a workshop focused on designing syllabi and featuring Dr. Richmond-Garza as our faculty speaker. With the support of GRACLS co-presidents, Diana Silveira Leite and Monica Mohseni Sisiruca, as well as all our attendees, the workshop became a space for comparative literature graduate students to discuss syllabi development for future courses and job applications.

My motivation for planning the syllabus design workshop was twofold. Applying for jobs, I had been preparing new materials and looking for feedback. I was also struck by the unique challenges that comp liters face in training and applying for diverse positions. The workshop enabled us to delve into these issues and gain considerable feedback.

Professor Richmond-Garza opened the workshop with a discussion of the syllabus as a multifaceted document, which serves as a contract with students as well as a manifesto, invitation, map, and scholarly source for anyone that might read it, including students and colleagues. Together, we tackled a range of questions from the micro to the macro of course development and syllabus design. The discussion that emerged from the workshop centered on engaging students' interest and facilitating their success. In the final portion of the workshop, we separated into small groups to workshop our drafted syllabi and course proposals.

The workshop succeeded in cultivating a stimulating conversation around syllabus design, especially in response to changing disciplinary fields. Many thanks to all who attended!

Teaching in Plan II

by Kaitlin Shirley

Plan II is an interdisciplinary honors program in which all students undertake the design and writing of a thesis in their field(s) of interest. Seniors in the thesis course are writing on topics from feminism in fairytales to conscious capitalism to CRISPR gene editing technology. It's really exciting to teach students from across departmental boundaries who are pursuing such a wide array of interests. Writing a major research paper can be daunting. Over the course of two semesters, I work with these seniors on the writing process, time management, scope, and research strategies.



CL Graduate Student, Kaitlin Shirley

Plan II students are high achievers looking to write top-quality theses, and our class is fundamental to guiding them through the process while managing their expectations. Sometimes topics are a bit ambitious and we tell them that the best thesis is a done thesis. This class is about seeing a project through to the end, so we help them to keep the thesis feasible and interesting. Plan II encourages its students to choose a topic they're passionate about and this passion is best seen at the end of semester thesis symposium where students present their work to their professors, peers, and families. It is a wonderful capstone to what is always an exciting year.

Alt-Ac: A View from Madrid

by Andrew Bennett (*Comparative Literature Alum, Class of 2013*)

At first blush the term “alternative academy” might evoke a reaction akin to that generated by other “alternatives” to institutionalized knowledge, like alternative medicine or alternative news: bewilderment, suspicion, distrust, and, finally, dismissal by those trained within the traditional model. For years this was my attitude as well. However, at a time when the traditional tenure-track model is under ever-increasing strain, it is important to revisit our notion of the value of a liberal arts PhD, and recognize innovative new sites for its application. I hope a description of my “alternative” experience, as a UT CL PhD (class of 2013), might be instructive for those gauging their future career prospects.



Andrew Bennett, PhD 2013, with his CL dissertation advisor Prof. César A. Salgado at the Plaza de Santa Ana, Madrid, March 27, 2018.

I am currently the director of the American Cultural Studies Program at the International Institute in Madrid, Spain. The IIE, an American non-profit foundation, has been operating in Spain for 125 years. It was founded as a school for girls by Boston missionaries at a time when women’s education in Spain was almost non-existent. Since then it has been a dynamic force for progressive education in the capitol, a fulcrum for transatlantic cultural and intellectual exchange, as well as a protected space for professors whose values clashed with the Franco dictatorship, thanks to its close connection with the United States embassy, which continues to this day.

The idea for the ACS program emerged after a year of trying to break into the Spanish university system. I realized that the IIE, where I was teaching English language and American culture classes, offered unique opportunities to operate across and between institutional boundaries in Madrid. The ACS program, in addition to offering courses in American literature, art history, theatre, and cultural studies (taught by American PhDs whose circumstances in many cases reflect my own) to students with advanced English and heightened intellectual curiosity, has developed partnerships with high schools, museums, the Teatro Real opera, and the Carlos III University, where I teach U.S. cultural studies courses of my own design as part of the humanities department. My teaching practice and the program mission, as multicultural and interdisciplinary as they are, have been and continue to be informed by my instruction in comparative literature. I am proud to be engaging in this academic work, as I apply what I have learned in dynamic and rewarding ways.

Clearly, the program’s success was predicated on building atop a pre-existing and exceptional institutional framework, and my vision for the program only materialized thanks to IIE’s forward-thinking and supportive Board of Directors in Boston. These are unique circumstances, but the recognition of their uniqueness is what compelled me to develop the idea in the first place. By looking at the interstices between institutions and seeing them as a site of potential rather than marginalization, points of contact and overlap became clear. And so did an alternative to the traditional academic career path.

