

Latin America N

e W S L e t t e r

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LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES AT WASH. U.

Mabel Moraña

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

Since the publication of the last issue of our Latin American Newsletter in the Spring of 2011, the Latin American program at Washington University in St. Louis has maintained its vigor and perseverance toward the creation of spaces and opportunities of intellectual development for students and faculty focusing on the study of Latin American culture. Our Graduate Certificate in Latin American Cultural Studies is already established. Within the framework of this program we have been able to grant fellowships to students registered in the program who wished to conduct research in Latin America during the summer months. Taking advantage of this opportunity, over the last two years students have spent time in Mexico and Argentina consulting archives, conducting interviews and obtaining bibliographical materials, and have reported the results of their research in the presentations they offered at the Latin American Colloquium. The Latin American Studies undergraduate major and minor has successfully transitioned to its new curriculum, which provides students a comprehensive formation through classes in fields such as history, anthropology, political science, archeology and cultural studies. Students continue to take advantage of our program activities, with participation in study abroad, the *South by Midwest* conference and the film series. Our recent graduates have a consistent record of success, placing in top graduate programs in fields such as Latin American literature, International Policy, Public Health and Law, as well as in prestigious fellowships such as Fulbright. In addition, our former students are working in a diversity of fields: academia, fair trade, government, NGOs and industry. The opening of a new site for Summer study in Buenos Aires, in connection with IAS and Butler University, is a new feature in our program, which allows students to take language and culture courses at Argentine universities, and to participate in community programs, internships and the like, while living with families and enjoying the exciting cultural environment in one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The program offers a regional dimension through the excursions to Montevideo, Uruguay, where students participate in cultural activities including lectures at Universidad de la República. LAS has also sponsored with great success the IV *South by Midwest International Conference* on Latin American Studies under the title of *Open Wounds*. Biopolitics and Representation in Latin America. A book including articles that develop the arguments presented at the conference is forthcoming at the *South by Midwest* book series. Finally, our Latin American Film Series and Latin American Colloquium coordinated last year by Alex Eastman and currently by Gonzalo Montero continue to offer students and faculty a productive space for intellectual exchange. In spite of this important and exciting activities, the challenges of maintaining LAS alive and well at Washington University in St. Louis are numerous, particularly at a time of general financial attrition everywhere, a situation that always has particular impact in the field of the Humanities. To begin with, the need to fill the void left by the departure of colleagues working in the areas of Latin American History and Brazilian culture is an urgent matter whose resolution is key for the development of the Latin American curriculum. Also, while we have been able to maintain our courses of Portuguese language open in the Department of Romance Languages after the departure of our previous instructor, it is crucial for this situation to become stable, which will allow us to develop and enhance this important part of our program of study in future years.

Border Art in and out of Site

Professor Ila N. Sheren

The U.S.-Mexico border occupies an enigmatic place in U.S. popular and visual culture. This “herida abierta,” most famously invoked by Gloria Anzaldúa in 1987, is constructed alternately as a no-man’s land, a lawless frontier that bleeds violence north, spreading toward the interior. Nowhere has this myth of lawlessness been more prevalent than in the U.S. imaginary. Headlines from Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez tell of narcoviolence, “female murders,” and kidnapped tourists. Classic films such as *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*, novels including Cormac McCarthy’s *No Country for Old Men*, as well as recent television series such as *Weeds* and *Breaking Bad*, have depicted the border region as one of uncontrolled chaos, bleeding death and destruction north, to U.S. doorsteps. Public perception spurs legislation, and fear of a societal breakdown leads to a tightening of borders, or at least the appearance of stricter control. It has been the particular challenge of artists working with the U.S.-Mexico border to counteract the dominant image of the region, portraying this site not as a chaotic no-man’s-land, but as a space of power and potential.

Beginning in 1984, members of the Border Art Workshop/Taller de Arte Fronterizo (BAW/TAF) worked with the physical line, emphasizing community over division, similarity over difference, and harmony over discord. Members of the group included Chicano artists and activists, Mexicans and Anglo-Americans, forming a binational, bilingual collective in the San Diego region. Their piece *End of the Line* marked the first work of performance art to take place on the physical border, exploring and exploiting the potential of the dividing line. In 1986, the year *End of the Line* took place, the beach between San Diego and Tijuana was open, unfenced by later regulations and border militarization doctrine. The performance brought together artists and bystanders, Mexicans, Mexican-Americans, and Anglo-Americans, all into a symbolic Last Supper/First Thanksgiving situated directly on the dividing line. Participants enacted multiple crossings, rotating an oversized table back and forth across the space, as well as sharing a meal of roasted corn (“elotes”). The piece marked the end of the line physically and temporally, as the era of openness on the border would come to an end later that same year.

But this kind of homegrown site-specificity is only one part of the story, and one particular approach to border art. Artists, such as the BAW/TAF’s own Guillermo Gómez-Peña, began to see the border not as a physically located construct, but as a mentality, one that could be rendered portable and brought to other locations around the world. In traveling pieces such as *Border Brujo* (1989) or even *Mapa Corpo* (2003-2009, with his troupe *La Pocha Nostra*), Gómez-Peña acted as a shamanic figure, communicating across physical and con-



The border fence at San Diego and Tijuana, site of *End of the Line* and *One Flew Over the Void*

ceptual borders. This shift in thinking coincided with rapid demographic changes in U.S. and European cities in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Drawing borders within urban populations in the interior, causes us to consider not only San Diego, Tijuana, Juárez and El Paso, but also New York, Los Angeles, and even Orlando as border cities. This line of thought, that anyone has the potential to become a border dweller, proved extremely productive for border art in the post-NAFTA era. If globalization, as enacted through neoliberal economic policies, ushered in a world of “flows,” “porosity,” and unprecedented movement of capital throughout the world, then border artists were there to remind the public that this mobility is profoundly uneven.

