The field of Comparative Literature was created, out of the same impetus that inaugurated the League of Nations, the pressing sense at the end of the First World War that such conflict must be resisted through shared international understanding. A century earlier, at the end of the Napoleonic Wars, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe imagined that being able to move among languages could serve as the basis for peace: “For it is after all, these relations between original and translation which are most expressive of the relations of one nation to another.” Following our field’s birth in 1918 in the United States, the Second World War would prompt Senator J. William Fulbright, whose fellowship initiatives still enable our work, to echo Goethe, insisting that “in the long course of history, having people who understand your thought is much greater security than another submarine.” This year, after so many subsequent global conflicts, the work of UT’s Program in Comparative Literature remains necessary and energetic on the Forty Acres and beyond.

The 2014 GRACLS Symposium, on the theme of “Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, and Comparison,” invited almost a hundred participants, with the wise guidance of our keynote speaker, Dr. Natalie Melas of Cornell University, to think about the “tout-monde” in which all cultures are simultaneously present in a world of dynamic and transforming comparison. Our faculty have won national awards for translation and scholarship and been recognized for their outstanding teaching. Our exceptional graduate coordinator, Mr. William Fatzinger, Jr., was recognized by the President of UT as a recipient of the 2015 President’s Outstanding Staff Award. Our students continue to extend the limits of comparative work, supported by distinguished competitive fellowships, and to share their expertise with undergraduates in the classes that they teach. They engage with the newest methodologies and bring fresh eyes and ears to global cultural production that ranges from the classical to the
Program News

most contemporary, from the archive to the screen, from new worlds to old. When Diogenes of Sinope, a slave, philosopher, and critic (b. 404 in Turkey, d. 323 in Corinth), first imagined our field, he did so in answer to a simple question about his origin and affiliation. His answer, “I am a citizen of the world” (κοσμοπολίτης) resonates today in the work of my colleagues who fulfill the charge given to us by Dr. Kwame Anthony Appiah in 2006: “Cosmopolitanism is about intelligence and curiosity as well as engagement.”

I hope that you will enjoy reading about, and celebrating, our work from the past year. I know you will join me in thanking all of my colleagues, especially Dr. Wayne Rebhorn, who guided the program with such care and leadership from January 2014-December 2014 from strength to strength, for their intellectual accomplishments and personal successes.

Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

Lecture by Dr. Jonathan Culler

On Wednesday April 22nd, Jonathan Culler, 1916 Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Cornell University addressed more than one hundred Comp. Litters and friends of Comparative Literature on “Theory of the Lyric,” in anticipation of the publication of his Theory of the Lyric by Harvard University Press in May 2015. Ranging across the European lyrical canon, Dr. Culler proposed a theory of the lyric as addressing our world rather than project a fictional world and also challenged the strongly established assumption that poems exist to be interpreted. To view a video of Dr. Culler’s lecture, please click here.

Graduate Coordinator Billy Fatzinger was a recipient of the 2015 President’s Outstanding Staff Award.
Undergraduate Courses

C L 305
Vampires In Slavic Cultures
Thomas Garza

C L 315
World Literature
Brian Doherty

C L 323
Antisemitism in History & Literature
John Hoberman

Exhibitionism!! Public Spectacles in Northern and Central Europe
Katherine Arens

Marginal Masculinities: Russian and Mexican Men in Popular Culture
Afsar Mohammad

The Israel/Palestine Conflict: a Cultural Perspective of Modern Islam and Popular Fiction
Karen Grumberg

Hardboiled Latin America: Literature and Film
Sam Cannon

Russian and Mexican Men In Popular Culture
Thomas Garza

Russian Cinema: Potemkin to Putin
Petra Petrov

Women's Resistance in Contemporary Eastern Europe
Oksana Lutsyshyna

Caribbean Literature
Jennifer Wilks

Contemporary Scandinavian Stories
Jakob Holm

The Films of Ingmar Bergman
Lynn Wilkinson

The Qur'an
Hina Azam

Decoding Classical Chinese Poetry
Chiu-Mi 'Lai

Graduate Courses

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

C L 381
Medieval and Early Modern Curriculum
Marjorie Woods

C L 382
Cosmopolitanism, Engagement & Diversity
Elizabeth Richmond Garza

Dante's Afterlives
Guy Raffa

Subaltern Epistemologies
Toyin Falola

C L 386
Apocalypse In Russian Literature & Culture
Michael Pesenson

C L 390
Contemporary Literary Theory
Peter Rehberg

Degree Recipients

Master of Arts:

Fall 2014:
Yucong Hao: Turn to China: Representing Lu Xun in Early 1940’s Japan.

Spring 2015:

Doctor of Philosophy:

Fall 2014:
Michal Raizen: Ecstatic Feedback: Toward an Ethics of Audition in the Contemporary Literary Arts of the Mediterranean.

Bhavya Tiwari: Beyond English: Translating Modernism in the Global South.

Spring 2015:
Yekaterina Cotey: “Come Away, O Human Child”: The Role of Folkloric Children in Nineteenth-Century British and Russian Literature

Michael Flynn: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in Contemporary Colombian Fiction.

Roanne Kantor: Cartographies of Engagement: The Parallels and Intersections of Latin American and South Asian Literatures in the Twentieth Century.


Franklin Strong: Impossible Harmonies: Music, Race, and Nation in the Neobaroque Novel.
A Word from the President of GRACLS
by Jonathan Fleck

The Graduate Association of Comparative Literature Students (i.e. GRACLS) had a productive and energizing 2014-2015 academic year! Our committee, which joins veteran Comp Litters with a new eager cohort, developed a series of great initiatives and projects both academic and social.

The 11th annual GRACLS conference, “Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, Materiality,” was a highlight of the year, including Dr. Natalie Melas’s fascinating keynote address. The multinational conference featured 60 presentations on a wide breadth of topics, once again positioning GRACLS at the forefront of innovative graduate student research. The 2015-2016 Conference Committee members Reinhard Mueller and Rama Hamarneh are already well at work organizing next year’s exciting conference.

In addition to the conference, GRACLS also established roundtables to provide a forum for scholarly exchange, as well as for advice about how to succeed in graduate school and beyond. Hannah Alpert-Abrams brought together scholars from multiple departments and backgrounds to lead an engaging roundtable on Digital Humanities. The discussants offered valuable insights into how DH relates to their academic work, and spurred a thought-provoking conversation. In another roundtable, the first-year Comp Lit students were able to benefit from an organized discussion on preparing for their Qualifying Exams, coming up at the end of the fall semester. Finally, GRACLS put together an official venue for paper sharing and feedback for students’ presentations at the annual conference of the American Comparative Literature Association in Seattle.

Speaking of ACLA, The Program in Comparative Literature once again made an excellent showing, and GRACLS was happy to share in the excitement. While in Seattle, GRACLS organized a special cocktail hour for the Comp Lit crowd. Sharing our colleagues’ experiences at their presentations was a great way to reflect on the process and prepare for further successes.