Dr. Katie Arens was elected Honorary Member of the American Association of Teachers of German (2017). She published two articles, “E. T. A. Hoffmann’s ‘Falun’: Baltic Providences and Martyrdoms” (with Sandra Ballif Straubhaar) in *Colloquia Germanica* and “Austrian Horror Stories: Summoning the ‘daimon,’ Artmann to Handke” in *Jelinek Jahrbuch: Elfriede Jelinek-Forschungszentrum 2016-2017*. Other significant professional activities included a keynote speech for The Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), and Department of German, Scandinavian & Dutch, U of Minnesota, Minneapolis, on 1 March 2018, a conference presentation at The Annual Conference of the Austrian Studies Association, and inclusion as a member of the External Review Team for the Humanities Division of the University of Innsbruck (Austria) (March 2018).

Dr. Cory A. Reed received a Humanities Research Award from the College of Liberal Arts for his project “Embodied Cognition, Empathy, and Activism in Early Modern Spanish Theatrical Performance.” He will present related research this summer at conferences in Madrid and in Canterbury, England.

Dr. Douglas Biow’s sixth book, *Vasari’s Words: The “Lives of the Artists”* in the series *History of Ideas in the Italian Renaissance*, will be published in September 2018 by Cambridge University Press.

Dr. Marc Bizer and Tom Palaima last November brought to campus the acclaimed New Yorker writer and classicist Daniel Mendelsohn to talk about his new book *An Odyssey: A Father, a Son, and an Epic*. Bizer also organized (and spoke at) a roundtable entitled “Tragedy beyond Theater in Early Modern France: Resistance, Reconfiguration, Reappraisal” at the MLA 2018 annual meeting in NYC. He received a \$2,000 Center for European Studies research travel grant for his new book project on tragedy. Finally, his chapter “Whose Mistake? The Errors of Friendship in Cicero, LaBoétie, and Montaigne” appeared in the volume *Roman Error: Classical Reception and the Problem of Rome’s Flaws*, published by Oxford University Press (2018).

Dr. Thomas Garza continued as the Director of the Texas Language Center and the Interim Director of the Arabic Flagship Program. In spring 2018, he and the AFP team secured two more years of federal funding for the Flagship. He also published the second revised edition of his edited volume, *Slavic Blood: The Vampire in Russian and East European Cultures*. He gave two keynote addresses at Cornell University and he gave three conference papers: “Performing Masculinity: Machismo in Russian and Mexican Popular Music” (Western Social Science Association), “Does He, or Doesn’t He? Conveying the Truth in Putin’s Post-factual Russia” (ACLA), and “See It My Way: Using Global Debate to Train Advanced Proficiency in Russian” (AATSEEL). He also conducted several language pedagogy workshops about intensive instruction, curriculum design, transforming the language and culture curriculum, and sustainable lesson materials through educational technology at UT Austin, Texas Tech, Arizona State, U of Michigan, U of Chicago, and the

AALIM Center in Meknes. He was named as one of “Texas 10” for teaching excellence by the Texas Exes Alumni Association.

Dr. Karen Grumberg began her first year as Director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies. Her second book, *Hebrew Gothic: History and the Poetics of Persecution*, was recently accepted for publication by Indiana University Press. She published an article on the Hebrew translation of Knut Hamsun’s *Markens grøde* in *Prooftexts* and presented on “Norwegian Modernism and Hebrew Literary Culture” at Johns Hopkins University last fall; this June, she will present a paper in Amsterdam, entitled: “Why Compare Hebrew?”

Dr. César A. Salgado was on leave in Fall 2017 under a Special Service Fellowship to work on his current project, *Unsovereign Custodies: Archival Fashioners in Colonial Puerto Rico, 1852-1952*. After Hurricane María hit Puerto Rico and neighboring islands in September, he used the occasion of *Deudos/Death Debt*, the LILAS Benson exhibit of Eduardo Lalo’s photography about the island’s fiscal crisis that he helped curate, to co-organize a faculty forum addressing the region’s plight. He presented invited papers about Arthur A. Schomburg’s arts patronage and writings at the University of Bern and about Lalo’s trajectory as a public intellectual at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina. He published refereed articles about the *Orígenes* circle in *Revista Casa de las Américas* and *Revista de Literatura Cubana*, and a chapter on Schomburg’s Afro-Latin archival vision in *The Cambridge History of Latina/o Literature*.

Dr. David Kornhaber was pleased to co-edit a special issue of the German academic journal *Anglia*—the oldest journal of English literary studies in the world, founded in 1878. Co-edited with Dr. Martin Middeke, Chair of English Literature at the Universität Augsburg in Germany, the issue was entitled *Drama, Theatre, and Philosophy* and featured contributions from leading European theatre scholars, including Erika Fischer-Lichte, Hans-Thies Lehmann, Laura Cull Ó Maoilearca, and Dan Rebellato. In celebration of the special issue, he organized and hosted a conference on the UT campus with the support of the Center for European Studies. Entitled “Theatre and Thought: An International Symposium,” the event brought together fourteen invited participants from eight different nations. In addition to contributors to the *Anglia* volume, the symposium featured additional speakers and respondents including Martin Puchner of Harvard University, Freddie Rokem of the University of Tel Aviv, and UT’s own Paul Woodruff.