At the same time artists moved from the border region to comment on other international situations, the U.S.-Mexico border itself promoted a flow of ideas to the site. InSITE, the binational and somewhat triennial festival located in San Diego and Tijuana, brought hundreds of internationally-recognized artists from around the (primarily Western) world to produce site-specific border pieces. Beginning in 1992, and continuing in 1994, 1997, 2000 and 2005, artists such as Francis Alÿs, Alfredo Jaar, and Javier Téllez staged performances that both challenged and validated the presence of the dividing line. Téllez’ *One Flew Over the Void* (2005), in particular, turned the border, and the sanctioned crossing of the line, into a parodic spectacle. For the piece, the Venezuelan-born Téllez commissioned a U.S. stuntman to fly from Mexico to the United States, shot out of a cannon. Taking place on that same beach as *End of the Line* had, almost nineteen years earlier, *One Flew Over the Void* closed the circle of influence, with InSITE bringing an outside artist to stage a site-specific border performance on that very spot where such art had originated.

Past Events

Empire’s End Conference

Professors Acree & Tsuchiya (Romance Languages & Literatures) organized the conference “Empire’s End: Transnational Connections in the Hispanic World, 1808-1898” on February 24, 2012. The conference aimed to explore the concept of empire in the Spanish-speaking world in the nineteenth century, from the beginnings of the Independence Wars in the early 1800s to the loss of Spain’s last colonies—Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines—in the Spanish-American War of 1898. The various speakers considered, from a transnational perspective, the complex social, political, and cultural ramifications and consequences of the end of the Spanish empire for the Spanish-speaking world, thus producing new insights into the circuits of intellectual and cultural exchange between Spain and its former colonies. The scope of the conference was broad-ranging and interdisciplinary, centering on crucial issues such as the mappings of the Hispanic Atlantic, race, human rights, and the legacies of empire, while showcasing the work of scholars in literature, cultural studies, history and art history. Support was provided by the Dean of Arts & Sciences at Washington University, the Department of Romance Languages & Literatures, and a grant from the Spanish Ministry of Culture through the Program for Cultural Cooperation.



Past Events

Professor Mark Sanders

Distinguished visiting scholar

In January 2012 Professor Acree organized the visit to WU of Professor Mark A. Sanders (Professor of English and African American Studies, Emory University) through the Distinguished Visiting Scholars Program. Sanders presented the talk “Blackness and Nationality: The Case of Ricardo Batrell and the Cuban Racial Narrative” and had meetings with graduate students from different departments.



Professor Edmundo Paz Soldán

2013 Felice Massie Distinguished Visiting Professor in Hispanic Literature

Professor Edmundo Paz Soldán (Professor of Spanish Literature, Cornell University) is Bolivia’s leading novelist, having published nine novels and four collections of short stories. He is the winner of the 2003 Bolivian national book award, the 1997 winner of the Juan Rulfo prize for best short story and received a prestigious Guggenheim fellowship in 2006.

Professor Paz Soldán visited Washington University in February 2013. He gave a graduate seminar in three classes titled “Bolaño y el problema del mal” for the graduate students in Spanish and, as part of this same seminar series, a public lecture titled “Roberto Bolaño’s Universal History of Infamy.”



Professor Elzbieta Sklodowska

2012 Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities

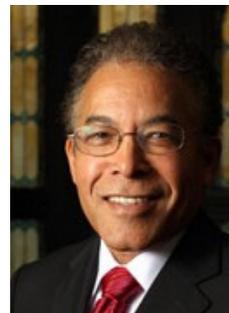
Professor Elzbieta Sklodowska gave the talk “Reinventing the Wheel: The Art of Survival in Cuba during the Special Period.” Sklodowska is Randolph Family Professor of Spanish at Washington University in St. Louis. Her fields of interest include nineteenth- and twentieth-century Caribbean narrative; literary and cultural theory; Cuban narrative and culture; poetics and politics of memory; testimonial literature.



Professor William Luis

2012 Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellow Guest Lecture

William Luis is Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Chair in Spanish at Vanderbilt University and the Editor of *Afro-Hispanic Review*. His research interests are nineteenth- and twentieth-century Latin American literature, Contemporary Spanish American, Caribbean, Afro-Hispanic, and Latino literatures. In February 2012, Professor William Luis visited Washington University, as the invited guest of 2012 Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellow Elzbieta Sklodowska. Within his visit, Professor Luis gave a talk entitled “Censorship in Cuba and the Texture Mapping of *Tres tristes tigres*,” and a workshop for graduate students.



Past Events

Novelist Leonardo Padura

On Thursday, November 8th, 2012, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures welcomed Cuban novelist and essayist Leonardo Padura, who gave a lecture in Spanish on “Vivir y escribir en Cuba hoy.”

Leonardo Padura, who began his career as an investigative journalist, is the author of many novels, short stories, and movie scripts. He was recently awarded the 2012 National Literature Prize by the Cuban Book Institute and the Culture Ministry.



Visual Artist Coco Fusco

Distinguished visiting scholar, Sam Fox School of Design and Visual Arts

On October 16, 2013, New York-based interdisciplinary artist and writer Coco Fusco delivered a lecture titled “Socially Dangerous: Performance in Post Revolutionary Cuba” as part of the WUSTL Distinguished Visiting Scholars program for Fall 2013. She has performed, lectured, exhibited, and curated around the world since 1988. She is a recipient of a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship, a 2013 Fulbright Fellowship, a 2012 Unites States Artists Fellowship, and a 2003 Herb Alpert Award in the Arts.



Professor Pura Fernández

Visiting scholar, Romance Languages and Literatures

Dr. Pura Fernández is Research Professor and Vice Director of Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Madrid. Her research specializations are nineteenth-century Literature, Transatlantic Studies and Gender Studies. She has published extensively on these and other topics. On April 2012, she visited Washington University, and gave the talk “Escritoras y viajeras: redes trasatlánticas para un entorno global (s. XIX).” Also, she participated in workshops and meetings with graduate students.



