

Latin America N

e W S L e t t e r

Washington University in Saint Louis

Number 4

Fall 2009

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT WASH. U.

Mabel Moraña

William H. Gass Professor in Arts and Sciences
Director of the Latin American Studies Program

The Latin American Newsletter, which will be published from now on during the Fall semester, welcomes new faculty members and students to Washington University in St. Louis. Among the profiles included in this issue, our readers will find information about the exciting group of instructors and students specializing in various fields of Latin American Studies who have just joined our academic community. In spite of their diverse areas of interest, backgrounds and disciplinary fields, all of them come together both in the challenging courses offered by LAS and in a number of academic activities (conferences, lectures, film series, colloquia) designed to complement our academic curricula.

LAS is happy to report that there are currently more than 52 students pursuing the major in Latin American Studies at Wash U, and that our Summer Programs continue to be a wonderful opportunity to improve language proficiency while living in Mexico or Ecuador, in close contact with local students. The program in Quito is now being run in conjunction with Universidad Católica, and continues to be one of the most exciting and productive experiences that students interested in Latin America can have during their years of study at this university. Professor Joe Barcroft, who has coordinated the Summer Program during the last few years, has greatly contributed to the refinement of many academic and logistic aspects related to this program. The program in Puebla also offers a wonderful combination of intensive courses, field trips and extracurricular activities. RLL's Focus Programs in Argentina and Cuba constitute another opportunity to visit these countries upon completion of courses offered on campus in preparation for these trips.

We are happy to report that in November 2008 took place our second "South by Midwest International Conference in Latin American Studies" under the title of "Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America". The conference, coordinated by Professor Bret Gustafson and Mabel Moraña, gathered more than 20 scholars from Latin America and the US with the purpose of reflecting together on the changing role of scholars, artists, pedagogues, politicians and public intellectuals in the context of the transformations that have been taking place in the region during the last few decades. A report by Professor Ignacio Sanchez Prado included in this issue of the Latin American Newsletter makes reference to some of the most important aspects of the debate that took place at Wash U within this framework and from which a book of the same title, now forthcoming, originated. Other symposia, organized by Professors Tabea Lienhard and Stephanie Kirk also opened avenues for intellectual exchange and brought to our campus colleagues of exceptional intellectual quality.

The next South by Midwest International Conference will take place at WashU during the Fall semester 2010. In the meantime, we are expecting to receive some distinguished speakers in our field of study at Wash U. During the next few weeks Professors John Chasteen (from UNC-Chapel Hill) and Trinidad Barrera (from University of Seville, Spain) will come to St. Louis to lecture about dance in Latin America and on the topic of colonial literature, respectively. Finally, we would like to welcome the new Dean of Arts and Sciences, Professor Gary Wihl and his wife Professor Sarah Westphal-Wihl, to Washington University and wish them a pleasant and productive residence in St. Louis.

Writing for Revolution in Nineteenth-Century Latin America

By William Acree

The stakes were high: the royalist press in Buenos Aires, accustomed to printing official announcements, religious texts, and a newspaper focused on regional commerce, had become a wartime press that would soon serve the patriot “cause.” Early signs of this shift came from the Niños Expósitos press declaring the formation of the junta to rule in lieu of then exiled king Fernando VII and the publication of a new paper, the *Gazeta de Buenos Aires*, the longest-lived newspaper of the period of independence. More than just a voice of news, the *Gazeta* shared writing for a revolution.

There was no time to waste. Across the Plata river in the Spanish stronghold of Montevideo the town council made a deal with Fernando’s sister (she was conveniently married to the king of Portugal, then stationed in Brazil), who pledged to send a new printing press to Montevideo to “preserve the august domains of her brother.” Once the press arrived publication of the *Gazeta de Montevideo* began to battle revolutionary messages emanating from Buenos Aires. The rhetorical war for independence in the southern hemisphere had begun.

While writing and revolution have often been linked to the tumultuous 1950s and 1960s in Latin America, much less has been made of writing for revolution during the much earlier, perhaps even more violent, period of war that rocked Spanish America and resulted in the creation of a New World monarchy during the first third of the nineteenth century. On the eve of bicentennial celebrations of independence slated to take place from Mexico to Chile, it is fitting to recall the importance of writing in the efforts to promote (or destroy) what was then referred to as the cause of America. With the exception of Mexico City and Lima, which grew into printing centers during the colonial period, the wars for independence and their need for propaganda ushered in a printing revolution across Spanish America, intensely felt in places like Bogotá, Caracas, Buenos Aires, and Montevideo. Of course the new forms of communication emerging in these cities were not confined to urban environments. Texts such as military marches and songs, patriotic poetry, news of victories in battle, and even newspapers accompanied soldiers, were read aloud at churches, and were central to the civic fiestas that were held on a yearly basis to celebrate declarations of juntas and later proclamations of independence. Simón Bolívar’s 1813 “War to the Death” was a printed proclamation that spread throughout Venezuela and Colombia; Argentine Vicente López y Planes’s military march was sung by San Martín’s forces and they headed north into Peru, and would later be declared Argentina’s national anthem.

The examples of writing for revolution abound, and the printing revolution of the period of independence was just the beginning. The nineteenth century in Latin America was more war torn than most, with civil wars (also couched in terms of revolution) plaguing most of the new nations except Brazil. Writing was employed by conservatives and liberals, federalists and centrists, to combat their enemy, to promote a partisan vision for the future. Most significantly, war and writing for war in the nineteenth century made this mode of communication part of daily life, even for the illiterate.

While independence saw the explosion of the periodical press and loose-leaf business, partisan texts, especially popular literature, from 1830 to 1900 dwarfed production of the previous years and surged during times of conflict and political revolution. The phenomenon of gauchesque writing in the Río de la Plata offers a good example. Born of social environments where ranch hands, alcohol, dance, and rural traditions blended often in dangerous ways that resulted in somebody getting hurt, poetry and prose that adopted popular speak of the countryside as well as of marginalized urban denizens, such as Afro-descendants, enjoyed tremendous reception from 1830 on. It was both a means to politicize and entertain readers and listeners who had no prior political affinities. This writing was usually allied with conservative voices, particularly the Federalist party led by the iconic caudillo Juan Manuel de Rosas. But during the region’s civil war years 1830-1852, liberal opponents also appropriated such voices in a last-ditch effort to spread their ideas and fight popular Federalist verse with a popular liberal characters. Forms of popular literature in other areas, such as corridos across Mexico, dueling poetry in Brazil, or racially charged stories and poems in Guaraní print newspapers during the Paraguayan war (1865-1870), functioned in similar ways. Such texts were deployed as a weapon in the revolutionary arsenal, used to inspire and condemn, and meant to stoke the tensions of war. This writing was disseminated in print, but its main audience listened to texts being read aloud, be it in the trenches, at a rowdy bar gathering, or at a Sunday lunch with friends. Popular literature expressed violence and humor and conveyed vulgar jokes, which led to its dismissal by more celebrated authors of the time and later literary historians.

War and revolution made writing part of daily life in completely new ways throughout the 1800s, as these general comments suggest, largely through the forms of association that went hand in hand with writing for revolution. The rhetorical battle of independence and the efforts of the Niños Expósitos press to acquire type blocks from combatant presses in Montevideo (or melt them into bullets, as would occur commonly in other regions) was just the beginning of what would develop in the following decades into an all-to-familiar relationship of writing and war.