Dr. Naomi Lindstrom published an essay on the poetics of destruction in the work of Myriam Moscona in “Poesía y violencia,” a special issue of *Tintas: Quaderni di letteratura iberiche e iberoamericane* (University of Milan), and is one of the contributors to the new volume *Evolving Images: Jewish Latin American Cinema* (UT Press). She participated in the conferences of the Latin American Jewish Studies Association (Mexico City), the World Congress of Jewish Studies (Jerusalem), the Association for Jewish Studies (Washington), and the Western Jewish Studies

Association (San Antonio). She was recently appointed to the editorial board of the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Women*, a project of the Jewish Women's Archive.

Dr. Carol Hanbery MacKay published "A Spiritualist Materialist Turns Material Spiritualist: Annie Besant Rewrites Her Secularist Years" in *Branch* (<http://www.branchcollective.org>) and co-wrote with Kirk Hampton the "Afterword" to their 2002 chapter, "Shapes from the Edge of Time: The Science-Fiction Artwork of Richard M. Powers," which appeared in *Bridges to Science Fiction and Fantasy: Outstanding Essays from the J. Lloyd Eaton Conferences* (McFarland, 2018). She also delivered "Generative Interaction: Anne Thackeray Ritchie's Dynamic Rewriting of Familial Relations" at "Generations," the 25th Annual 18th-and 19th-Century British Women Writers Conference (Chapel Hill). Along with graduate student co-organizers Jana Zevnik and Dilara Cirit and Post Doc Casey Sloan, she is hosting "New Directions," the 26th Annual BWWC here at UT (11-15 April 2018).

Dr. Lisa Moore published a chapbook of poems this year with Dancing Girl Press, entitled *24 Hours of Men*. It opens with the election of Trump, recalls her childhood among Alberta cowboys, and then plunges into an intense period in which she and her wife were providing home care for a severely injured friend, the man who is the biological father of their sons. It offers intimate poems about Black Lives Matter and #MeToo, political poems about raising white men, poems about yoga, the Pope, and immigration, offered in the hope that all beings may be free from the pain of violence. In a recent review, *EcoTheo Review* described the collection as "deeply rooted in place...in a way that recalls the work of Seamus Heaney and Louise Gluck," praising its "boldness and originality."

Dr. Guy P. Raffa is completing a book manuscript, *Dante's Bones: A Poet's Afterlife*, under contract with Harvard University Press. He delivered an invited lecture at the meeting of the Dante Society of America and published two essays, "George Washington in Cambridge and the Birth of a Nation" and "Longfellow's Great Liberators: Abraham Lincoln and Dante Alighieri."

Dr. Wayne Rebhorn published an article, "Renaissance Rhetoric and Politics," in *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*. He was on leave in the fall of 2017 in order to work on his current project, a new Norton Critical Edition of Machiavelli's *The Prince*, which is now completed. He was invited to give two lectures in Korea this May. The first one was sponsored by Sogang University's English Department and was called "Carnival in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*: Delirium in Illyria." The second one was the keynote address for the annual Korean Comparative Literature Association meeting, which was sponsored by the Institute for Foreign Language Studies at Hankuk University; it was entitled "Machiavelli, the Crisis of the Italian Renaissance City-state, and the Invention of the Modern Republic."

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza was invited to serve as Scholar in Residence at the Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Virginia in October 2017. She presented three scholarly papers: "Becoming Wilde: Resistant Belief in *De Profundis*" at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the ACLA, "Гамлет. Версия: Russia as Hamlet in the 21st Century" at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Literature Meeting, and "Frenetic Humanity: Queer Horror in Oscar Wilde and Boris Akunin," at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the ACLA. She was invited to join the editorial board of *Erevna: The Journal of Linguistics and Literature*, Air University, Islamabad, Pakistan. She served as placement adviser for the program for 2017-18, coordinator for the program review in Comparative Literature (to be completed in Fall 2018), and will step in as interim graduate adviser for fall 2018.

Dr. Alexandra K. Wettlaufer completed her first year as Director of the Plan II Honors Program, where she holds the Hayden Head Regents' Chair and the Stuart Stedman Director's Chair. She co-edited an issue of *L'Esprit Créateur* on "Baudelaire and Other People" and published an article on "Absent Presence: Reading Other Artists in Baudelaire's Critical Essays." Dr Wettlaufer presented papers at the Nineteenth-Century French Studies Conference at UVA and the Société des Dix-Neuviemistes Conference in Newcastle (UK) and was an invited speaker at Global Nineteenth-Century Studies Interdisciplinary Workshop at the Center for Ideas and Society, University of California, Riverside. She was appointed to the PMLA Editorial Advisory Committee and continues to serve as co-editor of *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. This spring she was invited to join the International Advisory Board of the American University in Beirut.

Dr. Lynn Wilkinson's translation of Georg Brandes's 1872 introduction to *Main Currents of Nineteenth-Century Literature* appeared in PMLA 132:3 and her essay, "They Fluttered Like Moths: Exile and Cosmopolitanism in the Work of Germaine de Staël and Georg Brandes," in *Other Capitals of the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Richard Hibbitt. Thanks to fellowships from the University of Texas and the American Scandinavian Foundation, she has been able to spend this academic year working on a book on the plays of the Danish dramatist and journalist, Emma Gad.