Finally, our end-of-spring happy hour caught people before their summer plans came into full swing. The students were happy to reconnect in an informal setting and get inspired for their summer projects, and for next fall!

A hearty thank you goes out to the members of the GRACLS committee: Conference Organizers Reinhard Mueller and Rama Hamarneh; Secretary Amy Vidor; Social Coordinator Marlena Cravens; and Curriculum Committee Representatives Michael Reyes and Raelene Wyse.

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2015 - 2016 GRACLS Officers

President: Jonathan Fleck
Secretary: Amy Vidor
Social Coordinator: Marlena Cravens
Conference Organizers: Rama Hamarneh & Reinhard Mueller
Committee Representatives: Raelene Wyse & Michael Reyes
Dina Sherzer Endowment Fellowship

Thanks to the generosity of the Dina Sherzer Endowment, we are able to supplement the studies of Marlena Cravens, who will be traveling to archives in Barcelona and Madrid, through IES Barcelona, in order to complete research for her dissertation; Cynthia Francica, who will travel to Santiago, Chile to present a paper at Latin American Studies Association (LASA), First Southern Cone Symposium; Cory Hahn, who will attend the Avanca Cinema - International Cinema Conference in Avanca, Portugal; Reinhard Mueller, will attend attend Trebuth-Werkstatt, a specialized conference and workshop organized by Werner Stegmaier in Naumburg, Germany.

Current Students may apply for funds from the Dina Sherzer Endowment, the Elizabeth Warnock Fernea Excellence Endowment, and Stiles Endowment here.

Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowships

Continuing Year-long Fellowships
- Jonathan Fleck (2015-16)
- Marina Flider (Fall 2015)
- Katie Logan (Fall 2015)
- Maryam Shariati (Fall 2015)

Recruitment Year-long Fellowships
- Liza Morrow Goodstein (2015-16)
- Monica Mohseni Sisiruca (2015-16)
- Claudio Eduardo Moura de Oliveira (2015-16)

Summer Continuing Fellowships
- Katie Logan (Summer 2015)
- Jonathan Fleck (Summer 2015)
- Cynthia Francica (Summer 2015)

Graduate School Summer Fellowships
- Juan Ávila Conejo (Summer 2016)
- Liza Morrow Goodstein (Summer 2016)
- Monica Mohseni Sisiruca (Summer 2016)
- Claudio Eduardo Moura de Oliveira (Summer 2016)
- Nina Sport (Summer 2016)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS)
- Jennie Wojtusik (2015-16) (REE)
- Marlena Cravens (Summer 2015) (CES)
- Jennie Wojtusik (Summer 2015, Critical Language Scholarship)

Other Fellowships and Awards

Ford Fellowship
- Michael Reyes (2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18)

William J. Powers Recruitment Fellowship
- Xinyao Xiao (2015-16, 2016-17)

LILLAS Argentine Studies Award
- Cynthia Francica (Summer 2015)

Bruton Scholarship
- Jonathan Fleck (2015-16)

Matching Year-long Fellowships
- Kim Canuette Grimaldi (2015-16)
- Jamila Davey (2015-16)

2015 - 2016 Fulbright Competition

The 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student competition opened May 1, 2015 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 13, 2015. 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
First Year Student Profiles (2014-15)

Marlena Cravens holds a B.Sc. from the University of Toronto, but studied a mixture of Anatomy, Comparative Literature, and Spanish. She also earned an M.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of Toronto in 2013. She works in Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin, studying Early Modern translation practices and travel literature as they relate to the discovery of the New World. She also investigates these traits in Medieval Iberian texts and how they lead to their Early Modern counterparts. Awarded a Summer FLAS Fellowship, she will travel to Spain to examine medieval archival records.

Rama Hamarneh presented papers at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference in Seattle, Washington, as well as at Jil Jadid, the UT Middle Eastern Studies graduate student conference. She will travel to Jordan in Summer 2015 on a graduate school summer fellowship.

Reinhard Mueller holds an MA in Germanic studies from the University of Alabama (2011) and a Staatsexamen (MA equivalent) in Philosophy and English from the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt Universität in Greifswald (2013). Before coming to UT, he focused primarily on connections between philosophy and literature, on literary theory, and on the works of F. Nietzsche. His master's thesis explored Nietzsche and G.E. Lessing as philosophical enlighteners. At UT, his research delves into a philosophical understanding of Modernism in German and English literature. In the summer, he will present at a conference in Germany about the paradoxes of democracies with focus on N. Luhmann and Nietzsche.

Michael Reyes was awarded the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, which includes three years of full funding. He served as co-editor and reviewer for a section in the Ethnic and Third World Literature's Review of Books. He is also scheduled to present at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Meeting and El Mundo Zurdo Conference.

Sarah Ropp graduated in 2011 with a BA in Spanish from Goucher College (Baltimore), having also minored in English and in Latin American Studies. After teaching high school English on the Texas-Mexico border and in a native community in rural Alaska for three years, she has come to UT to study contemporary Spanish, Dutch and multi-ethnic American literature, with interests in children, trauma, translation and pedagogy.

Amy Vidor received her Bachelor’s degrees in French and English from the University of Southern California in 2012. She recently completed her Master’s in French History and Literature from Columbia University in August 2014 in Paris, France. At UT Amy is working with French, German, and English literature of the 20th and 21st centuries. She is interested particularly in work that engages with issues of gender and trauma.
Incoming Graduate Students
by Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Graduate Advisor

It is my great pleasure to introduce the Comparative Literature students who will form the 2015-16 cohort. These six individuals were selected from an academically outstanding, intellectually superior, and geographically diverse pool of applicants. Their range of expertise, regional, historical, methodological and thematic, is impressive and their interests span the globe while optimally aligning with the resources available at UT Austin. I would also like to take a moment to thank the admissions committee, whose careful reading and wisdom were essential in selecting and recruiting so distinctive a group of students.

Juan Ávila Conejo comes to UT from the Universidad de las Ciencias y el Art de Costa Rica, where he earned a degree in architecture, and from Colorado College where he has just completed a fifth year of study focusing on Classics and Russian Language. With expertise in French, Spanish, and Russian, Mr. Ávila Conejo plans to focus on Global Modernism with a particular emphasis on the persistent relevance of Camus’ Existentialist and Absurdist works.

Having completed her undergraduate degree in English at Wesleyan University with a certificate in Middle Eastern Studies, Liza Morrow Goodstein has devoted 2014-15 to continuing her work in Arabic. Bringing both French and Spanish to her inquiry, Ms. Goodstein is especially concerned with Modern and Postmodern Narratives and Narratology as they play out in the multilingual context of the Maghreb.

Monica Mohseni Sisiruca graduated from Boston University with a degree in English, combining her bilingual background in Spanish and Persian with the study of French and Italian. Ms. Mohseni Sisiruca’s interest in European Modernism in a global context led her to her current desire to investigate the plantocratic family unit in the literatures of the Latin American Boom and the U.S. South.