Rethinking Intellectuals

In the Fall of 2008, Latin American Studies at Washington University hosted the second South by Midwest International Conference, entitled “Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America”. Organized by Mabel Moraña and Bret Gustafson, the conference gathered specialists from universities all across the United States and from Mexico, Guatemala, Bolivia and Ecuador. In the interdisciplinary spirit that characterizes Latin American Studies, this conference brought together into the same forum representatives of intellectual practices such as cultural studies, media studies, anthropology, law, literary criticism, linguistics and history, as well as political activists. All together, the group gathered at the conference contributed to the production of new and productive understandings of the category of the intellectual, as well as of the role of public intellectual practices in Latin America today.

The conference had two keynote presentations. George Yudice discussed the role of internet tools, like blogs and Youtube, for contemporary political activism, and the ways in which this practices are redefining intellectual practice beyond its lettered configurations. Walter Mignolo traced a genealogy of indigenous and Afro-intellectuals in South America and the Caribbean, in order to show a wider picture of intellectual sources in the continent, as well as the implication of thinking from different sites of enunciation. In addition to this, panelists addressed issues such as social activism in the Andes, the production of knowledge in Mayan cultures, race and politics in Brazil and the Caribbean, the relationship between intellectuals and human rights, and connections between discourse, academic practice and intellectual work.

We in Latin American Studies at Washington University hope that the interdisciplinary nature of this conference and the wide range of interventions from many critical perspectives result in a decisive contribution to debates on the nature of the intellectual. To this end, the conference proceedings will be published in the South by Midwest series, co-edited by Washington University with Iberoamericana Vervuert.



Latin American Colloquium Series

The Latin American Colloquium provides an open and informal setting for the presentation and discussion of papers, dissertation proposals, work-in-progress, and research projects related to the study of Latin American culture. All students and faculty interested in Latin American Studies are invited to participate. (**Conference Room, Ridgle 310 1-2 PM**)

MONDAY OCTOBER 12

Claire Solomon: “2nd Avenue in El Once: Reflections on some of the travels and transformations of Yiddish theater in the U.S. and Latin America”

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2

Gonzalo Aguiar: “‘That Long Border Must Be Reopened’: Brazilian Literary Field as a Thorn in Ángel Rama’s Side.”

MONDAY NOVEMBER 30

William Acree: “War and Writing off the Page”

Next Year in Buenos Aires: On the Road with the Traveling Yiddish Theater in the Americas

By Claire Salomon

As a specialist in Latin American literature, I was drawn into the Yiddish theater by accident while writing my dissertation on prostitution in Latin America. I was shocked to see that the existence of Jewish-run prostitution mafias in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay in the early 20th century converged under the aegis of Naturalism with immigration anxieties and labor struggles to create a dramatic literature which bound up prostitution inextricably with anti-Semitism. Jews were often split in the literary imaginary into evil male pimps and abject female victims, a bipolar solution which allowed the national self-image to take on the “desirable” traits of Jewishness: namely, the presumed “whiteness” attributed to Latin American Jews through a series of metonymic sleights-of-hand, originating probably in the 1870s with the use of the term “white slavery” by European pamphleteers who wrote, scandalously, of the kidnapping of “white women” to the racially suspect Southern Cone. We can only imagine the glee of eugenics-obsessed oligarchs in the Southern Cone, then, when the Jews are scapegoated for the whole prostitution industry and then retroactively become white, instantly shifting the nation’s demographics.

The sheer repetition of these tropes reached a frenzy by the 1990s with the explosion of the historical novel market, and with it the popularization of the topic of historical white slavery, which had by now become a heroic, nation-building collaboration between upstanding if parochial Jews and their fair-minded new paisans to expel the evil Jews from the nation-state—those who coincidentally bore all the negative characteristics ascribed to Jews in anti-semitic discourse—all in a trust-building, bonding activity for the nation’s males in rescuing the females, with few exceptions in the sea of sameness, history as a calm surface on which our reflection assures us that our self-image is eternal.



It was, to put it lightly, a corpus of study which did not satisfy the thirst for a more nuanced view of literary (to say nothing of historical) potentiality. However, as I began to realize, the Yiddish theater provided a contemporaneous record of prostitution in which up-to-the-week satires reinterpreted current events on the stage, giving a radically different sense of not only the events, but of the meaning of all of the terms involved. The theater served in all ways as a place of convergence: not only did classic literary characters deliver soliloquies in Yiddish and the contemporary avant-garde coexist with spoofs and hastily-penned parodies; but so much did high rolling pimps enjoy attending the theater in Buenos Aires that often fights would break out between outraged upstanding citizens and the mafia muscle. In the fast-paced, money- and deadline-driven world of the theater, playwrights were torn between staging quick adaptations of Shakespeare in Yiddish or writing fast satires of current events: would it be Othello, or perhaps the dramatic events of Pearl Nussbaum’s escape last week from the clutches of her pimp “husband” at La Opera? At one point, plaques at the door of the two main Jewish playhouses prohibited the tmeim, as they called the

ruffians, from entering. Of course, this was in fact a compensatory gesture of outrage after Leib Malach’s 1926 Ibergus—which pilloried the pimps—outraged everybody: how could any theater afford to alienate the pimps by putting it on? How unpardonably impractical! And better yet: how could any Jew afford to commit the loshon hora of painting the Jewish community as pimps and prostitutes by putting it on? The entire Jewish press became involved in the controversy, the director of Di Presse threatened to shoot theater critic Jacob Botoshanksy—and this was only one incident.

By restoring the vibrant disagreement inherent in popular culture from what had become at times a shellacked notion of Argentine-Jewish subjectivity—duty-bound to present the positive side of entrenched stereotypes in the name of keeping anti-semitism at bay—the Yiddish theater was, in the words of one famous critic, the one place where a Jew didn’t have to be a Jew. And years later, the Yiddish theater is resounding in contemporary literature searching for a space for itself beyond the representation of “Jewishness,” where Jewish characters can actually exist who do not fit neatly into the nation’s view of itself; and this return of the Yiddish theater is not really about any particular nation, but is emerging wherever the

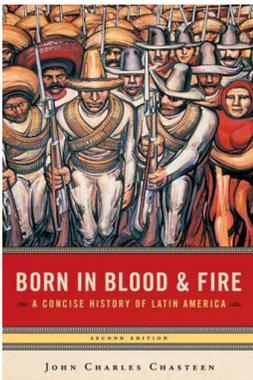
theater was, and even where traveled, just passing through on its seasonal itineraries, where in a year the same play might be seen in New York and Buenos Aires, but also Montevideo, São Paulo, Saint Louis, Newark and Montreal.