Dr. Jennifer Wilks received the College of Liberal Arts Harry Ransom Award for Teaching Excellence in May 2018. In June, she presented the paper "The Habanera Returns to Havana: *Carmen la Cubana* in Context" at the Caribbean Studies Association meeting in Havana, Cuba.

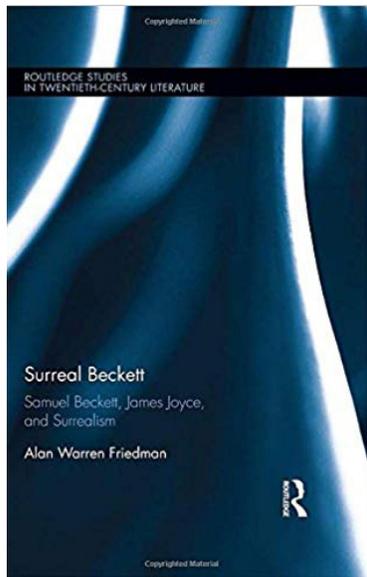
Dr. Hannah Wojciehowski co-edited an issue of the journal *Costellazioni* with Italian neuroscientist Vittorio Gallese in the emerging field of Cognitive Cultural Studies. Wojciehowski presented two keynote lectures, “The Work of Art and the Work of Memory in the Age of Nanobiotechnological Reproduction” at an interdisciplinary conference held at the Villa Vigoni in Menaggio, Italy and “Siding with the Antihero in American Serial Television: An Althusserian Approach to Embodied Cognition” at the “Being Moved: Art, Film, Narrative, and the Body-Brain” conference at Humboldt University, Berlin. The Berlin talk was based in part on research conducted during her fall 2017 undergraduate course “Bingewatching: A Cultural History.” Her essay “When the Future is Hard to Recall: Episodic Memory and Mnemonic Aids in Denis Villeneuve’s *Arrival*” appeared in the summer issue of *Projections*.

Dr. Daniela Bini published four articles: “Neapolitan Leopardi and the Naples of Mario Martone” in *Forum Italicum*; “Pasolini’s

Poetry: The Language of the Mother” in *Pasolini’s Lasting Impressions* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP); “Carlo Michelstaedter Today: The Burden of Truth and the Proliferation of Rhetoric” in *Storia e Storiografia di Carlo Michelstaedter* (Mississippi UP); “Deconstructing The Self: Luigi Pirandello’s Thought and Fausto Pirandello’s Painting” in *Pirandello’s Visual Philosophy: Imagination and Thought Across Media* (Fairleigh Dickinson UP). She was invited by the Freie Universität Berlin to present “Maschere buone e maschere cattive in Pirandello e Nietzsche” at the Symposium *Pirandello e la Germania* and gave three talks on Luigi and Fausto Pirandello in Rome at the Casa Pirandello, the International Conference on Pirandello, and the Galleria Nazionale d’Arte Moderna. She lectured on Pirandello for the Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Los Angeles and on Michelstaedter at UCLA. She delivered “Fabulous Giacomo. Did Martone Do Leopardi Justice?” at the annual *Intersezioni* Conference in Florence.

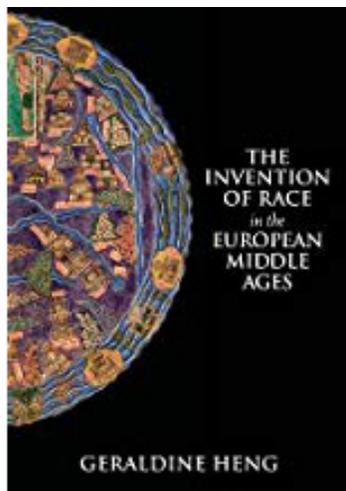
Surreal Beckett by Alan Warren Friedman

Alan Friedman, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, has recently published his sixth authored book. *Surreal Beckett* examines the powerful and complex impact that both James Joyce and Surrealism had on Beckett’s work, while also examining how Beckett created unique spaces that sometimes conflicted with these two influences. Scholars have categorized Beckett’s early years as either the ‘Joyce years’ or the ‘Surrealist period.’ The scholarly interpretation has largely maintained that Joycean influences negatively impacted his early works and that Beckett was only minimally influenced by Surrealism. In contrast, Friedman emphasizes the importance of both influences, that each was a vital building block for Beckett. Simultaneously drawing upon and rejecting the influences of his predecessors, Beckett transformed them into his own unique themes and styles that he returned to throughout the rest of his career. *Surreal Beckett* argues that Beckett’s characters transcend the restrictions imposed on them by their surreal circumstances.



The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages by Geraldine Heng

The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages questions the common belief in race studies that race and racism only began in the modern era. Examining Europe’s encounters with Jews, Muslims, Africans, Native Americans, Mongols, and the Romani (“Gypsies”), from the 12th through 15th centuries, this book shows how racial thinking, racial law, racial practices, and racial phenomena existed in medieval Europe before a recognizable vocabulary of race emerged in the West. Studying stories, maps, statuary, illustrations, architectural features, history, saints’ lives, religious commentary, laws, political and social institutions, and literature, an important focus of the book is how religion—so much in play again today—enabled the positing of fundamental differences among humans that created strategic essentialisms to mark off human groups and populations for racialized treatment. Another focus is how race figures in the emergence of homo europaeus and the identity of Western Europe in this time.