Transatlantic Crossings Reading group

Sponsored by the Center for the Humanities

During the last four academic semesters, Transatlantic Crossings Reading Group gathered faculty and graduate students from different departments of Washington University. The group examined and discussed, from a transdisciplinary standpoint, topics such as cosmopolitanism, Latin American *modernismo*, and the cultural circulation across the different regions connected by the Atlantic Ocean. Professor Ignacio Infante (Comparative Literature and RLL) and graduate students from Comparative Literature and Romance Languages and Literatures convened the group.

Past Events

Hispanic Graduate Students Writing Group

Sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Since 2012, the Hispanic Graduate Students Writing Group (GWG) has worked as a permanent writing workshop for students of the Graduate Program in Hispanic Literatures. Thanks to these regular meetings, its members have been able to share their academic research and improve their writing, editing, and critical skills. Some of the works that the students have shared in the GWG, were presented in conferences or were accepted in academic journals, thanks in part to the feedback given by their peers.

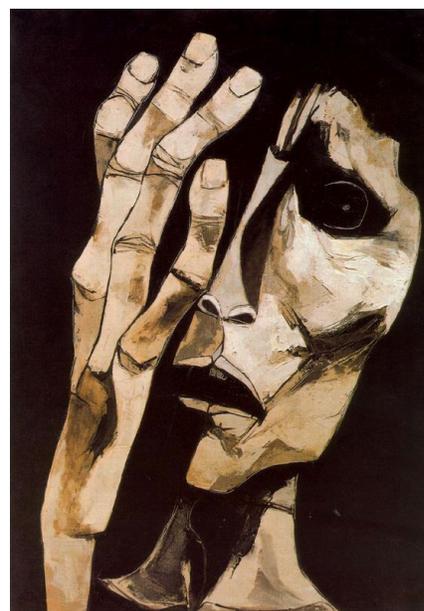
Latin American Colloquium

Sponsored by Latin American Studies

During the last semesters, the Latin American Colloquium has gathered professors and graduate students from different departments of Washington University, around the multidisciplinary study of Latin American Culture. Some of the topics of these presentations have been: politics of memory, the intellectuals and mass media, digital culture, indigenous political movements, satirical writing, and countercultural narrative.

IV South by Midwest Conference

Open Wounds. Biopolitics and Representation in Latin America, IV South by Midwest International Conference on Latin American Studies, was held at Washington University in St. Louis on March 28-29, 2013. The conference featured speakers from Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Canada, and from a number of US universities, who spoke on the topic of biopolitics and biopower in connection with different aspects of Latin American cultural history, particularly those related to questions of ethnicity, gender, violence, eugenics, etc. The subject matter allowed for a thorough examination of literary texts, cultural practices, and visual discourses. Theoretical issues related to the disciplinary strategies implemented by state institutions in the configuration of modern societies were discussed in depth during sessions and final roundtable. Professor Jean Franco (Emeritus, Columbia University) acted as keynote speaker and Professor Rebecca Messberger (Italian Studies, Washington University in St. Louis) offered a lecture on Anna Morandi Manzolini at a plenary session. The conference had a wide audience of faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and general public.



El grito (1983), by the Ecuatorian painter Oswaldo Guayasamin

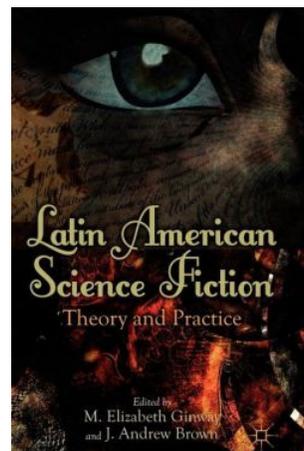


Audience during the talk of Professor Román de la Campa

Romance Languages and Literatures

William Acree Over the past three summers Acree has been researching the Creole Circus in Argentina and Uruguay thanks to a Fulbright Scholar Award and a Faculty Research Grant from the Graduate School. He won a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for 2013-2014 to work on *Staging Frontiers*, the book exploring the impact and ramifications of the Creole Circus. Acree's book *Everyday Reading: Print Culture & Collective Identity in the Río de la Plata, 1780-1910* was the recipient the Southern Cone Studies Section 2013 Humanities Book Award of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). The Argentine edition of this book is forthcoming with Prometeo Editorial. His recent publications include: "Divisas and Deberes: Women and the Symbolic Economy of War Rhetoric in the Río de la Plata, 1810-1910." *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* 22, no. 2 (2013): 213-37. "Uruguay, Gateway to Nineteenth-Century Cultural History of the Río de la Plata." *History Compass* 11, no. 4 (2013): 292-304. "Comprar, vender y fumar la patria: consumo visual de todos los días (Río de la Plata, 1880-1910)." In *Cultura visual e innovaciones tecnológicas en América Latina (entre 1830 y las vanguardias)*, ed. Beatriz González-Stephan. Madrid: Iberoamericana/Vervuert, forthcoming.

Andrew Brown Professor Brown recently co-edited a book of essays on Latin American science fiction, the first English language collection to examine the genre in Latin America as a whole, with essays dedicated to various regions in Spanish America and several devoted to Brazil. He has also published a series of articles related to the topic of his next book, *Remixing Latin America* in which he examines remixing and mashup aesthetics in contemporary Latin American literature.