In my current work on the figure of Shylock in the Yiddish theater, one of the most contentious characters in literary history, at least since the advent of political correctness—a true Jewish villain, in other words—I am exploring the need for art to explore openly all areas of the human character, and coming to see rigid consensus around any representations of Jews, nationhood, ethnicity and religion as a symptom of the lack of real freedom of expression which is not inevitable, but can and ought to be examined more closely. Although it may seem intuitively obvious why the character Shylock was put to rest on the Yiddish stage shortly after World War Two (although, interestingly enough, not immediately after), it seems to me that the work of mourning and the work of art cannot forever be the same thing, any more than a literature of Latin America, or of Jews, or of Latin American Jews, can be concerned exclusively with restoring the desired self-image in the mirror of decolonization—lest the audience be limited only to the dead.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Wednesday, October 21 @ 4:30pm in Hurst Lounge. Reception to follow

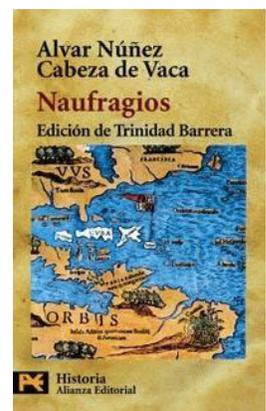
“The Dance of Two and Latin America’s Great Myth of Origin,” by John Chasteen Ever wondered about why social dance in Latin America is so popular, or how, when, and why it came to be representative of national identity? This talk will offer answers to these questions by exploring the African diaspora in the Americas, its links to European dance traditions, and the myth-making that resulted from their mix.



Chasteen is the Daniel W. Patterson Distinguished Term Professor of Latin America History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as an enthusiastic dancer and musician himself. He is the author of the most widely adopted survey history of Latin America in the U.S., *Born in Blood and Fire* (2nd ed. 2005), and books that include: *Heroes on Horseback: A Life and Times of the Last Gaucho Caudillos* (1995); *National Rhythms, African Roots: The Deep History of Latin American Popular Dance* (2004); and *Americanos: Latin American Struggles for Independence* (2008). He is also the translator and editor of Tulio Halperín-Donghi's *The Contemporary History of Latin America* (1993); Angel Rama's *The Lettered City* (1996); Hermano Vianna's *The Mystery of Samba: Popular Music and National Identity in Brazil* (1999); and most recently Federico Gamboa's novel *Santa* (forthcoming).

Monday, November 9 @ 6:00pm (Eads 103)

“Naufragios y naufragos en la colonia: entre el tópico y la realidad”. All are welcome. Professor Barrera will also address undergraduate students in Spanish American Literature I on the topic of Latin American colonial poetry. Please contact Professor Stephanie Kirk for more details (skirk@wustl.edu). Trinidad Barrera, Professor of Hispanic American literature in the Facultad de Filología at the University of Seville will be visiting Washington University in November. Prof. Barrera is a specialist in literature of the Colonial period.



ON OCTOBER 28, 29, 30, 2010 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS WILL HOST THE MID-AMERICA CONFERENCE ON HISPANIC LITERATURE. DETAILS ARE SOON TO FOLLOW.

Past Events

On April 23rd – 25th Washington University hosted an international conference entitled **Religious Transformations in the Early Modern Americas**, co-organized by Stephanie Kirk (Washington University) and Sarah Rivett (Princeton University). The conference brought together a group of eighteen leading scholars from the US, Canada, Latin America and Europe who work on issues of religion in both North and South America in the early modern period. The six panels fostered a thought-provoking dialogue across traditional disciplinary, geographical, cultural and linguistic divides in order to reach a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of religious issues in both areas. Sir John Elliott, Regius Professor Emeritus of History in the University of Oxford, and Honorary Fellow of Oriel College, inaugurated the event with a memorable keynote address entitled “Religions on the



On February 27, 2009, a **Symposium on Jewish Spain** took place at Washington University. Sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, Romance Languages and Literatures and the Program in Jewish, Islamic and Near Eastern Studies, the symposium explored the theoretical and cultural intersections between Spanish cultural studies and Jewish cultural studies, providing new perspectives to the questions that have marked the existing debates on culture, history, memory and geopolitics in Spain, and beyond the nation's borders. The goals of this cross-disciplinary meeting were to further understand the interactions between Jewish, Islamic, and Christian cultures in their specific historical junctures, and to discuss the ways in which such interactions appear represented in different forms of cultural expression. The papers covered a range of topics, ranging from Sephardic Studies, intersections between gender and antisemitism in the myth of the Santo Niño de la Guardia, the modern exemplarity of Medieval Spain, Philosephardism at the service of colonialism in North Africa, and the heritagization of Spanish Jewish past in museums. More broadly speaking, both the rich presentations and the ensuing

discussions, led by Washington University faculty members, allowed us to gain new perspectives on cultural conflicts and their representations both within Spain, and across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic.

Washington University offers several immersion-type programs in Latin America, and invites faculty and students to take advantage of the opportunity to study and live in some of the most exciting countries in the region. For more information about the programs in Mexico, Ecuador, and Chile, contact Dr. Amy Suelzer, 935-8372, acsuelze@wustl.edu. Some of these programs offer scholarships. For more information about focus programs contact Professor Joseph Schraibman, phone # 935-5109, jschraib@wustl.edu.

Focus Program in Cuba

The Cuba Focus was created in 2,001 by Profs. Schraibman and Sklodowska as a year long course which covered many aspects of Cuban history, culture and literature from Colonial times to the present. It has included a study trip to Cuba during spring vacation. These trips have taken place even during the years after 2,004 when Washington Univeristy's license and that of all other universities was cancelled by the Treasury Department. Since then, we have obtained a religious/humanitarian license from institutions that have such licenses. Our activities on the island are thus more restricted, but the Administration at Washington University deemed the trip necessary for our academic purpose, and has supported it. When Professor Sklodowska became chair of the department, Professor Schraibman has continued teaching the course. Each year most of the texts used are changed to reflect different conditions in Cuba. The course includes some field trips in St. Louis, guest speakers, and a writing component which aims to connect the students' individual interests and experiences to the subjects we study. In Cuba the students are also asked to write a journal connecting their studies and the trip. We also take medicines, clothes, and other items to give to hospitals, churches, synagogues, and friends. Most of the students say upon return that their lives are touched very significantly by this trip. They also form a bond with each other which continues beyond the class and the trip itself. This feeling also extends to the instructor making the class "dolce et utile". I might add that a few of the journals have been published, and that some students have gone on to major in subjects which have made it possible to work in several international organizations of various kinds.



Program in Chile

By Amy C. Suelzer

Since 1995, the Washington University Program in Chile has provided our students the opportunity to broaden their understanding of Chilean culture and language by living with a host family and taking classes at both the Pontificia Universidad Católica (PUC) and the Universidad de Chile (UC). Both of our affiliate universities are highly selective institutions with broad curricular offerings and vie for the position of 1st and 2nd top universities in Chile each year. Courses at PUC, attended by a majority of Chilean students from middle to upper-middle class backgrounds, complement those offered by the Universidad



de Chile, where Chilean students often come from a more modest background and where the dominant ideology tends to be more liberal. Since not all disciplines are offered by any individual institution, our students are well served by our continued collaboration with both universities. The WU Program in Chile employs a full-time resident director, Evelyn Vitagliano, assists students in all logistical, cultural, and academic matters and who also acts as housing coordinator. Approximately 20-30 students attend the program per year, generally 10 – 20 per semester with the larger group in US Spring (January – July). An intensive language course run for our program by the PUC provides important linguistic and cultural preparation as well as an important transition into academic responsibilities. Our students are housed with local host families and become integrated into the

Chilean educational system by taking most of their courses with native Chilean students at the PUC and UC. To complement the direct enrollment, WU also requires one course during the semester, View from the Southern Cone, which is taught by a Chilean faculty member whom we contract. The WU International Service Learning program in Santiago, Chile, was developed in cooperation with the Gephardt Institute in the summer of 2008. Students take an intensive language and culture course then transition into a service placement with a local organization. The program is designed to be small - no more than 6 students per year - and to provide a realistic view of how social services are delivered in a large urban environment in Chile.