Claudio Eduardo Moura de Oliveir completed an undergraduate degree in Social Communications – Journalism as well as a master’s degree in Language Studies at the Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio de Janerio. He went on to take a master’s degree at University College, London in Comparative Literature. With expertise in English, French, German and Portuguese, Mr. Moura de Oliveir’s research focuses on cultural recycling, eco-criticism, and queer theory.

Nina Marie Sport graduated with a double major in French and Spanish from UT Arlington. After two years teaching both French and Spanish language and culture, she will expand her research to include Portuguese and will continue to pursue her interest in the phenomenon of the global lyric in Caribbean and American contexts, with a special focus on Charles Baudelaire.

While completing an undergraduate degree in English Literature from Tsinghua University, Xiao Xinyao concentrated on Medieval and Renaissance literature. She complemented her knowledge of English and Spanish with a firm foundation in Latin through the intensive Latin Program at the City University of New York. Ms. Xiao will extend her work on Shakespeare and the European Middle Ages to include the visual arts and early modern literature in a global context.
Reflections on the 11th Annual GRACLS Conference
by Raelene Wyse and Jamila Davey

As we take this moment to reflect on the 11th annual GRACLS conference last September, “Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, Materiality,” we would first like to express our thanks to all of the individuals that collaborated and contributed to make the program such a success.

When we came to together to define a topic for the conference, we wanted to raise a question that would appeal broadly to the Comparative Literature community. Furthermore, we wanted to create a venue for collective reflection on our discipline and what it means to do comparative work. We hoped to provoke a discussion about the identity of our field as well as the specific problems that we confront in our work. Our questions for the conference came directly out of our engagements with Professor Melas’ scholarship. We were introduced to her work in our first-year pro-seminar course when Dr. Wilks invited us to read and discuss Dr. Melas’ article “Versions of Incommensurability.” A year later, our contemporary theory course with Dr. El-Ariss culminated in a discussion of Dr. Melas’s PMLA article “Merely Comparative.” Both conversations raised vital questions about the risks and rewards of comparison as a method and prompted an interrogation of the assumptions and concepts that mediate the practice of comparison. At the core of her work, what intrigued us the most was the way in which Dr. Melas both grapples with the question of how comparison has collaborated in creating hierarchy and worked as a force to index cultures, and presents an approach for re-conceptualizing comparison as a dynamic site of interaction that subverts stable positions and hierarchical structures.

Recognizing the importance of Melas’ work to our own, we were delighted when Dr. Melas agreed to deliver the conference keynote address. In addition to presenting her talk, “The Fetish of Equivalence”, Dr. Melas attended conference panels and met with many students and faculty over her three days on the UT campus.

We were pleased to present a rich and diverse conference program, which included 60 presentations by students from at least nine UT departments and programs as well as other Texas, US and international universities. Students traveled from as far as Canada, India, and Israel to participate. In addition to paper presentations, the conference program featured non-traditional panels, including a roundtable discussion on collaborative scholarship and teaching for graduate students, a conversation session about the representation of the conquest of Mexico in US popular culture, and a roundtable session on the role of theory in comparative work. At the end of the conference, we had a renewed appreciation for the space of the GRACLS conference as an opportunity to assemble as a scholarly collective working across disciplines, to engage each other’s work and to reflect on our scholarly goals.

The success of this conference is due to the help of many, but we would like to extend our personal thanks to our student presenters, faculty moderators, volunteers and our guest, Dr. Melas. We thank Billy Fatzinger who was truly a partner in bringing this event together. We would like to thank previous conference organizers, Hannah Alpert-Abrams, Katie Logan and Roanne Kantor for all their help and advice. We offer a special thank you to all who contributed to the success of the conference.
thanks to Dr. El-Ariss for working with us on the Call for Papers and for his help in hosting Dr. Melas. We would like to thank Dr. Richmond-Garza for her support despite the fact that she was on sabbatical. And finally, we would like to thank Professor Rebhorn for his many contributions and guidance throughout the conference experience from beginning to end.

We must also extend our thanks to the following departments and programs for their generous support without which the conference would not have been possible: Dr. Robert Abzug and Dr. Naomi E. Lindstrom and the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies; Dr. Kamran Scot Aghaie and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies; Dr. Kit Belgum and the Department of Germanic Studies; Dr. Douglas Biow and the Center for European Studies; Dr. David Birdsong and the Department of French and Italian; Dr. Thomas J. Garza and the Texas Language Center; Dr. Charles Hale and the Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies; Dr. Steven Hoelscher and the Department of American Studies; Dr. Jacqueline Jones and the Department of History; Dr. Martin Kevorkian and the Department of English; Dr. Mary Neuburger and the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies and Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies; Dr. Domino R. Perez and the Center for Mexican-American Studies; Dr. Jill Robbins and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa and the Center for Asian American Studies; Dr. Martha Selby and the Department of Asian Studies; Dr. Pauline Strong and the Humanities Institute, support provided by the Barron Ulmer Kidd Centennial Lectureship in the Liberal Arts; Dr. Karin G. Wilkins and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies; The Graduate Student Assembly; Dr. Wayne Rebhorn, Interim Director for the Program in Comparative Literature and Celanese Centennial Professor of English; Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Director for the Program in Comparative Literature and Distinguished Teaching Associate Professor of the English Department; Dr. Samer Ali, Graduate Adviser for Comparative Literature and Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies; Dr. Tarek El-Ariss, Associate Professor, Program in Comparative Literature and the Department of Middle Eastern Studies; Judith H. Langlois, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies; Dean Randy Diehl, Senior Associate Dean Richard Flores, Associate Dean Jamie Southerland, and Associate Dean Esther Raizen and the College of Liberal Arts. We are grateful to have had the chance to organize the 11th Annual GRACLS conference, and we look forward to its continuation next year under the leadership of Rama and Reinhard.
Working with the Benson Latin American Collection
by Hannah Alpert-Abrams

At UT Austin we are fortunate to have multiple exceptional rare books and archival collections. We all know the Harry Ransom Center, which shares a yard with our own offices and which features high-profile collections of celebrity authors, from David Foster Wallace to Gabriel García Márquez. Far across campus, however, up the hill past the football stadium, the Benson Latin American Collection has books signed in blood, Nahua pictorials, police archives, and sound recordings from across the Americas. (The Benson also has perhaps the most wonderful stacks on campus, Borgesian metal shelving that extends forever into the distance.)

As the Digital Scholarship Graduate Research Assistant for the Benson, my work has focused on the Primeros Libros collection, an effort to digitize all books printed before 1601 in the Americas. The printing press first arrived in Mexico in the late 1530s, where it functioned, as Hortensia Calvo puts it, not as an agent of change so much as a reinforcement of colonial power. Controlled by religious orders and the viceroyal government, and monitored (though less heavily than we might expect) by the Inquisition, the press during this time nonetheless offers a fascinating glimpse into what Angel Rama calls Mexico’s ciudad letrada (lettered city). Many of the books in this collection, for example, feature efforts to codify indigenous languages using alphabetic writing systems and Latin grammar. Others reflect early colonial scholarly projects, like the newly-added Opera Medicinalia (1570), a medical text. The decision of the Primeros Libros directors, who represent multiple institutions in the U.S. and Mexico, to digitize all surviving exemplars of each book makes the collection uniquely useful for scholars interested in print history.