Latina/o American Literature

by John Morán González

Professor of English and Director of the Center for Mexican American Studies, co-edited (with Laura Lomas) *The Cambridge History of Latina/o American Literature* (2018), which provides a comprehensive overview of a rapidly-globalizing literary phenomenon. Moving beyond treatment of Latina/o literature as simply another U.S. ethnic phenomenon, the essays in this volume approach Latina/o literature as a uniquely-situated trans-American expressive practice with roots deep in the history of the United States as well as significant parts of the Western Hemisphere. Cutting-edge essays by 37 leading scholars in the field introduce key texts, authors, and contexts that demonstrate how Latina/o literature has been defined over five centuries by the migration of people, commodities, and cultural expressions across the Americas.

Sodom's Threshold – The Desire for the Unthinkable

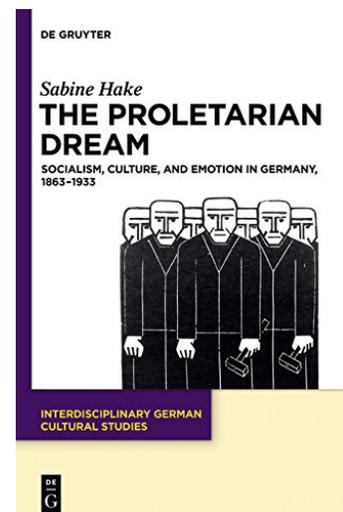
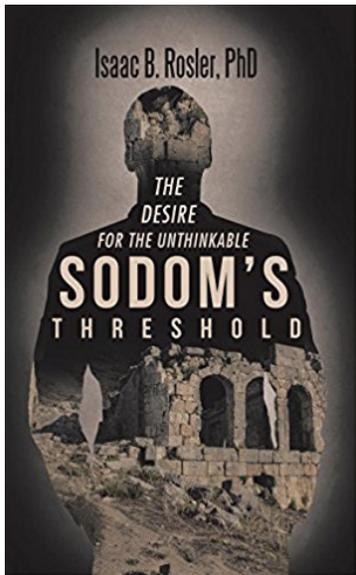
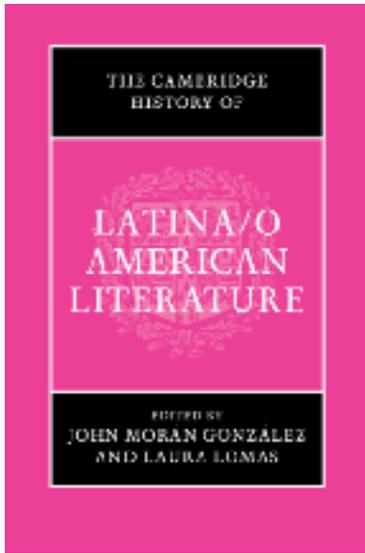
by Isaac Rosler (Alumni, CL class of 1996)

In *Sodom's Threshold – The Desire for the Unthinkable*, author Dr. Isaac B. Rosler deconstructs the narrative of Sodom and highlights how religion borrows its fervor and passion from a nonreligious impetus that is not only other than religion but also other than God. He invites us to trespass – to think about what has already trespassed our senses and to make sense of an overabundant excess that remains unsacrificable even through ruins, ashes, and forgetfulness. *Sodom's Threshold* explores concepts of alterity and otherness, and it calls us to think about a space of passion that keeps returning in spite of interruptions – in spite of religious, family, or state mandates that command us not to touch an alterity that has already arrived and is in excess of every touch. The Sodomites' forbidden passion is an excess that impassions – it is a surplus that will be usurped and neutralized *ad infinitum* by the multiple religions that both rise against its mystery and yet are also founded by it. Though Sodom was erased, its alterity and its surplus are indestructible.

The Proletarian Dream-Socialism, Culture and Emotion in Germany, 1863-1933

by Sabine Hake

The proletariat never existed—but it had a profound effect on modern German culture and society. As the most radicalized part of the industrial working class, the proletariat embodied the critique of capitalism and the promise of socialism. But as a collective imaginary, the proletariat also inspired the fantasies, desires, and attachments necessary for transforming the working class into a historical subject and an emotional community. *The Proletarian Dream* reads these forgotten archives as part of an elusive collective imaginary that modeled what it meant—and even more important, how it felt—to claim the name “proletarian” with pride, hope, and conviction. Such a perspective is bound to shed new light on the politics of emotion during the main years of working-class mobilizations and as part of more recent populist movements and cultures of resentment.