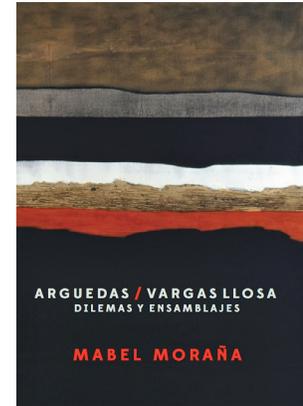
Javier García Liendo joined the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures as Assistant Professor of Spanish, Andean region, in fall 2012. He has taught courses such as "The Inconvenient Indio: Imagining Indigenous Cultures in Peru and Bolivia," "Survey of Andean Cultures (Peru, Ecuador, and Bolivia)," and "Untamed: Cultural Representations of Nature in The Andean Amazon." García Liendo has just finished a book project titled *El intelectual y la cultura de masas: Argumentos latinoamericanos desde Ángel Rama y José María Arguedas*. He recently published "Las chicherías conducen al coliseo: José María Arguedas, tecnología y música popular." *Revista de crítica literaria latinoamericana* 38.75 (1er. semestre de 2012): 149-170, and "El reflejo y la memoria: Los zorros en la última novela de José María Arguedas." *Palimpsestos de la antigua palabra*. Ed. Helena Usandizaga. Oxford: Peter Lang, Hispanic Studies: Cultures and Ideas Vol. 58, 2013. 137-72, which is part of the project "Inventario de mitos prehispánicos en la literatura latinoamericana" at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. On November he gave an invited talk on his book project at the Program of Latin American and Latino Studies at Purdue University.

Stephanie Kirk Associate Professor of Spanish, has recently published articles in *PMLA* ("Mapping the Hemispheric Divide: The Colonial Americas in a Collaborative Context") and *Colonial Latin American Review* ("Sor Margarida Ignàcia's Apologia a favor do Reverendo P. Antonio Vieyra: An Eighteenth-century Reply to Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz's Carta Atenagórica"). She published the edited volume *Estudios coloniales latinoamericanos en el siglo XXI: Nuevos itinerarios* (Pittsburgh: ILLI, 2011), which features the work of leading scholars in colonial Latin American studies and is dedicated to exploring new issues and approaches in the field in light of recent theoretical debates and new interdisciplinary methodologies. Professor Kirk co-organized the symposium *Religious Transformations in the Early Modern Americas III*, which took place jointly at the MacNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, and Princeton University, November 11-12th, 2011. A volume of the same name is forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press. Professor Kirk gave invited lectures at the symposiums *American Religions/American Literatures*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, October 4-5, 2012 ("Gender and the Writing of Piety in New Spain"), and *Authority and Identity in Colonial Ibero-America* (A Richard E. Greenleaf Symposium on Latin America), University of New Mexico, April 10-11, 2013 ("The Urban Jesuit College and the Construction of Colonial Mexican Masculinity").

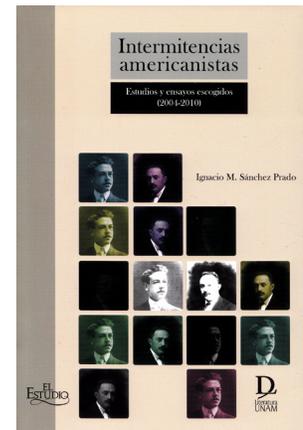


Tabea Alexa Linhard recently completed her second book, *Jewish Spain: A Mediterranean Memory* (forthcoming 2014). She is currently working on a collectively authored volume on *Mapping Migration and Identity: An Interdisciplinary Resource*. Her new research project, *Unexpected Routes: Exile, Migration and Memory (1931-1945)* examines how different forms of displacement shaped cultural production emerging from the Spanish Civil War and World War II in relation to the paths to safety that spread across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. A significant part of the book involves intellectual and cultural production of German exiles in Mexico in the 1940s.

Mabel Moraña The latest books published by Professor Mabel Morana in the last two years were: *Arguedas / Vargas Llosa. Dilemas y ensamblajes* (2013) and the edited volume *El lenguaje de las emociones. Afecto y cultura en America Latina* (co/edited w. Ignacio Sanchez Prado). Three collective books are forthcoming: *Para una crítica de la modernidad capitalista. Dominación y resistencia en Bolívar Echeverría; Democracia, otredad, melancolía. Roger Bartra ante la crítica*, and *Heridas abiertas. Biopolítica y representación en América Latina*. (the last two co-edited w. Ignacio Sánchez Prado). Also forthcoming: *Inscripciones críticas. Ensayos sobre cultura latinoamericana* (Santiago de Chile: Cuarto Propio). During this period, Professor Morana has lectured in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay and South Korea, as well as at several universities in the United States and Canada.



Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado published in early 2013 the book *Intermitencias americanistas. Ensayos y estudios escogidos (2004-2010)*, edited by the press of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The volume gathers his writings on major Latin Americanist writers and thinkers, such as Alfonso Reyes, Pedro Henríquez Ureña and José Vasconcelos, as well as writings on questions of literary criticism. Most of the texts included are available for the first time to Mexican readers. Prof. Sánchez Prado has been invited to lecture at many universities in the United States, Mexico, Canada and Europe. Most recently, he participated in a symposium of the international reception of German philosopher Walter Benjamin, organized by the Benjamin Archive and the Akademie Der Künste in Berlin. Prof. Sánchez Prado's next book, *Screening Neoliberalism. Transforming Mexican Cinema (1988-2012)* will be published by Vanderbilt University Press in the Spring of 2014.



Elzbieta Sklodowska is continuing in her roles as the Ombudsperson for Students in Arts and Sciences, University Reaccreditation Subcommittee Chair, and Director of the Summer Language Institute in Madrid. She also serves as Faculty Ambassador to Chile for the McDonnell International Scholars Academy and as a member of the Executive Committee for the Center of the Humanities. Most recently, she was elected to the Advisory Committee on Tenure, Promotion and Personnel for the 2013-16 term.

Her latest publications include "Sin guarniciones: el Periodo Especial en Cuba a través del lente gastronómico." *Realidades heterogéneas. Reflexiones en torno a la literatura, lengua, historia y cultura ibéricas e iberoamericanas. Homenaje a la profesora Grazyna Grudzinska*. (Warsaw, 2012) 295-308; "Reinventando la rueda: El Periodo Especial en el imaginario cubano." *Itinerarios* 16 (2012): 221-34, "Reinventing the Wheel: The Art of Survival in Post-Soviet Cuba." *The Figure in The Carpet* November 2012. Her most recent conference paper, "Double Crossings: Haiti in Cuba through the Writings of Joel James Figarola" was presented at the, Winthrop King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies Florida State University, Tallahassee, February 14-16, 2013. She continues to enjoy co-teaching the Cuba Focus Seminar freshmen (now in its 12th year) with Prof. Joseph Schraubman.