I am primarily responsible for two projects at the Benson, both under the guidance of Kent Norsworthy, the Digital Scholarship Coordinator for LLILAS Benson. These projects include developing a tool for the automatic transcription of early modern printed books, and constructing a multimedia exploration of the Primeros Libros collection using Scalar, a tool developed by USC for multimedia scholarly work. In addition, I am helping faculty members to gather resources for two exciting courses to be taught next year on the subject of digital scholarship in Latin America. One course, through the history department, uses archival collections from Central America to teach the history of armed conflict in the region, focusing specifically on Guatemala and El Salvador. Another more general course features scholars from multiple disciplines who use digital technologies in their research on Latin America. Collectively, these projects seek to expand the accessibility and discoverability (a technical term!) of the LLILAS Benson's digital collections for UT students and a more general public.
Receiving Predoctoral Fellowship Funding
by Michael Reyes

When it comes to fellowships and research grants, I apply to anything I am eligible for, for as long as I remain eligible. Sticking to this approach has yielded great results. One thing I have learned is that if you are denied a fellowship one year, you may receive it the next. Such was my experience recently being awarded the 2015 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. When I applied to the Ford for the 2014-2015 year I was turned down, I was asked to reapply the next year. So I did. Now, I am set to receive three years of fellowship support.

Early in my academic experience I started to investigate various forms of funding. When I began college my family was unable to provide me with financial support. To become the first person in my family to obtain a college degree I had to learn how to apply for grants and federal loans. I would spend hours compiling lists of both internal and extramural scholarships and fellowships I was eligible for and applying to as many as I could. I have always attempted to submit as many applications as possible without losing quality in their substance.

Two differentiating factors between my 2014 and 2015 Ford applications are the following: (1) the amount of detail used to describe how I will make use of various resources available at UT. From the Harry Ransom Center to the Benson Latin American Collection, in my grant application I illustrated how the archival resources on campus will inform my studies of different histories. (2) the amount of faculty support I solicited. This year I sought out critical feedback to improve my research proposals from more faculty advisors than last year. I thank professors Samer Ali, César Salgado, Alexandra Wettlaufer and Jennifer Wilks, whose thoughtful and creative advice helped me produce the award-winning essays for the Fellowship.

In order to connect my research interests and my personal life, I conceive of writing my grant application as telling a personal story about myself. Through self-reflexive storytelling in my personal statements I demonstrate my unique positionality as a graduate student. The process of drafting research proposals compelled me to evaluate how I may conduct impactful research for communities inside and outside of the academy. I recognize that, in order to have an impact beyond a relatively narrow circle of scholars sharing a common expertise, I must translate papers (in both literal and figurative senses) I have prepared for classes into forms and venues that can be shared with broader communities. In this vein, I look forward to: collaborating with student-community organizations such as Palestine Solidarity Committee, Native American and Indigenous Collective, and Ayotzinapa Austin; more collaborative organizing with the Cultural Studies in Education Graduate Student Council; supporting departmental publications such as Ethnic and Third World Literatures Review of Books and Pterodáctilo. By maintaining a sustained engagement with such groups I cultivate my ability to create scholarship that engages in political and social critical inquiry.

My research plans for the academic year of 2015-2016 are to continue examining representations of decolonial thought and pan-ethnicity in Afro-Caribbean literature. I am working on a portfolio program in African and African Diaspora Studies focusing on the development of Martinican sociopoetics during the 20th century. I will work to develop sophisticated French language skills through sustained engagement with Francophone literature by African diasporic writers.

Other plans I have are to develop teaching and mentoring experience. I look forward to participating in the “Teaching in Jail” program through GRACLS. I will also be seeking opportunities to mentor undergraduate researchers, especially first generation college students from populations historically underrepresented in the university. Receiving this fellowship has motivated me to reciprocate the support I have received throughout my years of schooling. As I conclude my first year in the program I am confident that I will be supported by a strong set of faculty, peer mentors, staff, family and other loved ones. The way I see it: the fellowship I receive is not only for me but for the benefit of all my relations.
Two years ago I wrote in this newsletter that I hoped to write a dissertation that would be a comparative study of literary and cultural representations of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in the aftermath of violent conflict. I just handed that in – all too many pages of its monstrous bulk in. Right now I feel like I am going through my own little period of PTSD. But at least it didn’t involve violent conflict (unless my committee members really don’t like it).

While I did succeed at writing about PTSD, which is what I said I was going to write about, the most interesting part of the process for me was how far my research took me away from the texts that I thought I was going to write about. The model I use is based on psychiatrist Jonathan Shay’s idea of combat PTSD, the kind that affects warriors and soldiers who are not only subject to violence but perpetrates it as well; Shay’s contribution to literature was two books that offered a psychological reading of Homer, diagnosing Achilles and Odysseus with the same combat PTSD that Shay found in the Vietnam veterans he was treating. One would reasonably assume that this model would fit best as an interpretive tool for war literature, such as Remarque’s All Quiet on the Western Front or Tim O’Brien’s The Things They Carried. But the breadth of the course offerings here at UT and the flexibility offered by the program in Comparative Literature allowed me to cast my net very wide in search of “war literature.”

On the urging of my advisor, César Salgado, I took Gabriela Polit’s course on “narcoliterature,” which focused on contemporary Mexican and Colombian texts on the social and cultural issues in those countries that seem to coalesce around the phenomenon of narcotrafficking – but the causes of violence in those countries is of course much more complex, stemming from deep rooted social and economic injustices and abuses of power by entrenched interests. The violence to which the average citizen has been subject in those countries during the worst years of the social unrest was just as bad as that to which a soldier in a conventional war is subject. It is worse, in many cases. In my dissertation I argue that Colombia is still involved in the longest war the world has even known, starting even before the famous period of La violencia in the 1950s up until the present day. Further, the violence comes from many sides and is done with impunity: no one knows if it is the guerillas, paramilitaries, narcotraffickers, or the state itself.

In short, I stumbled into Colombia as the ideal context in which to apply theories of combat trauma.

Some struggles with literary theory led me to conversations with Katie Arens, who works in a completely different genre and period; a shared interest in Shay and the connection of PTSD and the ancient Greeks led me to Thomas Palaima in the classics department; Héctor Domínguez lent his expertise on violence and trauma in Latin American literature. If you had asked me two years ago whether I thought my dissertation committee would consist of a co-chair in the Germanic Studies department, a scholar of Aegean scripts, and a scholar of queer Latin American Studies, I would have thought that you were going through your own period of dissociative unreality as part of a PTSD flashback.