An LGBTQ Studies Program Arrives at UT

*Excerpted from original article by Elizabeth Hlavinka, Alcade (May 1, 2018)
(Alcade is the Official Publication of the Texas Exes)*

In 1972, against this backdrop of social upheaval, classes that focused on women and gender studies began being taught at UT, which would eventually evolve into a major. All of this was unprecedented at The University of Texas. Over the next 40 years, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) continued to push for new initiatives on campus—the most recent being the launch of UT's LGBTQ Studies Program in the fall of 2017, which appears as a transcript-recognized minor. Program director and English professor Ann Cvetkovich says having this platform on which to study feminist, LGBTQ, and gender histories would not have been possible without the social movements of the '60s and '70s.



Ann Cvetkovich

Courses for the LGBTQ Studies Program cover subjects like gendered histories, sexuality, and toxic masculinity. They give students the tools they need to approach past and current events through an LGBTQ lens. Program coordinator Grayson Hunt says the urgency for the program emerged in part from student need. "I want students to be able to relate to ideas and theories that are affirming to them, to have new cognitive relations so that they're not always engaging oppressive, mainstream status quo ways of thinking," he says.

The LGBTQ Studies Program demonstrates the center's increasing visibility. It grew out of the LGBTQ/Sexualities Research Cluster created in 2004 after several years of development. According to senior academic program coordinator Jackie Salcedo, the number of students majoring in Women and Gender Studies doubled after the most recent presidential election and continues to increase. People want to learn about gender equity and the patriarchal and homophobic systems in which they live, Salcedo says, even if they are initially unaware of the reasons they are drawn to the major. The education is a difficult, transformative, and often healing experience.

Cvetkovich says the administration has been supportive and that implementing new programs within the university is often a zero sum game, where it's difficult to delegate resources to a new project without taking away from another, especially when the university is faced with state legislative politics.

"That's all the more reason why it's important that we exist and keep trying to push the envelope at the administrative and political level," Cvetkovich says. "I feel like universities should be the leaders in creating new cultures and new ideas. We're a part of that."

André Lefevere M.A. Prize

Winner of the 2018 André Lefevere M.A. Prize

The winner of the 2018 André Lefevere M.A. Prize for Literary and Cultural Translation and Exchange was Nina Sport Cline for her impressively comparative and interdisciplinary report entitled “The Birds and the Bees: Gender Performance in Grandville’s *Scènes de la vie privée et publique des animaux*.” Her supervisor, Dr. Alexandra Wettlaufer, and her second reader, Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, join the selection committee in congratulating her on an exemplary project. With great sophistication, she drew on a variety of theoretical texts, including Bakhtin, Barthes, and Sedgwick, to argue that gender is a central concern in Grandville’s illustrations and their interpretations. It was an ambitious and wide-ranging report, one that confidently traversed the realms of theory, literature, and the visual arts, and it serves as a model for what can be achieved in the field of comparative literature.



CL Graduate Student, Nina Sport Cline



This prize honors the memory of Professor [André Lefevere](#) (pictured right) who taught in the Department of Germanic Languages and in the Program in Comparative Literature at the University of Texas from 1984 to 1996. A brilliant linguist, critic, and translator, Lefevere brought great distinction to the University of Texas, especially through his efforts in translation studies where he was an innovator and inspiration to many around the world.



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

The 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association

UCLA
in Los Angeles, CA
29 March - 1 April

Seminars:

**IRREALITY IN THE
LITERATURES AND CULTURES
OF EASTERN EUROPE, THE
BALKANS AND EURASIA**

Eva Hudecova, University of
Minnesota Twin Cities
Thomas Garza

(UN)BELIEVABLY QUEER?

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

**SEMINAR: SPINOZA AND
CLASSICAL MARXISM**

Tracie Matysik
Willi Goetschel, University of
Toronto
Warren Montag, Occidental
College

Individual Presentations:

**“The Boy Who Would Make Everything
Right”: Ischa Meijer as the Anti-Child of Dutch
Holocaust Memory**

Sarah Ropp

**Does he, or doesn't he? New sci-fi and convey-
ing truth in Putin's post-factual Russia**

Thomas Garza

**Good, Evil, and Truth in *The Master and
Margarita***

Kaitlin Shirley

**Becoming Wilde: Resistent (Un)Belief in *De
Profundis***

Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

**The Case of the Disappearing Detective: Liza
Marklund and the End of Nordic Noir**

Lynn Wilkinson

**Nazi Conversion Narratives: Turning
Proletarians into German Workers**

Sabine Hake

Plekhanov and the Politics of Nature

Tracie Matysik

Testimonial Vignettes: The 31000 Convoy

Amy Vidor

**Broadcasting in Yiddish: Sounding Argentine-
Jewish Culture in *Di Naie Idishe Sho***

Raelene Wyse

**Confessional Writings between Philosophy and
Literature: Nietzsche and Joyce**

Reinhard Mueller

Future meeting locations of the ACLA's Annual Meeting include:
2019: March 7-10, 2019 at Georgetown University, Washington, DC



THE 15TH ANNUAL GRADUATE
CONFERENCE IN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2018
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

BEYOND THE BREAKDOWN

Re-viewing Our Disciplines & Our World

Keynote Conversationalists:

Dr. Alison Kafer

(Southwestern University)

and a second interlocutor (TBD)

This is a conference committed to exploring brokenness in its multiple forms and meanings. At a moment when total breakdown feels imminent, how can and should scholars respond? In the spirit of “bridges not walls,” we invite submissions from all disciplines. We aim for dynamic interdisciplinary conversation that works to break silences, counter hegemony and homogeny, and reform the molds we’ve inherited in order to build new perspectives, new possibilities, and new pathways for moving forward.