Summer Program in Ecuador

By Joe Barcroft

The Summer Study Abroad Program in Ecuador took place from May 16 to June 27, 2009. The twenty students participating in the program this summer lived with host families in Quito and attended classes at the Universidad San Francisco de Quito in the Valley of Cumbayá in the larger Quito area. One of the classes was Andean Culture, which focused on the history and culture of the Andean region, including pre-Incan up to present-day Quechua-speaking societies. The other class an interactive Spanish conversation course with focus on contemporary issues in Ecuador, which included interviews with Ecuadorians on a variety of regional, linguistic, and political issues in Ecuador. The program also included two full-day excursions and one 3-day trip with the entire group. The first day excursion was of Quito and the larger Quito area, including a visit to the museum Inti Ñan (“Path of the Sun” in Quechua) at a location traversed by the equatorial line, which allowed students to explore physical phenomena related to being at latitude 0o. The other day excursion included a visit to the world-famous indigenous handicraft market in Otavalo and an intriguing visit to a refuge for a variety of birds of prey, including condors, near Otavalo. The 3-day trip was to the city of Riobamba in the central Andean region of Ecuador and hiking on the volcano of Chimborazo whose peak constitutes the furthest point from the center of Earth. During weekends that did not include group trips, many students took advantage to travel to other areas of Ecuador, including Baños and the coastal region of Ecuador. Many students also availed themselves of an optional 4-day trip to the University of San Francisco’s biodiversity station at Tiputini, which is located in a remote area of the Ecuadorian Amazon and was referred to as “the most remarkable place” by biodiversity expert and National Geographic journalist Virginia Morell. The program provided students with unique opportunities to improve their fluency and knowledge of Spanish, to make new friends and immerse themselves in Ecuadorian life as part of the overall homestay experience, to improve their explicit and implicit understanding Ecuador and Andean Culture, and to explore a country that is unique in its vast biodiversity and natural beauty.



Summer Program in Ecuador

By Joe Barcroft

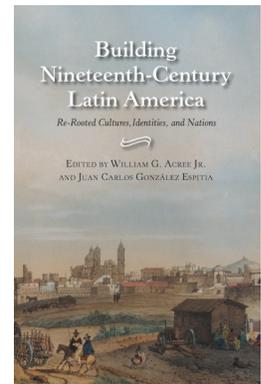
Founded in 2006, the Washington University Summer Program in Puebla heads for another successful round. The Program is hosted by Universidad Iberoamericana, one of the top Mexican private university systems. Located two hours east of Mexico City, Puebla is one of Mexico’s colonial jewels, a city that encompasses some of the masterpieces of Latin American baroque –like its cathedral and the Chapel of the Rosary- with the largest Pre-Columbian structure in the American continent and a modern city of two and a half million people. Puebla not only enjoys one of the lowest crime rate for a city of its size in North America, but also the amenities expected from an up-and-coming urban center: malls, restaurants, movie theaters, cultural activities and tourist attractions are all close to Ibero. Students participating in the program will have the opportunity to enjoy all of this, along with one of the most academically exciting summer programs at WashU. The program offers tracks based upon the level of Spanish of participants. Students at the 101, 102, 201 and 307 levels can take a Spanish class according to their proficiency and a Mexican culture class. Students who have completed 308 on campus will take courses of their in Ibero’s summer school. In both cases, classes may be counted at the 300-level for International Studies and Latin American Studies majors and minors or as elective credit for Spanish majors and minors, with approval of departmental advisors. In addition, students with advanced Spanish may request to get an internship in a local business or nonprofit organization in lieu of a class and pre-med students with the appropriate level of Spanish may opt for a track that encompasses a Public Health in Mexico course and an internship in Ibero’s nutrition clinic. Besides the academic aspect, students will be able to enjoy a full immersion on Mexican life and culture. All students are placed in homestays, a valuable opportunity not only to improve their Spanish skill but to learn about the culture and everyday life of Mexico by experiencing it first-hand. In addition, Puebla’s central location allows for many options in travel. The program will include travel to some locations and other locations may be chosen by students to travel on their own. Besides its proximity with the excitement and diversity of Mexico City, Puebla offers cheap, safe, comfortable and reliable city-to-city buses to places like Oaxaca, one of the capitals of indigenous culture, Taxco, a beautiful mining city nestled in the side of a mountain, Veracruz, Mexico’s oldest city and a busy port), as many other regional destinations. All-in-all, students are encouraged to consider the Summer Program in Mexico as an opportunity for academic advancement and life experience.



Romance Languages and Literatures

William Acree recently published the essay “Jacinto Ventura de Molina: A Black Letrado in a White World of Letters, 1766-1841,” *LARR* (2009) and the edited volume *Jacinto Ventura de Molina y los caminos de la escritura negra en el Río de la Plata* (2008), both dealing with the most prolific Afro-descendant writer we have knowledge of to date. His co-edited volume *Building Nineteenth-Century Latin America: Re-rooted Cultures, Identities, and Nations* will be published this October by Vanderbilt University Press. He has organized a session titled “Rhetoric of War in Nineteenth-Century Spanish America” for the upcoming MLA conference in December.

Andrew Brown over the past has spent his time year finishing his book project *Southern Cyborgs: Posthuman Identity in Latin America*. He has also given invited lectures at King’s College and Birkbeck College of the University of London, Brigham Young University and the University of Florida as well as papers at symposia in Ghent, Belgium and Angers, France. He has published articles in *Revista de Critica Literaria Latinoamericana*, *Comparative Literature* and *Otro Lunes* dealing both with issues of posthuman identity as well as popular and underground music in Latin American narrative. Currently, he is organizing a symposium in titled “Sci Fi desde el Fin del Mundo” with Michael Wilson Reginato sponsored by Washington University and the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile to be held in May of 2010. He is also co-editing a book on Latin American science fiction with Elizabeth Ginway of the University of Florida.



Stephanie Kirk has presented her research at the Newberry Library’s symposium “New Worlds, New Publics: Re(con)figuring Association and the Impact of European Expansion, 1500-1700” September 2008; the MLA Convention 2008; The Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference 2009; the 2009 annual meeting of the Society for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies, and at the symposium *Educating Gender: Women’s Literacy in Spain and the Americas* held at the University of Illinois-Chicago and the Instituto Cervantes, Chicago April 2009. She was also the co-convenor of the symposium “Religious Transformations in the Early Modern Americas” which featured 18 distinguished speakers from the Americas and Europe, and was held at Washington University in April 2009. Professor Kirk also co-convened a panel of the same name at the American Studies Association, and organized a panel entitled “Nuevos itinerarios de los estudios coloniales” at the XXVIII Congreso Internacional del Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana held in Puebla, Mexico. She has recently published two articles, “El parto monstruoso: Creación artística y reproducción biológica en la obra de Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz” (*Iberoamericana*) and “Pain, Knowledge, and the Female Body in Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz” (*Revista Hispánica Moderna*). She is currently working on a second book project entitled *The World according to Sor Juana: Gender Politics in Colonial Mexico*. Professor Kirk was a 2009 recipient of Washington University’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award.