But this is the kind of intellectually eclectic field to which I had access through the Comparative Literature program. The dissertation focuses on trauma theory and on selected Colombian novels written about the most violence years in the 1990s. I have the committee and faculty here to thank for pushing me down many different paths that I could have foreseen to pursue on my own. I hope to have discovered a theoretical approach that can contribute to literary interpretation as well as to the ethical discourse on war, violence and injustice. At least that’s what I will have in mind when I design the courses I will teach over the next decade at the United States Naval Academy’s English Department, where I will be starting this August. Please keep in touch if you find yourselves out East.
After an outstanding academic career of more than 40 years, Professor M. R. Ghanoonparvar chose the spring of 2013 to mark his retirement from UT Austin. His extensive research in Persian literature and his dedication to translation studies contributed to the advancement of Iranian studies.

Prof. Ghanoonparvar was born in Isfahan, a city whose splendor is captured in the saying “Isfahan is half the world.” He earned his B.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Isfahan. He then studied sociology and English literature at the University of Heidelberg. After studying at St. Michael's College in Vermont and North Texas State University, he received his M.A. in English Literature from Eastern Michigan University. He then went to Iran and taught English Literature at the University of Isfahan, until 1976, when he began his doctoral work at UT Austin. He completed his Ph.D. in 1979 and taught Persian and Comparative Literature at the University of Virginia, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Arizona. He was also a Rockefeller Fellow at the University of Michigan in 1988-89.

As one of a handful of scholars in the United States specializing in modern Persian Literature, an intrinsic instructor, avid translator, and prolific writer, Prof. Ghanoonparvar returned to UT Austin in 1990 and offered a whole array of courses cross-listed in different departments across the campus. At various times during his career, he also served multiple terms as an associate chair of both the Department of Middle Eastern Studies and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies.

Affectionately known as "Moh" to his colleagues and students, Prof. Ghanoonparvar is one of the most prominent and pioneering scholars in the field of Comparative Literature, and he has made a significant portion of modern Persian literature available in English translation. His scholarly accolades are numerous: He is the recipient of the American Institute for Iranian Studies Lois Roth Persian Translation Prize for his book, Translating the Garden and the Encyclopaedia Iranica Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of over 70 articles, dozens of book reviews, and an impressive list of twenty books he wrote or co-edited, including one of his most influential, Prophets of Doom: Literature as a Socio-Political Phenomenon in Modern Iran (University Press of America, 1984). Dr. Ghanoonparvar’s scholarship has centered on Iranian literature from a variety of perspectives: classical poetry, identity construction, theory, cinematic representation, travel literature, exile, gender dynamics, and pedagogy.

Even after retirement, Dr. Ghanoonparvar will not rest. He currently has several forthcoming projects, including Dining at the Safavid Court and Iranian Film and Persian Fiction. He is also working on a book manuscript called “Literary Diseases in Persian Literature.” We still have much to learn from Prof. Ghanoonparvar as he continues to create interesting and useful literary contributions.

Many Complitters came to know Prof. Ghanoonparvar from the Comparative Literature proseminar class, while others with majors related to Iran or the Middle East have further enjoyed his innovative courses on literature and translation studies. Scheduling my comprehensive exam right before Prof. Ghanoonparvar’s retirement, I am very much honored to have him on my committee as one of his last Ph.D. students. Even though he has retired, Prof. Ghanoonparvar and his dear wife, Diane, still generously welcome students with Persian food at their beautiful home in Austin. Last fall, a group of us paid him a visit in recognition of his guidance and positive influence. The picture from that day indeed is proof that such close bonds can far surpass distance.
Dr. Wayne A. Rebhorn’s PEN Literary Award

Dr. Wayne A. Rebhorn, who was the interim director of the Program in Comparative Literature in 2014, and who is the Celanese Centennial Professor of English at The University of Texas at Austin, has won the PEN Literary Award for a translation of Giovanni Boccaccio’s masterpiece “The Decameron.”

On November 11th, 2014, Dr. Rebhorn was presented with his award at the 24th Annual Literary Awards Festival in Beverly Hills, California. In his acceptance speech, Dr. Rebhorn said, “My first encounter with Boccaccio’s Decameron occurred when I was a high school student. I had been reading one of those books—you know the kind I mean—books that promise you that if just read the 100 great works they describe, then you, too, will become a cultured and sophisticated individual. That book named the Decameron among other works, and so, I hastened off to my local library and took out the Modern Library translation of the work. The only thing I remember from this initial encounter with the Decameron is that on one of the first pages in the book, a page where there was a lot of white space at the top, someone had written something like: ‘This is a dirty, filthy book, and no respectable person should ever read it.’ Although a dutiful librarian had taken a sheet of white paper and pasted it over the offending comment, you could still make out the words that had been written there. To this day, I’m not sure if the librarian had pasted the sheet of white paper over the words to prevent us from seeing them—or to encourage us to take out the book and read it.”

“My second story about the Decameron is a more serious one,” said I. “It just so happens that I was teaching the Decameron on 9/11. I had come to my office at the University of Texas around 9:00 a.m. only to be told by someone I met that an airplane had crashed into one of the Twin Towers. Surrounded by colleagues and staff, I watched on TV as a second plane crashed into the other tower, and then looked on in shock and horror as both of the towers crashed to the ground. What was I going to do about my class on Boccaccio which was to begin at 11:00? Should I cancel it? Should we devote the entire session to discussing the tragedy that had just unfolded? Should I carry on and teach it as I normally would? And then it came to me: the Decameron is the perfect text to teach at such a moment of crisis, and so, although we did talk about the tragedy that had struck our country, we also talked about Boccaccio’s book. For the Decameron is a framed collection, and in its frame we encounter ten young men and women who are also responding to a horror, the horror of the plague that wiped out a third or more of the population of Florence in the spring of 1348. And how do they respond to it? They respond to it by fleeing to the countryside where they proceed to spend two weeks telling stories. They do so because stories allow us to escape a sometimes nightmarish reality. They do so because stories amuse us, because they console us, because they make life meaningful. In the final analysis, the Decameron is not just a collection of dirty, filthy stories—although it is that, to be sure—it’s also an extremely smart book about just how important, how meaningful storytelling really is.”
**Crashing Parties: A Comparatist View**  
*by Somy Kim*

You’ve gone beyond in party-crashing,  
*further than we’ve seen done:*  
*you eat what you oughtn’t and then take home  
your sugar mama some!*  
— al-Khatib al-Baghdadi, 11th century Iraq

While at UT as a graduate student, comparatists and non-comparatists alike, would speak of the “homelessness” of Comparative Literature, never quite knowing where we fit, or how we belonged in the university. Having transitioned from graduate student to faculty, I’ve now found a more accurate analogy for the comparatist, and that is, many of us are shameless party-crashers. Like the party-crasher, many comparatists can share a story of how not being part of the designated in-group did not stop us from picking up a glass and joining the party.

Indeed, as a complitter I took courses in my national languages of choice, Persian and Arabic, and also crossed the campus to the College of Communication for film courses, always a guest in every class I took. When I began writing my dissertation that homelessness became more pronounced as I attempted to locate my audience amongst the many that had become a mosaic of my disparate communities.