*250-word abstracts should be submitted as a Word document
to gradsconference2018@gmail.com by August 1, 2018.*

For additional information, contact **Andra Bailard** (abailard@utexas.edu)
and **Sarah Ropp** (sarah.ropp@utexas.edu).



Call For Papers

Beyond the Breakdown:
Re-viewing Our Disciplines and Our World

The 15th Annual
Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature

September 28-29, 2018
The University of Texas at Austin

Keynote Conversationalists:
Dr. Alison Kafer (Southwestern University) and Dr. Sami Schalk (UW-Madison)

In this tumultuous geopolitical moment, an apocalyptic end seems too close for comfort. While it might be tempting to accept that total breakdown is imminent, it is now more important than ever to consider our place in the world and how we may continue to (re)shape it. In our approach to world-as-text and text-as-world, how can scholars “break down” without breaking? How can we respond productively, constructively, to brokenness, even as we strive to dismantle rigid hegemonic structures? Can we embrace some kinds of brokenness as beautiful, as necessary? How should the boundaries between disciplines, languages, and cultures be broken apart and revised? How do scholars need to redefine terms we once took for granted? In essence, how are we beginning to restructure, rebuild, and rejuvenate our disciplines, the Academy at large, and our relationships with the world beyond?

Comparative literature as a discipline is often devoted to “breaking down”: exposing instances of untranslatability and particularity where universalities have previously been assumed. But it is also committed to “building up”: making connections that aren’t immediately obvious and creating meaningful dialogues across and between languages, texts, cultures, historical phenomena, and academic fields. In the spirit of “bridges not walls,” we invite submissions from all disciplines, including but not limited to literary and cultural studies, linguistics, history, women’s and gender studies, disability studies, anthropology, education, environmental studies, and the creative arts.

Possible paper topics might include:

- Redefining the meaning of “text,” “literature,” and “narrative”
- Translation as a form of reconstruction; language blends, creoles, pidgins
- Rethinking deconstruction/reconstruction; paranoid and reparative readings
- Breaking down the boundaries of identity in a (post)colonial world
- Redefining “the center,” rethinking the canon in relation to world literature
- Historical “re’s: Renaissance, Reformation, Reconstruction, Revolution; history’s repetitions
- “Broken” bodies: rejecting “wholeness” as best outcome in disability and gender studies
- Borderlands theory and “rajadura”; split consciousness
- Musical “breaks” and integral pauses; productive silences in discourse
- Applications of brokenness in art; e.g. Japanese kintsugi as metaphor and practice
- Performativity, including theatrical performance, as construction and reconstruction
- Redefining divisions along national, linguistic, and ethnic borders
- Rebuilding communities in exile; diaspora and refugee studies
- Ecocriticism and reclamation by/through nature
- Restructuring literary studies and language/literature departments for the modern university
- New approaches to the K-12 classroom: pedagogy, institutional structure, community
- Reorienting the subject; rethinking the human/animal divide
- Breakdowns in communication and representation: trauma, latency, and (post)memory
- Re-membling the body in post-trauma narratives
- Broken systems, Black Lives Matter, and reparative justice
- Creative writing, visual art, and performance projects that address the topic in some form

The deadline for paper abstracts is August 1, 2018. Abstracts of a maximum 250 words should be submitted via email as a Word document to gracslconference2017@gmail.com. We also welcome panel proposals of 3-4 speakers. For additional information about the conference, please contact the organizers, Andra Bailard (abailard@utexas.edu) and Sarah Ropp (sarah.ropp@utexas.edu), or visit the conference website at gracslconference2018.wordpress.com.

14th Annual Conference: Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): Popular Culture and the Public Academy

by Xinyao Xiao, Tia Butler, and Monica Mohseni Sisiruca

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 Association of Comparative Literature Students presents the 2017 Graduate Student Conference, "Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing): 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 whatever medium in a world that has always been filled with cultural objects and discourses. It also imagines what future directions such work might take.

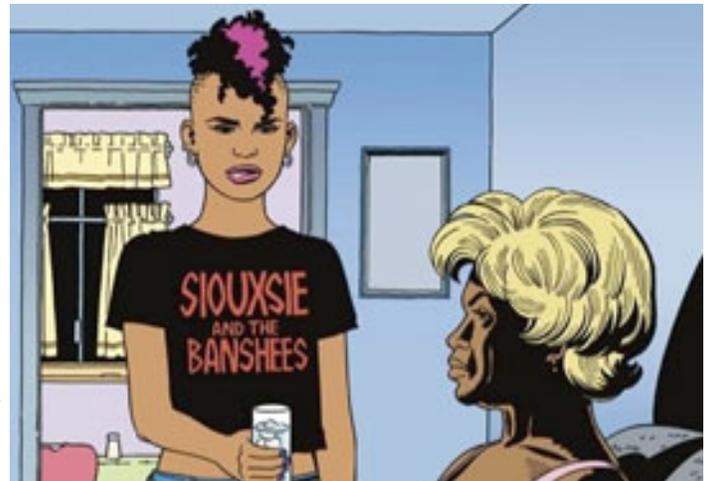


Often dismissed as an insignificant, transient form, popular culture plays a persistent and powerful role with political and social consequences. In 2016, the Oxford English Dictionary named "post-truth" as the international word of the year, insisting that the affective had supplanted the analytical 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 imaging 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.