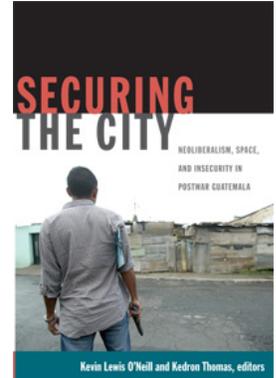
Art History and Archaeology

Ila N. Sheren will be publishing her first book, tentatively titled *Portable Borders: Performance Art and Politics on the U.S. Frontera since 1984* with University of Texas Press. In addition, another of her essays on U.S.-Mexico border art will appear in the forthcoming Blackwell *Companion to Modern and Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art* (September 2015). She is currently involved in research on antiglobalization movements in art of the twenty-first century.

Anthropology

Bret Gustafson is writing a book on the impact of natural gas exports on the relationship between Bolivia and Brazil, as part of a wider transformations of state and social movement geopolitics in the 'new' Global South.

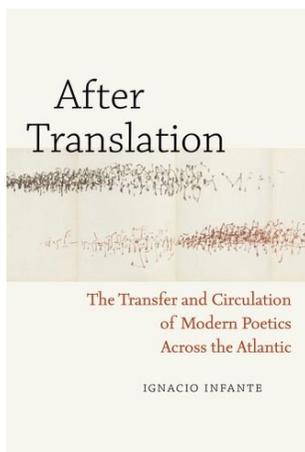
Kedron Thomas joined the anthropology department in Spring 2012 as assistant professor. Her research interests include violence, security, and the construction of illegality in Latin America, the globalization of intellectual property law, the anthropology of clothing, and indigenous forms of entrepreneurship, especially among Guatemalan Mayas. Her recent publications include a co-edited volume entitled, *Securing the City: Neoliberalism, Space, and Security in Postwar Guatemala* (Duke UP, 2011), and articles on clothing manufacturing and the "piracy" of global brand names in Guatemala in *Anthropological Quarterly*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* (forthcoming), and *Critique of Anthropology* (forthcoming). She is currently working on a book manuscript related to her research in Guatemala and embarking on a new project that examines the sustainability movement within the global fashion industry.



International and Area Studies

Steven Hirsch continues to work on a book project on the history of anarchism and working-class emancipatory politics in Peru. His co-edited volume with Lucien van der Walt, *Anarchism and Syndicalism in the Colonial and Postcolonial World, 1870-1940*, will be published in paperback with a new preface by Brill Academic Publishers (Nov. 2013). He also contributed a chapter on "Anarchist Visions of Race and Space in Northern Perú, 1898-1922" to Kirwin Shaffer and Geoffroy de Laforcade, eds., *In Defiance of Boundaries: Anarchism in Latin American History* (University Press of Florida, 2014). He presented the following conference papers: "Regional Variations of Transnational Anarchist Influence in Perú, 1903-1929", *Global Anarchisms: No Gods, No Masters, No Peripheries*, Cornell University, September 2012; "Transnational Anarchism and the 'Indian Question' in Perú, 1898-1929" *Radical Americas*, University College of London, January 2013; "Anarchism and Subaltern Modes of Resistance in Arequipa, Cuzco, and Puno, c.1900-c.1930" *Latin American Studies Association*, June 2013; "Anarquismo, anti-racismo y la lucha para la emancipación indígena en el Perú, 1898-1927" *Historias de Anarquistas*, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Mexico City, October 2013.

Comparative Literature



Ignacio Infante has recently published *After Translation: The Transfer and Circulation of Modern Poetics across the Atlantic* (Fordham University Press, 2013). *After Translation* examines from a comparative perspective the various ways in which translation facilitates the circulation of modern poetry and poetics across the Atlantic. It rethinks the theoretical paradigm of Anglo-American "modernism" based on the transnational, interlingual and transhistorical features of the work of key modern poets writing at both sides of the Atlantic—namely, the Portuguese Fernando Pessoa; the Chilean Vicente Huidobro; the Spaniard Federico García Lorca; the San Francisco-based poets Jack Spicer, Robert Duncan, and Robin Blaser; the Barbadian Kamau Brathwaite; and the Brazilian brothers Haroldo and Augusto de Campos. *After Translation* has been described by Rebecca Walkowitz as "an original, ambitious, and timely contribution to several established and emerging fields: comparative modernisms, transnational literary studies, poetics, and translation studies."

Political Science

Brian F. Crisp

“Institutional Interactions: Bicameralism in Presidential Systems”

With colleagues **John Patty** and **Maggie Penn**, I am working on a project to study bicameralism in presidential systems. Endowed with sufficient powers and made up of members with unique preferences, second chambers play an integral role in the workings of the policymaking process. Nonetheless, much of our theorizing and much of our empirical work are content to focus on lower chambers. Ignoring the existence of a second chamber can lead to misguided theorizing, erroneous hypotheses, and misleading interpretations of findings. Literatures on agenda control, coalition building, policy stability, and intercameral reconciliation procedures point to the need to systematically consider the role of a second chamber. We hope to advance the theory on how bicameralism works as a system, rather than as two independent chambers and to collect cameral procedures, transcripts of floor minutes, and roll call vote results in the nine upper chambers of Latin America. This project is being funded by the National Science Foundation (Grant # SES- 1227186).

Graduate Students Updates

Romance Languages and Literatures

Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles is a PhD candidate who completed the graduate certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexualities Studies in 2011. Her research interests include 19th Century Latin-American literature, Caribbean literature, Brazilian literature, Gender Studies, Cultural Studies, and Afro-Latin American Diaspora. In Spring 2013 she taught “Writing Love in Times of War: Latin American Women Writing Modernity.” She spent her summer traveling to La Habana (Cuba), and Montevideo (Uruguay), where she participated in the *Congreso Internacional Cuba Trasatlántica* and the *Coloquio Internacional Montevideana*. Also, she awarded the Bryant Travel Fund of Romance Languages and Literatures Department to pursue archival work in La Habana. Her article, “El esclavo y el letrado: máscaras de la auto-representación en la temprana narrativa antiesclavista cubana,” has appeared in *Confluence: Romance Language Journal* of Saint Louis University. Currently, she is working on her dissertation titled *Chasing Liberty: Black Criminalization, Leadership, and Writing in Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba (1830-1912)*.