Two years after graduation and I have begun to think about the audacity necessary to crash a party, and how cultivating that audacity was part of my training in the UT Comparative Literature program. I am currently a full-time lecturer in the Writing program at Boston University where I am involved in shaping various facets of university life—teaching and advising students, organizing film series, inviting public speakers, and serving on a host of committees. Because Boston University bases its writing courses on themes, you can find a diverse array of writing courses, from gothic literature to public policy to American road narratives, available to the BU undergraduate fulfilling her writing requirement. Therefore, I have been fortunate to be able to teach courses that draw on my own expertise, courses like Imagining the Middle East and Visual Cultures of the Middle East. Many of my freshman students go on to take Persian, Arabic, and other Middle East topic courses. It’s been quite satisfying to spark interest in the uninitiated, serving as a bridge for students who may have never explored the Middle East had they not taken my writing courses. I have also become quite invested in the international student population here at BU by developing curriculum for their proficiencies, something aided by my experience with Persian and Arabic in the incomparable UT Middle Eastern Studies department. Finally, it has been quite easy for me to cross departmental borders to teach Arabic and film courses for MENA majors in the Modern Languages and Comparative Literature department. So, for this party-crasher, who entered classrooms as a timid student, I now teach in them, unapologetically, as an intrepid professor who brings in the theory, language, culture, and history of a trained comparatist.

I think that’s the best way I can describe what it means to be a graduate of Comparative Literature and how that training has helped me in my position today; I have only now begun to embrace the art of party-crashing. The graduate student version of me may have doubted the ability to teach in several departments, fearing the dilettante, jack-of-all-trades accusation. But, that zero-sum logic has never worked on professional-level party-crashers (an early lesson from our very own Elizabeth Richmond-Garza); our hunger for more and receptivity to difference has only deepened our knowledge of disciplines. This receptivity can open doors to a rich diversity of perspectives and methodologies that can, in turn, lead to critical connections in academic work, at the university, and in the classroom. As a student, crashing parties can be intimidating, not having quite acquired the necessary finesse to navigate your non-invitation, but as a professor, it has become a question of which parties to crash, and transforming that finesse to become the reason for future invitations (and non-invitations) anywhere.

**Performing the Nation in Global Korea: Transnational Theatre**  
*by Hyunjung Lee (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.)*

By illuminating the complex interconnections between the performing body and individual, collective identities, this book reveals contemporary South Korean performance as social and political practice through the workings of theatre-making within historical, national, and transnational contexts.

The selected theatre productions – The Last Empress the Musical, Nanta, Seoul Line 1, Korean staging of Shakespeare’s plays, and The Korean National Ballet Company’s Prince Hodong – illustrate how various performances of the Korean-ness conspire with, contradict, and negotiate Korean cultural nationalism as well as disparate entities of Western cultural hegemony.

*This monograph emerged from Dr. Lee’s dissertation at the University of Texas, which was completed in Spring 2008.*
This year the annual ACLA Conference was held at Washington University in Seattle, Washington, March 26 - 29, 2015. A number of Comparative Literature faculty and graduate students participated in the conference as presenters and panel organizers.

Hannah Alpert-Abrams, “Reading the Primeros libros: from archive to OCR,” in the seminar “Rethinking Text as Process in the Humanities, Digital and non-Digital (Group 2).”

Dr. Jason Borge, “Josephine Baker, Latin America, and ‘Vulgar’ Cosmopolitanism,” in the seminar, “Intranational Modernisms.”


Dr. Tarek El-Ariss “Ruins of the Sublime: Burke, Volney, and the Arab Apocalypse,” in the seminar, “Fractured Landscapes, Fractured Imaginaries: The Wor(l)d of Arabic Writing in the Third Millennium.”

Jonathan Fleck, “Pass the Test: Literary Ideologies on the Brazilian College Admission Exam,” in the seminar, “Between Dissidence and Co-option: Literature, Intellectuals, and the State.”

Cory Hahn, “Messiah, Asylum: Redemptive Historiography in Cuban Film,” in the seminar, “Messianism, Nation and Empire in the Americas.”

Rama Hamarneh, “Translating the Implied Reader: A Study of Gender and Sexuality in Arabic to English Translation,” in the seminar, “Gender and Trauma (Group 2).”

Dr. Barbara Harlow, “…alleged crimes committed in Palestine”: The Case of Palestine In International Law and Before the Courts of World Opinion,” in the seminar, “Cosmopolitan Palestine.”

Dustin Hixenbaugh, “Jicoténcal (1826) and Alternate Genealogies of the Historical Novel in Spanish America,” in the seminar, “Beyond Waverley: Writing Historical Fiction in the Periphery During the Long Nineteenth Century.”


Dr. Sonia Roncador, “Multi-ethnic Lisbon: from Foreign Land to Global City,” in the seminar, “Orientalism within Europe: Difference, Minorities, Divisions.”

Nika Šetek, “Croatia Colonizes Its Islands: A Case of Nesting Orientalisms,” in the seminar, “Orientalism within Europe: Difference, Minorities, Divisions.”


The 2016 ACLA Conference at Harvard University

The American Comparative Literature Association’s 2016 Annual Meeting will take place at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

For more information: acla.org
Fatma Tarlaci, “Literary Neo-Ottomanism: Worlding the Turkish Novel,” in the seminar, “Texts without Borders: Novel Networks in the Ottoman and Turkish Context.”

Dr. Chien-Hsin Tsai, “Explosive Mixtures: Hong Kong, Sounds, and Chineseness,” in the seminar, “Thinking Relationally: Sinophone Studies as Comparative Studies.”

Dr. Lynn Wilkinson, “Liza Marklund’s NOBEL’S TESTAMENT and the Academic Habitus,” in the seminar, “Crime Fiction as World Literature.”


Dr. Samer Mahdy Ali is Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, as well as Comparative Literature. He is author of Arabic Literary Salons in the Islamic Middle Ages (UNDP). His publications have appeared in the Encyclopedia of Islam, The Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies and The Journal of Arabic Literature. He has received seven awards for his research from the American Institute of Maghreb Studies, The Institute for Advanced Studies in Berlin, and Fulbright. In March 2015, he delivered a keynote address at the Annual Symposium of the Medieval Studies Institute at Indiana U. His talk was titled, “And Then Is Heard (from) No More: Mortality, Stigma, and Sound in al-Mutanabbi.” Starting Fall 2015, he will begin a new position as Associate Professor in Arabic and Islamic Studies at the Department of Near Eastern Studies, U of Michigan in Ann Arbor.


Dr. Marc Bizer is currently graduate advisor in French Studies. In the spring of 2014, he was on leave with a Faculty Research Assignment, pursuing research on a new book-length project entitled Toward a New Definition of the Tragic and Tragedy in France, 1100-1700. For the 2015 Renaissance Society of America annual meeting in Berlin, Germany, he organized a conference session on “Martin Guerre after Thirty: Implications for French Renaissance Literary Studies” (for which he is also writing a paper) with Natalie Zemon Davis as respondent.