Tabea Alexa Linhard published “Hacia una poetica del naufragio: melancolía y estudios transatlánticos” (*Revista Iberoamericana*) and “Unheard Confessions and Transatlantic Connections: Y tu mamá también and Nadie hablará de nosotras cuando hayamos muerto” (*Studies in Hispanic Cinemas*). She participated in the Jewish Cultural Studies section of the MLA Convention with a presentation on “Touring Jewish Barcelona.” In April of 2009 she presented her research on Anna Seghers’ exile in Mexico at the conference “Bold Caballeros and Noble Bandidas: Warrior Women of the Mexican Revolution of 1910,” University of Arizona. She is currently co-editing a special issue of the *Journal of Spanish Cultural Studies* with Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez Melgosa on “Jewish Spain,” and is writing a book entitled *Jewish Spain Today: a Mediterranean Map*.

Joseph Schraibman directs the Cuba Focus program since 2001. In March 2009 he offered four talks, as a scholar in residence, at the BIAV Synagogue, Kansas City, on “The Hispanic Jewish Experience in Spain and Latin America.” His latest publications and conferences include “Hispanic Echoes in *The Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole,” “Anti-Semitism in Venezuela and Other Latin-American Countries,” and “La Inquisición portuguesa en sesión: arte, poder y resistencia en *O Judeu*, de Jom Tob Azulay,” (in coauthorship with Gonzalo Aguiar). An introduction to Juan Ignacio Ferreras’ extensive work entitled “Juan Ignacio Ferreras, polígrafo,” is forthcoming for 2009-2010. His ongoing research

includes a long study on the trials of the Carvajal family in Mexico, tentatively entitled "The Inquisition Case of the Carvajal Family: Trials and Film," an article on Miguel Delibes' *El hereje*, and an article on Homero Aridjis' 1492, *Vida y obra* de Juan Antonio Cabezón.

Elzbieta Sklodowska published a book on Cuba and Haiti entitled *Espectros y espejismos: Haití en el imaginario cubano* and served as a keynote speaker at the Louisiana State University Conference on the Hispanic Circum-Caribbean and its Diaspora (March 2009), where she presented a paper entitled "Cuba and Haiti in the Narrative of Antonio Benítez Rojo." She also participated in the LASA Convention in Rio de Janeiro (June 2009) with a paper "Sin embargo: la literatura cubana en la época de la globalización." She has begun her tenth year as General Co-Editor for Spanish American literature of the refereed journal, *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, for which she recently coordinated a special issue in honor of Prof. John Garganigo. She also continues her work as a member of the editorial boards of *Latin American Literary Review* and *Itinerarios* (University of Warsaw, Poland). In addition to her duties as Chair of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, she has been active in the university-wide committees, including the Academic Planning Committee, Global Certificate Working Group, Faculty Leadership Working Group, and the Provost's Diversity Work Group. During the academic year 2008-2009 she served, together with Prof. Jim Wertsch, as Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for the Appointment of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Most recently, she has been named a Faculty Fellow in the Office of the Provost. She is also the inaugural holder, together with Prof. Mary Ann Dzuback, of the 2009 Arts and Sciences Distinguished Leadership Award, and in November 2009 she will be honored with the Washington University Founder's Day Faculty Award. She is looking forward to her sabbatical next year, and intends to devote it to her next major project, *Still Lives: Cuban Literary and Cultural Production at the Edge of the Millennium*.



Claire Solomon presented papers on her research about the Yiddish theater in Latin America at the MLA and ACLA last year, as well as an invited lecture entitled "The Literary Prostitute as the First White Jew in Argentina" sponsored by the Institute for Women and Gender at the University of Michigan. Her article, "Money for Nothing and Other Sexual Revolutions in Roberto Arlt's *Los siete locos* and *Los lanzallamas*" will appear in *Frida Beckman, ed., Deleuze and Sex*, Edinburgh UP, forthcoming 2010. She is currently working on a full-length article on Maurice Schwartz's 1947 productions of *Shylock and His Daughter* in New York and Buenos Aires, and revising her book manuscript, *Fictions of the Bad Life: Prostitution in Argentine Literature and Culture*, for publication.

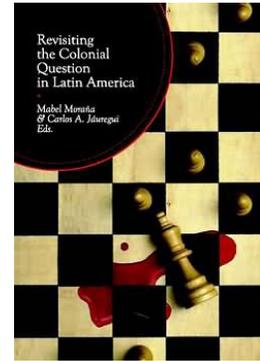
Selma Vital earned her Ph.D. in Luso Brazilian Literatures in 2009 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her main interests include issues of race and gender representation in the fin de siècle literature in Brazil, above all focusing on Machado de Assis's short stories and the works by Lima Barreto. She has published articles on both authors, most recently "O medalhão que sabia javanês: uma comparação entre Machado de Assis e Lima Barreto", in *Machado em Linha*, 3, June 2009, and wrote study guides for two of the main short stories by Machado de Assis, "O Espelho" and "Teoria do Medalhão" (Assis, Machado de. *Missa do Galo e Outros Contos*, Vol.1, New York: Atlantico Books, 2009). She recently started a new research project at the collections of Harvard University, with a David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies summer library grant. This new research deals with women's literacy in Brazil at the turn of twentieth century and the implications of a rising female readership.

Comparative Literature

Ignacio Infante joined the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures as Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish in Fall 2009. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Rutgers University and his main fields of research include 20th-century poetry and poetics, literary theory, Transatlantic literary studies, and translation theory. He is currently expanding his doctoral dissertation into a book-length study that examines from a Transatlantic perspective the work of twentieth-century poets located at the interstices of differing literary traditions (romantic, modernist, postmodern), languages (Spanish, Portuguese, French, English) and media (print, visual, digital). In Spring 2010 he will be teaching a seminar entitled "Transatlantic Poetics," a course that examines the circulation and translation of modern poetry and poetics across both sides of the Atlantic.



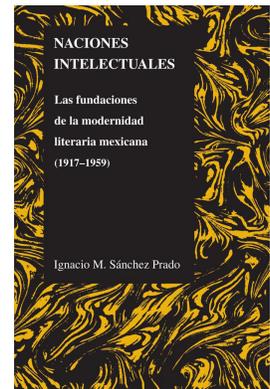
Mabel Moraña since the publication of the last Latin American Newsletter, published the following collective volumes on topics related to Latin American culture: *Coloniality at Large. Latin America and the Postcolonial Debate* (w/ Enrique Dussel and Carlos Jauregui) (2008); *Cultura y cambio social en América Latina* (2008); *Revisiting the Colonial Question in Latin America* (w/ Carlos A. Jáuregui) (2008); *José Carlos Mariátegui y los estudios latinoamericanos* (w/ Guido Podestá) (2009). Her new book, entitled *La escritura del límite* is forthcoming.



In addition to her participation in special sessions at MLA and LASA, Prof. Moraña served as keynote speaker at the conference on “Multiculturalism and Beyond: Identity Politics, Cultural Difference, and Hybridity in the Americas,” Bielefeld Universität, Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Forschung, Germany, and at academic events organized by the Center for the Humanities, University of Miami, Universidad de la República, Uruguay, Vanderbilt University, Tufts University, etc. She co-coordinated with Professor Bret Gustafson the South by Midwest international conference *Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America*. A collective book with the same title originated at this conference is forthcoming.