Dr. Richard Rodríguez, the conference keynote speaker, is the author of the award-winning *Next of Kin: The Family in Chicano/a Cultural Politics* (Duke University Press, 2009). He is also at work on another project: "Undocumented Desires: Fantasies of Latino Male Sexuality."

The talk examined the varied collaborations, physical convergences, and mutual influences of British post-punk music artists and Latina/o communities in the U.S. during the 1980s. Exploring the reciprocal touches of seemingly disparate parties, the talk traces analogous histories and cultures of working-class Latina/o and British youth in the late Cold War era to make sense of the way popular music established—and continues to facilitate—intimate contact across the Atlantic divide.



Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Memorial Endowment Fellowship



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.

For six 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. 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 Michael Reyes Salas.

2019- 2020 U.S. Fulbright Scholar Competition Opens

The 2019-2020 Fulbright U.S. Student competition 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 9, 2018. 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:

<https://us.fulbrightonline.org/applicants>

Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships

**Fellow, Inaugural and
Second Cohorts, College
of Liberal Arts Engaged
Scholar Initiative (Andrew
W. Mellon Foundation)**
Amy Vidor (2017-2019)
Michael Reyes (2018-2020)
Sarah Ropp (2018-2020)

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

**University Graduate
Continuing Fellowship**
Raelene Wyse (2017-2018)
Reinhard Mueller (2018-
2019)
Jamila Davey (2018-2019)

**Ford Foundation
Fellowship**
Michael Reyes (2015-18)

**University Bruton Graduate
Fellowship**
Nika Setek (2017-2018)

**CL Graduate Excellence
Recruitment Fellowship**
Aycan Akçamete (2017-18)
Andra Bailard (2017-18)
Boya Lin (2017-18)
Thais Rutledge (2017-18)
Alexander Thomas (2017-18)

**University Graduate
Summer Project Fellowship**
Reinhard Mueller (2018)
Mark Smith (2018)

**University & COLA Graduate
Fellowships**
Mehdi Torabian (Fall 2018)
Rama Hamarneh (Fall 2018)
Marlena Cravens (Spring 2019)

**Sherzer Endowed Graduate
Professional Development
Fellowship**
Marlena Cravens (Fall 2017)
Hamza Iqbal (Fall 2017)

**Stiles Endowed Comparative
Literature Graduate
Professional Development
Fellowship**
Rama Hamarneh (Fall 2017)
Reinhard Mueller (Fall 2017)
Thais Rutledge (Fall 2017)
Amy Vidor (Fall 2017)
Alex Thomas (Fall 2017)
Jamila Davey (Fall 2017)
Xinyao Xiao (Spring 2018)
Claudio Oliveir (Spring 2018)
Jennie Wojtusik (Spring 2018)
Emma Wilson (Spring 2018)
Zainab Cheema (Spring 2018)
Sarah Ropp (Spring 2018)

**University Graduate
Professional Development
Award**
Nika Setek (Fall 2017)
Sarah Ropp (Fall 17, Spring 18)
Jennie Wojtusik (Fall 2017)
Jamila Davey (Fall 2017)
Kimberly Canuette (Fall 2017)
Emma Wilson (Fall 2017)
Rama Hamarneh (Spring 2018)
Kaitlin Shirley (Spring 2018)
Raelene Wyse (Spring 2018)
Nina Cline (Spring 2018)
Marlena Cravens (Spring 2018)

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Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

GSC Chair
Lynn Wilkinson

Graduate Advisor
David Kornhaber

Graduate Coordinator
Anne Bormann

Join us on Facebook!

Click here to join the UT Comparative Literature organizational [Facebook page](#). You'll be able to see updates, receive information about upcoming events, and follow and share important happenings across the field of Comparative Literature.

Postdoctoral Placements & Updates

Marina Alexandrova was promoted to senior lecturer of Slavic and Eurasian Studies (University of Texas at Austin).

Hannah Alpert-Abrams will continue a two-year CLIR postdoctoral fellowship at LILAS Benson (University of Texas at Austin) for 2018-19.

Andrew Bennett (Class of 2013) is the Director of the American Cultural Studies Program at the International Institute in Madrid, Spain.

Pearl Brilmyer (Class of 2014) is Assistant Professor of English at The University of Pennsylvania.

Jonathan Fleck accepted an offer from Sacramento State (2018) where he'll be able to develop substantial new work in translation and interpreting pedagogy, within a very active and supportive department.

Roanne Kantor has been appointed as Assistant Professor of English at Stanford University.

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