Kim Canuette Grimaldi has been awarded a fellowship by the Center for Arabic Studies Abroad for a year of intense study of Arabic language, literature, and culture in Amman, Jordan.
Jamila Davey presented research at the Middle Eastern Studies Association conference in Washington, DC and the American Comparative Literature Association conference in Seattle, WA. She is the recipient of a Center for Arabic Study Abroad Fellowship for 2015-2016 and will spend next year in Amman, Jordan as a CASA fellow.

Jonathan Fleck published reviews in The E3W Review of Books and in The Linguist List, as well as an entry in the Sage Encyclopedia of Theory. He presented at ACLA, and presented his capstone project in Romance Linguistics at SCMLA. He participated in the Institute for World Literature annual meeting. He received a Comparative Literature Graduate Excellence Fellowship for 2014-15, and was nominated for a Texas Foreign Language Teaching Excellence Award for his work in Spanish.

Cynthia Francica will publish an article on Argentine queer literature in a forthcoming book on affect, emotions, and theoretical approaches to the past (Pretérito Indefinido. Afectos y emociones en las aproximaciones al pasado. Buenos Aires: Titulo, 2015). At LASA 2015, she will be presenting a paper titled “Precarious affects and materialities in contemporary Argentine literature” and will be Chair of the panel “Precarious Materialities and Artistic Production.” She has been granted LILLAS’ Argentine Studies Award to mount and curate the exhibit “A Hemispheric Conversation: Queer/Feminist Independent Publishing Projects ‘Belleza y Felicidad’ and ‘Belladonna,’” based on her dissertation research, at the PLC Poetry Center.

Dr. Thomas J. Garza (Slavic and Eurasian Studies) gave the keynote address “Proficient instruction for proficient students: Preparing teachers for 21st century outcomes” at the Language Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Conference at the Foreign Service Institute in Arlington, VA last May. In January he presented “Standards for all: Revising the national standards for secondary and post-secondary programs” at the AATSEEL Annual Convention in Vancouver. This spring he gave a talk “Vampire millennium: 1000 years of myth, belief, and blood” for the Programs in Cultural Studies and History at the University of Southern California at Long Beach, “Breaking/Making the Rules: What Goes on the Flipped Class” at Arizona State University in Tempe, and “Flipping the classroom: Online modules for proficiency” at the South Central Association for Language Learning Technology in Austin. He and new Comp Lit Ph.D. Katya Cotey co-authored a paper in Russian for Biblitechnoe delo called “Slavic Vampires in Texas: Issues and Methods of Vampire Studies.” Garza, along with Jeannette Okur and Adi Rza from MES, received a $50,000 Curriculum Innovation Grant from the Provost’s Office to develop online modules for Russian, Turkish, and Hebrew. He also received the Liberal Arts Council Teaching Excellence Award this spring.


Rama Hamarneh presented papers at the annual American Comparative Literature Association conference in Seattle, Washington, as well as Jil Jadid, the UT Middle Eastern Studies graduate student conference. She will travel to Jordan in Summer 2015 on a graduate school summer fellowship.

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.
Dustin Hixenbaugh has spent the year writing his dissertation and teaching “The Rhetoric of Country Music.” His review of Jason Ruiz’s *Americans in the Treasure House* (2014) is forthcoming in Clio. He has served as project leader for the Digital Writing and Research Lab’s *Zeugma* podcast and is a finalist for the Hairston Prize for Excellence in Teaching.

Roanne Kantor will be joining the faculty in the English Department at Brandeis in Fall 2015 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Global/Postcolonial literature.

Dr. Naomi Lindstrom was named Gale Family Foundation Professor in Jewish Arts and Culture. She published “La expresión profética y apocalíptica en la producción de Alejandro Jodorowsky” in *Chasqui*, presented at the conference of the Association for Jewish Studies, and was appointed to the editorial board of the journal Religious Studies and Theology.

Katie Logan presented work at the Annual GRACLS conference at UT, the Middle East Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C. (where she organized a panel on visual culture in the Middle East), and the American Comparative Literature Association Conference in Seattle.

Amanda Moore has taken a one-year contract with the Hôpital Albert Schweitzer in Deschapelles, Haiti, where she will serve as Development and Hospitality Manager. This job will offer her a unique opportunity to gain fluency in Haitian Creole.


Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza returned to directing the Program in Comparative Literature in January 2015 and is serving as interim graduate adviser for the program January-August 2015. She spoke and conducted workshops for the Humanities Texas Program for Teaching Shakespeare in Dallas, TX in October and also offered a workshop of “storytelling” for UT’s Human Dimensions of Organizations’ MA program in November. Her lecture “888,246 Poppies or the Art of Peace: The Role of the Humanities in a World of Conflict” was recorded by KLRU for broadcast and presented live for UT Alumni in New York City and Houston. She presented an original research paper, “Конспирологический Детектив: Boris Akunin’s Dandy, or a Century in Queer Profiles from London to Moscow” at the annual AATSEEL meeting in Vancouver in January 2015, and her essay on teaching writing effectively appeared in the volume *Signature Course Stories*, edited by Lori Holleran Steiker (UT Press, April 2015). Her essay “Most People Die in Exile: Oscar Wilde’s Final Personality of the Queerness of the Non-Place” appeared in the volume *Censorship and Exile*. edited by Johanna Hartmann and Hubert Zapf. She was recognized by the School of Undergraduate Studies with the “Signature Course Essential Elements Award for Excellence in Teaching Writing” in May 2015.

Dr. Wayne A. Rebhorn’s translation of Giovanni Boccaccio’s *Decameron* won the 2014 PEN Center USA’s prize for the best literary translation. He also gave a lecture at the University of California at Berkeley on “Working with Style: On Translating Boccaccio’s *Decameron*.” He served as the Interim Director of the Program from the spring semester of 2014 through the fall semester of that year.

**Attention Alumni:**
The Newsletter welcomes contributions from alumni about any aspects of your post-UT Austin lives and careers. The newsletter’s goal is to celebrate the achievements of students and faculty currently in the program and at the same time to share important news about our alumni. It is your successes and undertakings which have secured us a national ranking of 21st in the country according to the National Research Council’s survey, and we would like the opportunity to congratulate you publicly. We encourage you to share your accomplishments with us.

Please send your news for publication in the 2016 newsletter to the Program’s email address: complit@austin.utexas.edu
**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

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**Dr. Cory Reed** completed an article titled “Empathy In Action: Cognitive Approaches to Early Modern Drama and Cervantes’s *El trato de Argel,*” to appear in *Cognitive Approaches to Early Modern Spanish Literature* (Oxford University Press). He presented “Was Cervantes an Early Modern Activist?” at the SCMLA annual conference, and “Cervantes and the Aesthetic of Instrumentality: Ingenio, Technology, and Agency in Don Quijote” at the MLA convention in Vancouver.