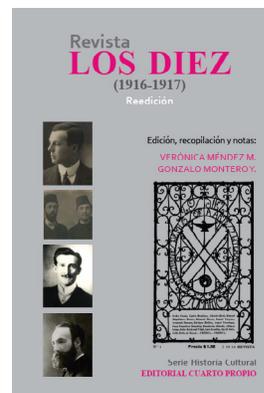
Iván Eusebio Aguirre Darancou is a third-year graduate student in the Hispanic Literature and Languages program and is taking the certificate in Latin American Studies. In Summer of 2012, he did research in Mexico City and Oaxaca, collecting interviews and articles on the use of hallucinogens in Mexican literature and the countercultural manifestations in material cultures as well as the creation of communes and alternatives for modernity. He presented these research findings in specialized conferences in spring of 2013, in El Paso and Irvine and will continue this line of investigations towards his dissertation.

Alexander Eastman is a fourth-year PhD student. His dissertation charts the formation of a Black Public Sphere in nineteenth-century Cuba through an analysis of diverse cultural productions, including the Black Press, antislavery narratives, popular theater and baseball. With the support of the RLL Bryant and Lichter Summer Travel Grant he spent several weeks in Havana this summer conducting archival research. In the past year he presented conference papers at LASA, MACHL, ASWAD and *Cuba Transatlántica*. He has a forthcoming article in the *Afro-Hispanic Review* about the autobiography of a black Cuban soldier, “Between Racism and Patriotism in *fin de siècle* Cuba: Ricardo Batrell’s Creative Resistance.”



Javiera Jaque Hidalgo is a third-year PhD student. Her main topic of research is the Latin American colonial literature and culture. Currently she is working on the dynamics of resistance and negotiations in the context of Jesuits evangelization in southern Chile. She co-authored with Professor Miguel Donoso the Preliminar Study of *Historia de todas las cosas que han acaecido en el Reino de Chile*, by Alonso de Góngora Marmolejo (Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2010), and the article “Vicios y virtudes del gobernador: El modelo literario clásico de los retratos o semblanzas en la historia de Góngora Marmolejo” (Revista Chilena de Literatura 76, 2010). Her paper “Pedro de Valdivia en tres textos coloniales. Estrategias retóricas, autoconstrucción y representación en torno a la figura del buen vasallo” was published in *Letras del Siglo de Oro Español: Actas del VII Congreso LESOE* (Salta, 2012). As well, she collaborated in the critical edition of the manuscript *Argentina. Historia del descubrimiento y conquista del Río de la Plata* (UBA, 2012). In 2012 she published a review of Hugo R. Cortés, ed. *Rebeldes y aventureros: del Viejo al Nuevo Mundo* (Taller de Letras, NE1, 2012).

Gonzalo Montero Yávar started his PhD in 2011. His main fields of interest are Latin American poetry, visual culture, peripheral avant-garde movements, and the relationship between literature and visual arts. He has published reviews and papers in Chilean peer-reviewed academic journals (*Mapocho*, *Aisthesis*, *Anales de Literatura Chilena*). In 2011, he edited and published two books in the Chilean press Cuarto Propio: *Revista Los Diez (1916-1917) Reedición*, and *Romanzas en gris (1922) Reedición*. Both projects were funded by “Fondo Nacional de Fomento del Libro y la Lectura,” of the Chilean Ministry of Culture. Currently he is working on papers about the work of Violeta Parra, Enrique Lihn, Nicanor Parra and the literary group “Los Diez.” In these articles, the focus is on the different manners by which these authors intervene in public debates regarding aesthetics and politics.



Rocío Plana Freixas is a third year PhD student with an academic and professional background in both History of Art and Hispanic Language and Literature. Her research interests include cultural heritage, socio-linguistics, migration movements and the representation of history in contemporary Caribbean. Her dissertation project explores tourism in the Caribbean as a determining factor for the production and consumption of culture with also important socio-spatial implications, focusing on how cultural and land policies implemented by the tourist industry in Cuba and Barbados contradict the historical processes of Cuban Revolution and West Indian Independence as seen through various literary and art works. She presented the paper “Development and Displacement: Gates communities in Barbados and the Restoration Project of Old Havana, Cuba” at MACHL 2012 and has recently worked as RA for Prof. Elzbieta Sklodowska in the topics of Special Period and Haitian presence in Cuba.

Silvia Juliana Rocha Dallos is a Colombian second -year PhD student, focused on Latin-American colonial literature and cultural studies. In addition to the PhD coursework, she will complete the Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. She received her B.A in History from Universidad Industrial de Santander (2008) and her M.A in History from Universidad de los Andes (2011). She received a scholarship for studies from the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies of the Universidad de los Andes (2009–2010), and a Colonial History Research Scholarship from the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History - ICANH (2010). Her research was entitled “Vélez Ladrón de Guevara y la representación del sujeto criollo en la poesía colonial neogranadina.” She has worked as a Professor in the Area of Spanish for the Department of Languages and Socio-cultural Studies from Universidad de los Andes and as teacher, tutor, and consultant for Training in Cultural Entrepreneurship at Cultural Ministry of Colombia. Recently she earned a Latin American Summer Grand and focused her research in the “Textos satíricos, anónimos y contraimperiales en México, 1810 – 1820”.