Ignacio Sánchez-Prado published *Naciones intelectuales. Las de la modernidad literaria mexicana (1917-1959)* in the Purdue Studies of Romance Literatures series of Purdue University Press. He edited *Arqueologías del centauro. Ensayos sobre Alfonso Reyes* for the Fondo Editorial Tierra Adentro, and a dossier on “Humanism after Cultural Studies” for *Revista de crítica literaria latinoamericana*. He also published the following articles: “Alfonso Reyes y la crítica clásica” (*Anthropos*); “The Return of the Decolonized: The Legacy of Leopoldo Zea’s Philosophy of history for Comparative American Studies” (*Comparative Literature*); “Sergio Pitó y sus afinidades electivas. El affaire Compton-Burnett” (in *Línea de sombra. Ensayos sobre Sergio Pitó*. Ed. José Homero); and “La batalla del liberalismo. Notas sobre la ensayística reciente de Carlos Monsiváis” (in *La consciencia imprescindible. Ensayos sobre Carlos Monsiváis*. Ed. Jezreel Salazar). He expects to complete his book on Mexican film and neoliberalism in 2010.



Music

John Turci-Escobar read a paper at the LASA Convention in Rio de Janeiro (June 2009) entitled “Defining the Music of Buenos Aires: Piazzolla’s Reading of Borges”. In November of this year, Prof. Turci-Escobar will read a paper entitled “El Tango, or how Piazzolla read Borges” at the Washington University Department of Music Lecture Series and at the Music Theory Colloquium Series at Indiana University. Finally, his article “Minding the Gap: Interphrase Continuities in Gesualdo’s Six Books of Madrigals,” will appear this fall in the *Indiana Theory Review*.

History

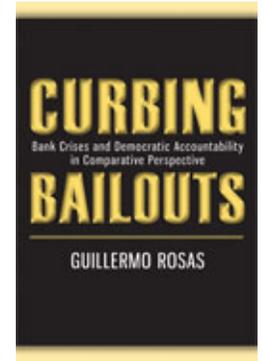
Andrea Campetella’s research focuses on Indian-Spanish relations on the Spanish Empire’s southern frontier, which ran across present-day southern Chile and central Argentina. She places her research within the Atlantic context of colonial encounters in the Americas, and studies these encounters from an ethnohistorical perspective. In 2009, Andrea presented “Buenos Aires under Siege: Frontier Policies, Indigenous Alliances, and the Raid of 1740” at the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountains Conference of Latin American Studies in Santa Fe. She also organized a panel on comparative frontiers for the annual meeting of the LASA in Rio de Janeiro. Thanks to a Mellon-Saunders research fellowship, Andrea spent the summer at the John Carter Brown Library (Providence, RI). She presented “Don Juan Dilemma, and Other Snapshots from the Spanish Empire Southern Frontier” at the library’s Fellows Luncheon series. Andrea has a book review coming out in the *Colonial Latin America Review*, and will be participating on a panel on colonial Río de la Plata at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in 2010.



Political Science

Brian F. Crisp's works on the institutional mechanisms constructed to formalize state-civil society relations and their impact on interbranch relations, patterns of government spending, and development policy choices. He has been published in *The American Journal of Political Science*, *The American Political Science Review*, *The British Journal of Political Science*, *The Journal of Politics*. He is currently completing several projects on democratic institutions and representation. He will be presenting a paper entitled "Legislative Voting in Latin America" at an International Seminar entitled "Latin American Parliaments in Comparative Perspective: Performance and Research Fields" to be held in Salamanca, Spain on December 10-12.

Guillermo Rosas published *Curbing Bailouts* (University of Michigan Press 2009), his comparative analysis of late-twentieth-century banking crises. In the book, Rosas identifies political regime type as a relevant factor in determining government responses to banking crises. Among other analyses, the book explores government decisions to support or close financial institutions in the aftermath of the Tequila crisis in Argentina and Mexico. Rosas is also a coauthor of the forthcoming *Latin American Party Systems* (2010), which analyzes the variety of strategies that political parties use to relate to voters.



Anthropology

Bret Gustafson is continuing research on the cultural politics of natural gas and territorial conflict in Bolivia. This study examines linkages between the natural resource boom and political change, focusing on redistributive politics, regional conflict, and indigenous rights. The research also includes an examination of the emerging cultural politics of energy integration and regional development flows linking Brazil, Bolivia, and the southern cone. Some of the work on natural gas will appear in a book he is co-editing, titled *Remapping Bolivia: Territory, Identity and Resources in a Plurinational State* (to appear 2010). With Mabel Moraña, he also recently finished co-editing *Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America* (to appear 2010), based on Washington University's 2008 South by Midwest II Conference. His book on the politics of global education reform and linguistic and ethnic pluralism in Bolivia, titled *New Languages of the State* (Duke), came out in mid-2009.

Derek Pardue is currently on sabbatical doing fieldwork related to creole / kriolu hip hop in Lisbon, Portugal and Cape Verde as well as hip hop and public policies in Brazil. Since the spring of 2008, he published an ethnography of hip hoppers in São Paulo, Brazil (*Ideologies of Marginality in Brazilian Hip Hop*, Palgrave Press), articles in US and Brazilian academic journals and chapters in edited volumes related to Brazilian popular music and urban anthropology, and on-line essays about AfroBeat. In addition, Professor Pardue participated in anthropology, ethnomusicology, Latin American, and Brazilian studies conferences in Montreal, New Orleans, San Francisco, Minneapolis, and São Paulo. Furthermore, he recently evaluated two study abroad programs for US students in São Paulo. Here at Washington University, Professor Pardue co-organized the first ever Brazil Week in 2008 and a session of Cinema com Pipoca ("Film with popcorn") in 2009. In 2008 he was nominated for the ArtSci Council's Faculty Award from The Council for Undergraduate Students of Arts & Sciences.

Social Work

Luis H. Zayas this past year, traveled to the border towns of El Centro and Calexico, California, and Mexicali, Mexico as part of his research on growing up Latino in the U.S. He delivered talks at the National Alliance for Hispanic Families Washington, DC; Brown University in Providence; Latino Behavioral Health Institute in Los Angeles; and conducted a webinar for the Center for Health and Health Care in Schools at George Washington University. He was interviewed by CNN on his research on suicide attempts by teen Latinas for a two-part documentary, *Latino in America*, hosted by Soledad O'Brien, airing October 21 and 22. He was recently quoted (October 1) in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. On sabbatical during the fall 2009 semester, Zayas is at work on a book on young Latinas who attempt suicide. Zayas's upcoming research will take him to the Dominican Republic with Assistant Professor Juan B. Peña of the Brown School for a national survey of youth risk behaviors among Dominican youth. Zayas will also travel to Cordoba, Argentina in March 2010 as part of research on immigrant pregnant teens in that city. He is scheduled to give a keynote in September 2010 in Sonora at the Congreso Mexicano de Psicología Social y Congreso Mexicano de Relaciones.