**Michael Reyes** was awarded the Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship. He served as co-editor and reviewer for a section in *The Ethnic and Third World Literature’s Review of Books.* He is also scheduled to present at the Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Meeting and El Mundo Zurdo Conference.

In summer 2014 a LLILAS Mellon Travel Research Grant allowed **Dr. César A. Salgado** to travel to Cuba to seek out *Orígenes* journal founder José Rodriguez Feo’s papers and coordinate UT’s new CL-cross-listed 2015 Cuba Maymester Program. He was invited to participate at the LLILAS Benson’s *Into the Baroque* exhibit faculty panel in September and to give a keynote lecture at the Third International Congress on Caribbean studies at Madrid’s Universidad Carlos III in November. He presented papers on aging and sustainability in revolutionary Cuba at the 2015 MLA’s Cuban and Cuban Diaspora Forum and on Angel Escobar’s poetry at the Cuban Research Institute’s Tenth Conference in FIU. He finished an article comparing the urban poetry of Caribbean writers Eduardo Lalo and Víctor Fowler forthcoming in a scholarly collection from *Buenos Aires’ Ediciones Corregidor.*

**Maryam Shariati** will teach Persian in the flagship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Summer 2015. This is the second time she has been invited to join the teaching staff for this intensive program.

**Dr. Jennifer Wilks** (AADS, English, and Comp Lit) delivered the keynote address, “Love and Twitter: The Enduring Presence of Carmen,” at the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference at Bryn Mawr College in March 2015. She also presented the papers “American Phoenix Rising: Resurrection and Resignation in Colson Whitehead’s Zone One” and “‘Something Substantial and Worthy’: Intersectionality in the French-Language Diaries of Mary Church Terrell” at the American Studies Association meeting in Los Angeles (November 2014) and the American Historical Association meeting in New York City (January 2015), respectively.


**Jennie Wojtusik** received a Critical Language Scholarship for summer 2015 (Vladimir, Russia) and a FLAS for the 2015-16 school year.

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CL Proseminar: Professional Strategies for Comparatists in Field Studies

Scheduled Meetings:

The UT Program and the Profession
Prof. Samer Mahdy Ali

5 September   Introduction

12 September  Prof. Karen Grumberg,
             “On the Importance of a Scholarly Community”

19 September  Prof. Lynn R. Wilkinson
             “Comparative Bricolage”

3 October    Prof. Snehal Shingavi
             “Translation, Translation Theory, and Postcolonialism”

10 October   Guided Workshop on Abstracts for Conference Papers
             and Publications

17 October   Prof. César Salgado
             “The Cuba Study Abroad Program”

24 October   Prof. Wayne Rebhorn
             “The New Historicism”

31 October   Prof. Alexandra K. Wettlaufer
             “The Anxieties of Comparison” & “How to Survive and Thrive at
             UT”

7 November   Prof. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza
             “The Queer and the Trans: Crossing Language and Gender.”

14 November  Prof. Naomi Lindstrom
             “Between Latin American Studies and Jewish Studies”

21 November  Prof. Blake Atwood
             “The International Film Festival: Film Studies Beyond Questions
             of Representation”

5 December   Conclusion
Corporeality: Performing the Body across Literatures, Cultures, Media, and the Arts

Date: 30 October – 01 November 2015
Keynote Address: Patricia Clough, City University of New York

"There is more wisdom in your body than in your deepest philosophy. And who knows for what purpose your body requires precisely your best philosophy?" (Friedrich Nietzsche, Also sprach Zarathustra, 1883)

Nietzsche provocatively challenges western idealism and its preference for intellect and seeks to resituate philosophy itself. His subversive focus on the body reappears today in the corporeal and affective turn. Our minds do not work alone, but instead every thought depends upon the body with its needs, desires, feelings, emotions, and affects. The very suppression of the body historically in treatments of the human in fact reveals its presence. For Aristotle, art is experienced physically as collective ritual, as a shared catharsis cleansing each participant emotionally. Edmund Burke rediscovered Longinus’ sublime as the very power of art to move our senses. For Nietzsche, our narrow minds are never able to capture the ever more complex “music of life”. Bharata’s rasa theory insisted that art satisfies the palate like well-prepared food. Phenomenological and affective theories have extended the complex system of affects beyond art to include everyday social encounters and political value systems. Patricia Clough stressed that the affective turn brings us into a new territory, a new “threshold”: “beyond it, there is always a chance for something else, unexpected, new.” How can we imagine the bodily as the very basis of our thinking? What are the limits and potentials of theorizing the body? And what special role can art play as an incarnation that lies between the theoretical and the embodied?

The turn to the body and its network of complex affects requires new approaches, as Patricia Clough pointed out: "The affective turn invites a transdisciplinary approach to theory and method that necessarily invites experimentation in capturing the changing co-functioning of the political, the economic, and the cultural". We invite papers and panels that explore these concerns and transformations across literatures, media, and the arts. Varied historical and cultural contexts, as well as the inclusion of contemporary cultural and political studies will enrich our conversation. We welcome projects which explore the dimension of the bodily transgressing academic disciplines and going beyond the theoretical discourse in strictly aesthetic terms. We invite papers that take up the expression of sexual experience, the tradition of affect theory and phenomenology, and the diverse engagements dealing with ethical problems in history and today. Finally, we encourage all investigations which allow us to explore how what Nietzsche called “the music of life” depends on both body and mind in order to perform what it means to be human.

We call for papers that focus on the body:

→ within literatures, across time and culture
→ as mediated and represented in different global cultural contexts
→ across different media and art, including performance art and pornographic productions
→ within the cultural and ideological experience of social value systems and politics
→ within sexuality studies
→ via affect theory and phenomenology
→ as an interdisciplinary problem between the sciences and the humanities
→ as an ethical, moral and judicial problem based on the body/mind differentiation
→ as informing political and ethical debates such as those about sovereignty and free will

The deadline for Individual Abstracts and Panel Proposals is August 15th, 2015. All proposals should be submitted via email attachment to graclsconference2015@gmail.com. Panel Proposals may include 3 or 4 speakers. The panel leader must email the proposed title, topic, moderator (if available) and presenters for the panel. Each member of the panel must also submit their abstract via email.

For additional information about the conference, please contact conference organizers Rama Hamarneh and Reinhard Mueller at graclsconference2015@gmail.com.
Job Placement News

Fu-Ying Chuang will take a position as a full-time visiting assistant professor of Mandarin Chinese at Hope College.

Yekaterina Cotey has taken a position as a lecturer in Slavic and Eurasian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Michael Flynn will be joining the English department faculty at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Francisca Folch-Couyoumdjian is working as an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the English Department at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Roanne Kantor will be joining the faculty in the English Department at Brandeis University in Fall 2015 as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Global/Postcolonial literature.

Bhavya Tiwari has taking a position as a lecturer of Comparative Cultural Studies at the University of Houston.

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 2016 newsletter to:

complit@austin.utexas.edu