Pablo M. Zavala is a PhD student in Spanish, is participating in the certificate for Latin American Studies, and is a fellow of the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program. His main interests lie within Mexican literature and cultural studies. He received his BA in Philosophy from the University of Texas at El Paso, and earned both an MA in Philosophy and an MA in Spanish from the University of Wyoming. His thesis for the latter degree was titled “‘Todo México se ha vuelto loco’: los nombres y la locura en 2666 de Roberto Bolaño.”



Remembering Political Repression

Decades have passed since the end of the Latin American dictatorships, but the wound of violence and repression is still open in these societies. Cinema has been a privileged way to represent these dark years of the recent Latin American history. Join us for a free screening of four movies that explore issues of human rights, freedom, memory and political resistance. Sponsored by the **Latin American Studies Program & International and Area Studies**.

Garage Olimpo

Argentina, 1999. Directed by Marco Bechis

In the late 1970s, a young politically active Argentine woman is kidnapped by the military during Argentina's Dirty War. She is taken to a torture center called Garage Olimpo in the middle of Buenos Aires.

SCREENING: Friday October 25, 5:00 pm Brown 118.



O Ano em Que Meus Pais Saíram de Férias (*The year my parents went on vacation*)

Brazil, 2006. Directed by Cao Hamburger

Mauro, a 12-year-old boy, is suddenly deprived of the company of his young parents, Bia and Daniel Stein, who are political activists on the run from the Brazilian military regime.

SCREENING: Friday November 8, 5:00 pm Brown 118.



La historia oficial (*The official story*)

Argentina, 1985. Directed by Luis Puenzo

Within the context of the dictatorship in Argentina, the family of Alicia, a high-school teacher, is about to suffer an intense turn, when she realizes that there are elements of her past that had been hidden.

SCREENING: Friday November 15, 5:00 pm Brown 118.



No

Chile, 2012. Directed by Pablo Larraín

The advertisement creator Rene Saavedra is facing the challenge of working in the political campaign that could bring democracy to Chile after fifteen years of military dictatorship.

SCREENING: Friday November 22, 5:00 pm Brown 118.



José María Arguedas: Indigenous Cultures, Mass Media and Decolonization

Professor Javier García Liendo

At first glance, the inclusion of the work of the well-known Peruvian writer, anthropologist, and folklorist José María Arguedas in a discussion about intellectuals and mass media might seem surprising. Particularly, since one of the principal contexts associated with his work is that of *indigenismo* and the task of translating traditional Quechua cultures. While the latter posits Arguedas's work in the historical tension between indigenous cultures and the State within the debate concerning *Criollo* (Creole) nation-building, the former localizes Arguedas's intellectual practices in the midst of a different, but no less problematic, conjunction: the tension between indigenous cultures and the strengthening of capitalist societies and cultures. Although both debates, and both aspects of Arguedas's work, are profoundly interrelated, it is notorious that little attention has been paid by specialists to the challenges Arguedas had to face as an intellectual in the throes of a violent, ongoing transformation of Andean cultures, from pre-capitalist, local settings to a mass-oriented culture.

Immigration was the key process that propelled this cultural metamorphosis, which takes place during the second half of the 20th century. During the 1920s, roads started to create a network intended to serve the circulation of commodities, as a way of integrating Peru's nation through the creation of an internal market. Even though this process collided frequently with old and new problems—among them, an impossible geography that made Eric Hobsbawm wonder how did those crazy English engineers manage to build the Peruvian Central Railway at 15,840 feet—, roads were laid, and they quickly became the channel through which Indians and *mestizos* poured from the Andes into the coastal cities. By the 1940s, the process had become massive, and the presence of the sometimes-invisible *indios* was so disturbing to the city dwellers as the gradual invasion of Western culture was to the population of the villages and towns in the Andes. (The latter, of course, was the inevitable result of the ties that the Andean immigrants kept with their places of origin, and also, of the massification of the use of the radio). Thus, it was not the dream of Western modernity what started to create a material unity where the Nation took a new form, but rather, the collateral effects of that dream, and the chaotic mix of cultures, faiths and suffering produced by immigration within the national space.

With that *huayco* or avalanche of Andean people to the coast, came their music. Arguedas followed the Andean musicians to the coliseos folklóricos of Lima, helping them negotiate with entrepreneurs and confront the commodification of their traditional music. What is more, Arguedas perceived the increasing importance of radio culture among rural regions and the Andean immigrants in Lima, and he dared to promote the release of the first music records ever made of the most traditional Andean music in Peru. This story, which is mostly only known among some musicologists, has not been sufficiently evaluated in order to understand the challenging oeuvre of Arguedas as an intellectual. Ancient musical traditions were transforming into a mass-oriented culture, while Arguedas was confronting a double bind: to preserve the *indio* and *mestizo* cultures that he valued more than anything, or to propel the advent of a sort of modernity's monster comprised by ancient cultures, commodities, technologies, and urban spectacle. In this dilemma, Arguedas was far away from *indigenismo* and the task of translation. It could be argued that the new mass-oriented culture was producing its own "translation," without the meditation of the intellectual. It was also destroying the constantly evolving ethnic relations that shaped Peru as it was known by Arguedas. However, even though that new culture was deflating the role of the intellectual, Arguedas identified a unique historical opportunity in that process: the possibility of eliminating the complex articulation of coloniality. For Arguedas, the Andean past did not stand in the idealized image of the *indio* that circulated profusely during the 20th century. For him, that past was structured by colonial relations that prevented the Andean Indians and *mestizos* from appropriating the knowledge, technology, and political public spheres controlled by the dominant groups. Without an edifying celebration, with an immense sense of loss, Arguedas perceived the new mediasphere as a space of decolonization, as well as an unprecedented opportunity for the Andean cultures to become the center of a new national-popular culture.

I have been studying this problem in Arguedas's oeuvre in recent years, trying to reflect on the importance of the debates regarding intellectuals and media for the cultural history of 20th century Latin

America, and especially for the Andean region. My analysis of this aspect of Arguedas's work is part of a book that I have recently finished, which also examines a similar theoretical problem in the work of the Uruguayan literary critic Angel Rama. Deviating from the most common considerations of his work, my aim is to show Rama as an intellectual who—working in a different cultural region, and confronted with different dilemma within the spectrum of Uruguayan and Latin American print culture—, was, as Arguedas, also involved in working and reflecting on the juncture of media, capitalism, and culture.