Romance Languages and Literatures

Gonzalo Aguiar is currently working on the last chapters of his doctoral dissertation entitled *Campos magnéticos de la modernidad latinoamericana: una historia intelectual de Argentina, Brasil y Uruguay (1900-1935)*. He has published articles related to his field of specialization in journals such as *Latin American Theatre Review* and *Hispanic Review*. His latest contributions are an article on Posthumanism in Argentine narrative fiction (*La Plata, Argentina: AlMargen*, 2009) and a chapter entitled "Triumph of the Will: Annihilation of Ariel in Manuel Gálvez's *Calibán*," included in the volume *Rethinking Intellectuals in Latin America*, edited by Mabel Moraña and Bret Gustafson (forthcoming in 2010). At LASA 2009 in Rio de Janeiro he delivered a paper on intellectual practices in Julio Herrera y Reissig and Lima Barreto at the turn of the 20th century.

Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles earned her MA in Spanish at Washington University in 2008. Currently a PhD student, her academic and research interests include nineteenth-century Brazil and Central America. She is serving as Prof. Mabel Moraña's research assistant during the 2009-2010 academic year. In the summer of 2009, she participated in the Congreso Centroamericano de Estudios Culturales in San José de Costa Rica. Her essay, "La metrópoli habitada: Las vísperas de España y el 'presagio' de la inteligencia americana," has been included in a volume on Alfonso Reyes edited by Prof. Ignacio Sánchez-Prado (forthcoming). As a Spanish instructor, she has taught Spanish 201, 308, and several courses at University College, including Beginning Spanish Conversation.

Lídice Alemán was born in Cuba. She completed her master's degree in Latin American Literature at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 2007. She has published two poetry collections: *Entrar descalza* (Ediciones Avila, 2002) and *Indecisiones del arquero* (Ediciones el Abra, 2003). She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Latin American Literature, and her interests include contemporary Afro Caribbean poetry, as well as gender and sexuality theory. In 2009, Lídice was named co-recipient of the Eva Sichel Memorial Essay prize for best critical essay in Spanish. She is also completing the Graduate Student Certificate in Women and Gender Studies.

Britta Anderson grew up in New Mexico, and received her BA in English and Spanish from Carleton College in Minnesota. Her interests include transatlantic studies, literary theory, powerful women, creative solutions to violence, and the effects of global influences on local realities. She plans to focus on gender studies and twentieth- and twenty-first-century Latin American narrative.

Julio Ariza was an assistant professor at the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba and the Universidad Siglo 21. He has been collaborating on two research projects from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba since 2001. He has published "El mundo es tu pecera. Sobre Rapado y Nadar solo" in the collective volume *Poéticas en el cine argentino: 1995-2005* (2005), and "Vivir adentro. Sobre Los años 90 de Daniel Link" in the collective volume *El orden de la cultura y las formas de la metáfora* (2006). He also worked on the project *Escritores argentinos*, which was published as a bilingual book by MALBA (Museo de Arte Latinoamericano de Buenos Aires) in 2005. In 2004, he coordinated the film festival *Maldita vecindad. Tres miradas sobre Ciudad de México*, patronized by the Consulate of México in Córdoba and the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba. He won the 2003-2004 Research Award from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, and more recently the 2006 Mellon Dissertation Award. He taught in the 2008 Summer Program in Madrid. He is currently working on his dissertation project, which explores the new Argentinean narratives about love.

César Barros A. is currently finishing his dissertation "La obra de arte frente al (super)mercado: ética, estética, política y consumo en el Cono Sur," which deals with stances taken by contemporary different contemporary Southern Cone novels and visual art works when confronting the signifying practices of consumption. He is also working on a project dealing with the cinematic reempowerment of monumentalized images by contemporary Chilean and Argentinian film. His article "La broma de Raúl: objeto, mercancía y estética en *Tajos de Rafael Courtoisie*" is forthcoming in the next issue of *Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana*. He recently presented the paper "Lugares comunes: visualidad y espacio comunitario en Copacabana de Martín Rejtman" at LASA in Rio de Janeiro.

Stacy Davis-Zeytinci is a first semester PhD student with a BA from Hollins College in English and Spanish and a MLA in English and Spanish with a comparative literature focus from the University of Richmond. She has eleven years teaching

experience, most recently as a beginning and intermediate Spanish instructor at Virginia Commonwealth University. She is interested in second language acquisition and pedagogy, Romanticism, 18th century literature, transatlantic studies perhaps focusing on post-colonialism and the development of the modern novel in Guatemala.

Ángeles Donoso is currently finishing the third chapter of her dissertation entitled “La vanguardia y sus retornos: confabulaciones del presente en cuatro escritores latinoamericanos”, in which she discusses works by prominent writers César Aira (Argentina), Mario Bellatin (Peru-Mexico), Roberto Bolaño (Chile-Mexico-Spain), and Diamela Eltit (Chile). She presented a paper on Eltit at the last LASA conference in Rio (June 2009), based on research done in Santiago (Chile), where she completed her second chapter. Her article “Estética, política y el posible territorio de la ficción en 2666 de Roberto Bolaño” is forthcoming in the next issue of *Revista Hispanica Moderna* 62.2 (December 2009). Also, her article on Bellatin’s last novel entitled “‘Yo soy Mario Bellatin y soy de ficción’ o el paradójico borde de lo autobiográfico en *El Gran Vidrio* (2007)” will be published in *Chasqui* 39.2 (November 2011).

José Alberto Licón Oppenheimer received a MA from New Mexico State University in Spring 2008. He is currently finishing his second MA in Washington University in Saint Louis and has been accepted to start the Ph.D program in Spanish literature in the spring of 2010. His interests include Latin American poetry of the 19th and 20th century, Chicano literature, and Spanish literature from 15th and 16th centuries.

Natalia Monetti holds a B.A. from the Universidad Nacional de Córdoba in Argentina and later received her M.A. from Washington University in St. Louis, where she is currently in the Ph.D. program. Her primary areas of interest include visual arts, the construction of memory in documentary and fictional film and contemporary Argentine literature, focusing on the link connecting aesthetics and socio-political content.

José Montelongo published the article “Gozamente amoral: la enumeración caótica en los cuentos de Francisco Hinojosa” in *Revista de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea* 39.14 (2009): 73-80. His essay, “Una economía del alma: notas sobre el pensamiento moral de Alfonso Reyes,” is forthcoming in a book on Alfonso Reyes edited by Ignacio Sánchez-Prado. He is currently working on his dissertation, “Three functions of humor in Mexican Literature from Jorge Ibarguengoitia to present: an antidote to nationalism, a critique of customs, and a vindication of euphoric laughter.”

Sara Potter is in her fourth year of the doctorate in the Spanish section. Her research interests include twentieth- and twenty-first-century Mexican literature with a focus on technology, urban space, and gender. In the 2007-08 school year, she was research assistant to Professor Joe Barcroft and helped with his research on second language vocabulary acquisition. She presented at several conferences as well. “Layers of Memory: Culture and Metro in Mexico City” at the 2007 MACHL Conference in Madison, Wisconsin and spent the two weeks of the next summer in Mexico City researching the metro and estridentista avant-garde literature. She also presented “La abyecta exaltada: Pathology, Power, and Resistance in Word from New Spain: The Spiritual Autobiography of Madre María de San José” at the “Masculinities, Femininities, and More: An Interdisciplinary Conference on Gender in the Humanities at the University of West Georgia; and “The Cyborg of Avignon: Reading the Feminine Figure in “La señorita, etc” at the Imagine Mexico/Imagine México, XV Annual Mexicanist Conference at the University of California-Irvine. Most recently, she presented “De senos electrónicos y abrazos hertzianos: Modernization, Anxiety, and Sexuality in *El café de nadie*” at the LASA 2009 Conference in Rio de Janeiro.

Gabriela Romero-Ghiretti obtained her MA in Spanish and the Graduate Certificate in Language Instruction in Washington University. She is now completing her Doctorate in Hispanic Languages and Literatures and is working on the final chapter of her dissertation on women writers of the first half of the 20th century in Latin America. She investigates discourses of space and gender and the development of feminine subjectivity and the female intellectual within the context of modernity. She has been awarded the Helen Fé Jones Award for Teaching in 2005, the University-wide Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence for 2005-2006, and the Eva Sichel Memorial Prize for Best Critical Essay in Spanish in 2007. She has presented papers in the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, the Midwest Modern Language Association and the XXXVII Congreso Internacional del IILI in Puebla, Mexico. Her article on Alicia Borinsky’s *Cine Continuo* is forthcoming in the 35.2 issue of *Letras Femeninas*. She has also published articles in *The Reading Matrix*.

Paulina Soto is a PhD student. Paulina specializes in colonial Mexico. Currently she is working on her dissertation, which focuses on popular religious in colonial Mexico: the representation of the Spaniard and the Empire in XVIII century Mexico. Since Paulina’s secondary field of interest is contemporary literature and culture, her dissertation tries to encourage diachronic perspectives concerning the legacy of colonial popular religious in present Mexico.



Writing for Revolution in Nineteenth-Century Latin America

By William Acree

In 1964 the Brazilian poets Augusto and Haroldo de Campos published *ReVisão de Sousândrade*, a critical study of the Brazilian Romantic poet from Maranhão, Joaquim de Sousa Andrade (1832-1902), a figure generally known within Brazilian literary history simply as 'Sousândrade.' Despite the fact that *ReVisão de Sousa Andrade* was originally published in a small edition of five hundred copies—as a brief study and anthology of the work of the Romantic poet—it constitutes an extremely relevant critical study within Latin American literary history.

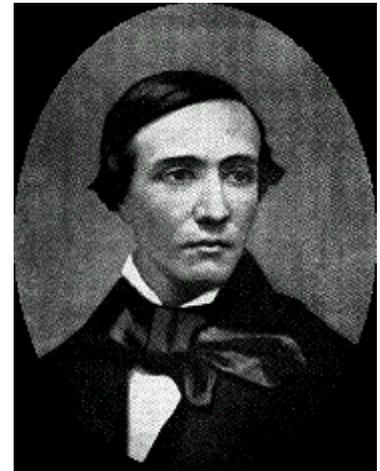
Prior to the critical reassessment of his work by the Campos brothers, Sousândrade was generally considered to be a marginal member of the second generation of Brazilian Romanticism (1853-1870), and had been received as a rather obscure author of minor relevance by contemporary critics. Therefore, *ReVisão de Sousa Andrade* was originally conceived as a scholarly exercise with the strategic premise to shake the critical landscape of Brazilian literary history. Most of their attention is focused on Sousândrade's main opus *O Guesa errante* (The Errant Guesa), a long epic poem of thirteen cantos that Sousândrade started in 1852 and which was mostly composed while he was living in New York City between 1871 and 1885. Perhaps the most famous passage of Sousândrade's poem is "O Inferno de Wall Street," where Sousândrade carries out a brutal critique of the rampant capitalism of the Gilded Age which was becoming the dominant force in world economy and was orchestrated from the financial capital of the United States. As can be seen in the following fragment from Sousândrade's epic, his hellish vision of Wall Street is of particularly significance at a time when the world's financial markets have just experienced one of the most brutal meltdowns in history:

— Harlem" Erie" Central" Pennsylvania"
= Million" hundred million" ten digits"
— Young is Grant" Jackson,
Atkinson"
Vanderbilts, Jay Goulds are midgets"

(The Voice barely heard in the tumult:)

— Fulton's Folly, Codezo's Forgery . . .
The nation cries swindle and cheat"
They can't fathom odes
Railroads;
Chattam's parallel to Wall Street . . .

(Translation from Portuguese by Robert E. Brown)



However, one of the most relevant features of *ReVisão de Sousa Andrade* is that Augusto and Haroldo de Campos generally describe Sousândrade's radically innovative style not in terms of its relation with the European or Latin American Romantic traditions, but rather as essentially predating the formal innovations that characterize Anglo-American Modernism as developed by figures such as T.S. Eliot or Ezra Pound. Thus, the rediscovery of Sousândrade's work becomes a priceless event for the Campos brothers, since it provides a poetics of an unparalleled modernity, offering in fact a new critical framework for Brazilian and Latin American literary history. In this sense, Sousândrade becomes in *ReVisão de Sousa Andrade* a figure through which Augusto and Haroldo de Campos can claim a more central and relevant position for their own movement of Concrete poetics within the global literary history of the Avant-Garde clearly dominated by the hegemonic forms of the European and Anglo-American literary traditions. Ultimately, through their critical edition of Sousândrade's work the de Campos brothers manage to transform an otherwise obscure chapter of Brazilian literary history into a seminal moment in the origination of the global avant-garde.

As the case of Sousândrade shows, I examine in my work the ways in which the process of poetic production and the critical articulation of national literary histories can ultimately be seen as be a mutually constitutive process that is alternately hybridized and transhistorical despite the different social, political and cultural contexts that may determine a specific literary work in its original time and place.

Latin American Film Series

CONTESTING PATRIARCHAL CULTURES: A SHOWCASE OF RECENT LATIN AMERICAN FILMS

Coordinated by Alejandra Aguilar and Natalia Monetti

Provocative, thoughtful, thrilling, and oftentimes irresistibly funny, the movies included in the Latin American Film Series 2009 depict stories and characters deeply intertwined with post-national scenarios, thus highlighting the struggle for survival in a context characterized by violence and social unrest. Films from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Uruguay offer new perspectives on the 'oppressed' through stories set in both urban and rural spaces with a great sense of dramatic accuracy and relentless narrative tension. This four-film series aims to stir up some interesting discussions on gender issues, traditional politics, and aesthetic viewpoints in order to get a better understanding of contemporary social practices in Latin America.



La Ciénaga / The Swamp (2001) Argentina
Director: Lucrecia Martel
Thu. Sep. 24

Veronica (2008) Brasil
Director: Maurício Farias
Thu. Oct. 8



La Buena Vida / The Good Life (2008) Chile
Director: Andrés Wood
Thu. Oct. 29

El baño del Papa / The Pope's Toilet (2007) Uruguay
Directors: César Charlone and Enrique Fernández
Thu. Nov. 19



Latin American Courses (Spring 2008)

Ancient Civilizations of the New World

David Browman

Latin America in the 20th and 21st Centuries: Reform or Revolution?

Andrea Campetella

Hispanic Art/Arte Hispano

Virginia Braxs

Spanish American Literature I

Stephanie Kirk

William Acree

Spanish American Literature II

Tabea Linhard

Eloisa Palafox

Anthropology and Development

Bret Gustafson

Environmental History of Latin America

Andrea Campetella

Conquest & Colony: Cultural Encounters in the New World

Andrea Campetella

Latin American Politics

Guillermo Rosas

Surveys of Hispanic Cultures

Tabea Linhard

Transatlantic Poetics

Ignacio Infante

Postmodern Narratives in Latin America

Mabel Moraña