Call for Papers. *Out of Bounds: Movements in and beyond Iberian and Latin American Cultures*

Washington University in St Louis
Spanish Graduate Student Organization

The Spanish Graduate Student Organization of the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures of Washington University in Saint Louis is organizing the 2nd Graduate Student Conference, "*Out of Bounds: Movements in and beyond Iberian and Latin American Cultures*" to be held on February 28-March 01 2014. The conference will emphasize, but is not limited to, the following topics:

- Diaspora and Nomadism
- Gender and Race
- Periphery
- Exile and migration
- Cultural mobility
- Globalization
- Violence
- Resistance
- Slavery
- Cosmopolitanism
- Memory
- Coloniality and Post-coloniality

Keynote Speaker: **Gwen Kirkpatrick, Georgetown University**

Individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes, (8 pages double spaced) and the abstract must be maximum 250 words. Panel proposals that include three presenters and a chair or commentator to moderate the panel are highly encouraged; these proposals must include a general abstract for the panel along with the name of the chair or commentator.

Submissions are due by 29th November 2013 and should be sent to: washugradconference@gmail.com
Please indicate in the subject Panel or Abstract, field of study and language.

We invite all submissions from interdisciplinary perspectives written in Spanish, Portuguese or English. See our web page for more details <http://rll.wustl.edu/events/outofbounds>.

For questions, please direct them to the email listed above, and we will respond promptly.
Registration fee: \$25 (to be paid at the conference)

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Portuguese at WashU

In August, 2013, PhD **Valeria M. Souza** joined the RLL department as the new Lecturer in Portuguese. She earned her PhD in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies & Theory from The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Her main research interests involve language and embodiment, and her areas of specialization include sixteenth-century Portuguese literature and twentieth and twenty-first century Brazilian literature, with sub-specializations in Disability Studies, Gender Studies, and Critical Animal Studies.

She teaches different Portuguese Language courses (Basic, Intermediate, Portuguese for Spanish Speakers, and Reading and Conversation). Also, she coordinates the “Mesa Lusófona”, that meets twice per week, on Mondays and Fridays from 12:15 - 1:15PM in Holmes Lounge.

Programs Abroad

Summer Program in Argentina

“This summer, I studied abroad in Buenos Aires for six weeks at the University of Buenos Aires. The program was through Butler University and is called Summer Institute for Study Abroad. This was Wash U’s first year sending students on the program, and I think it should continue recommending this summer program to future students.

I truly enjoyed my Argentine experience—a country I had heretofore knew little. One really exciting opportunity was the chance I had to explore Argentina outside of Buenos Aires. My newfound friends and I traveled to Mendoza for a long weekend—Mendoza being Argentina’s wine country. With the lower drinking age, I was happy to enjoy my fair share of Malbec. Not only did I enjoy Mendoza’s vineyards, but I also went on an all-day tour through the Andes Mountains. I must admit, it was a bit of a shock to the system—with it being winter as opposed to the northern hemisphere’s hot summer weather. In addition to exploring Mendoza (something I highly recommend), I also went to the Iguazú waterfalls—a sight too beautiful for words.

My experiences in not only Buenos Aires but also in Argentina as a whole changed my perception of the world to that of a more global one. Getting outside the bubble that is the United States helped me branch out of my comfort zone and experience while learning more about a different culture”.



WUSTL students in the Andes, Argentina

Jessica Greenberg

Focus Program in Cuba

The yearlong Focus Program in Cuba is directed by professors Elzbieta Sklodowska and Joseph Schraibman, from Romance Languages Department. It consists in two semesters of classes about Cuban culture and politics, and a trip to Cuba during Spring Break. The first-semester course, organized around the common theme of Cuban culture, traces the historical development of Cuban society from slavery through the Wars of Independence and the Republic. The second-semester course, *Stranger than Paradise: Cuban Experience of the Revolution*, covers a range of topics related to contemporary Cuba, including the politics of race and sexuality, censorship and dissent, African cultural heritage, and the fusion of differing religious practices.



Focus Program students and professors

Latin American Courses (Spring 2014)

ANTHROPOLOGY

3092 Indigenous Peoples and Movements in Latin America

Bret Gustafson

FOCUS

2602 Buenos Aires and the Construction of Argentine Culture

Andrew Brown

2671 Stranger than Paradise: Cuban Experience of the Revolution

Elzbieta Sklodowska

HISTORY

301 Latin American Visual Cultures as History

Ryan Jones

322C Modern Latin America

Ryan Jones

49RJ Advanced Seminar: Gender, Sexuality, and the Body in Latin America

Ryan Jones

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES

3800 Cultures of the Andean Region

Javier García Liendo

3824 Film and Revolution in Latin America

Ignacio Sánchez Prado

464 Nation and Desire in Latin America

Mabel Moraña

4660 Geographies of Development in Latin America

Rebecca Clouser

ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

252 Introduction to Latino/a Studies: Exploring Memory

Erika Conti

313 Chilean Contemporary Culture

Andrew Brown

3317 Hispanic Art/Arte Hispano

Virginia Braxs

3351 Spanish-American Literature I

Megan Havard

3355 Spanish-American Literature of the Long 19th Century: From Empire to Nation

Gonzalo Aguiar

3361 Spanish-American Literature II

Elzbieta Sklodowska / Javier García Liendo

405 Cinema and the invention of Mexico

Ignacio Sánchez Prado

450 Women's writing in Latin America

Stephanie Kirk

507 Body, Gender, and Power in Colonial Latin America

Stephanie Kirk

POLITICAL SCIENCE

4232 Presidents, Legislators and Economic Policy in Latin America

Brian Crisp

Editor

Mabel Moraña

Co-Editor

Gonzalo Montero