



A Word from Dr. Beate Allert, Director
Professor of German, Comparative Literature, and Film Studies



This is my third semester as Director of Comparative Literature. I served as member of the CMPL Steering Committee during 17 years when Prof. Charles Ross from the English Department directed it. This CMPL directorship, together with my recent book publication *Lessing: Poetic Constellations between the Visual and the Verbal* (Synchron 2018), mark a new era in my life. I am devoted to our wonderfully vibrant Comparative Literature Program. Thanks to our previous CMPL director and to the former graduate secretary, Elsa Schirmer. I am working now with Brandi Plantenga, our new Graduate Coordinator for the Comparative Literature Program, Prof. Venetria Patton, Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, and Prof. Alfred Lopez, Associate Head of SIS. I appreciate also the program support by Prof. Jen William, Head of the School of Languages and Cultures, and Prof. Dorsey Armstrong, Head of the English Department. We cross-list many of our courses among these three entities and share affiliated faculty and students. This sharing allows our Comparative Literature program a wide spectrum of expertise. The Comparative Literature program was established as a link between Foreign Languages and Literatures—now called School of Languages and Cultures—and the English Department. Our CMPL graduate program offers both MA and PhD degrees and has received excellent rankings. Graduate student applicants apply to the Purdue School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Comparative Literature program.

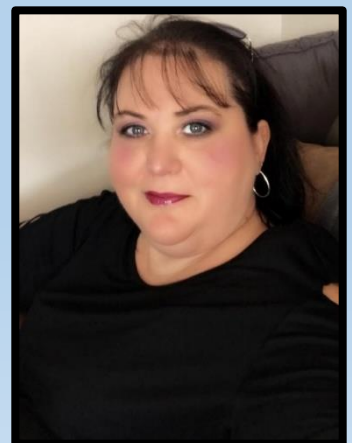
Program News

- Please join us for lunch each month of the Spring semester! Enjoy conversation, catch up on new developments within the program, and perhaps even share recent work while satisfying your appetite and quenching your thirst.
Thanks to Ricardo Quintana Vallejo for organizing our luncheons.



From front left Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, Nina Kurus from U Freiburg, Rachel Hackett, and Adrien Bernadinis from U Grenoble. Front back: Profs. Jen William, Shaun Hughes, Ahmed Idrissi Alami, Geraldine Friedman, Beate Allert, Angelica Duran, Cara Kinally, and our CMPL Graduate Secretary and SIS Program Coordinator Brandi Plantenga

- We had 24 applications to our Comparative Literature Graduate Program for fall 2019 and were able to accept four: three new applicants and one returning. We are very happy to welcome new graduate students into our Comparative Literature this fall 2019: Hassan Qatar Butt (Fulbright Scholar with a strong interest in world literatures), Rachel Hackett (now teaching assistant in French and exploring a range of CMPL courses) and Han Hao (interested and taking more classes in ancient Greek and Antiquity in addition to CMPL classes while being TA in Chinese). We also had one student returning to complete his degree while already firmly grounded in the business world in Texas, B. Whit Laga.
- At the beginning of the fall semester we were informed that former Graduate Secretary for the Comparative Literature Program Elsa Schirmer accepted a new position in Seattle. We thank her for all her work at Purdue University over the years.
- We welcome Brandi Plantenga, who was the Graduate Secretary of American Studies Program before and is now our new and already very well experienced and friendly Comparative Literature Graduate Coordinator. She is also the Assistant to the Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Please direct all CMPL administrative correspondences.
Brandi enjoys reading, spending time with her husband, son, and dog and loves going to all Purdue Football & Basketball games.



Upcoming Events

February 7th

**Dr. Christina M. Weiler, Teaching Assistant Professor &
Purdue Alumnus Dr. Joseph D. Rockelmann, Teaching Assistant Professor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

- Thursday – February 6, 2020
BRNG B254
1:30-2:45pm
in context of GER 330
Open to Public
“Expressionism, Freedom of Expression, and the History of Early German Cinema”
- Thursday – February 6, 2020
BRNG B242
3:00-3:45pm
in context of CMPL 267
Open to Public
- February 7, 2020
WL Public Library
(Elm & Walnut Rooms)
11:30am-2:00pm
“Professionalizing”
Inviting SIS/SLC
Graduate Students

Comparative Literature Presents Purdue Alumna
Dr. Christina Weiler, Teaching Assistant Professor &
Purdue Alumnus Dr. Joseph Rockelmann, Teaching Assistant Professor
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Thursday - February 6, 2020
BRNG B254
1:30-2:45pm
in context of GER 330
Open to Public

“Expressionism, Freedom of Expression, and the History of Early German Cinema”

- How did early cinema reflect a political landscape before the rise of fascism and before and after WWII?
- How can images, art, and cinema reflect and protest mainstream political developments? Case study.
- How did early 20th century artists and film producers predict and protest the dangers of fascism at their time?
- How do art and cinema serve to remind us of the holocaust, how do they protest war, and contribute to truth finding and freedom of expression?

Thursday - February 6, 2020
BRNG B242
3:00-3:45pm
in context of CMPL 267
Open to Public

In addition to the talk above, Dr. Weiler will direct a discussion on Henrik Ibsen's 1879 play *A Doll's House* with particular emphasis on women liberation and freedom of self-determination and speech in the context of nineteenth century naturalism.

Co-Sponsored by: Comparative Literature and School of Languages & Cultures



February 7, 2020
WL Public Library
(Elm & Walnut Rooms)
11:30am-2:00pm
“Professionalizing”

Experiences, challenges, and successes: Dr. Weiler & Dr. Rockelmann will offer advise about creating effective dossiers, portfolio, interviewing, career market strategies, life as multi-tasking teachers and with post-Purdue perspectives. Some advise by freshly minted Purdue Alumni and newly hired academics at another major university.

Light refreshments provided

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Events cont'd

March 27, 2020

Dr. Catalina Florina Florescu

Theatre Curator, New York Metropolitan Area

Friday – March 27, 2020

11:30am-2:00pm

WL Public Library, (Elm & Walnut Rooms)

Light refreshments provided

Author and professor, Catalina Florina Florescu discusses briefly her journey from critical to creative writing in her adoptive language and her return to her first love, theater.

The event at her alma mater happens on World Theater Day and it consists of showing short clips from Catalina's plays' staged readings in New York and London, respectively. After that, Catalina invites all participants to a workshop on drafting a play on the spot on a theme that shall be revealed then and there. The event is invigorating to emphasize the role of theater in troubled and/or transitory times, well as its immense healing powers. The workshop is also a good opportunity to have a hands-on approach to writing and performing. At the end, a play will be awarded a gift card courtesy of the guest speaker. Purdue will be Catalina's first stop in the States, her return would be evocative of her desire to connect people from Pace where she teaches and Jersey City Theater Center where she is a theater curator and Purdue, her beloved alma mater where she discovered her potential in a foreign language and fell in *love* with the fluid idea of being-in-the-world-with-others.

**Comparative Literature Presents Purdue Alumna
Dr. Catalina Florina Florescu
Theatre Curator, New York Metropolitan Area**

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11:30am-2:00pm**

**WL Public Library
(Elm & Walnut Rooms)
Light refreshments provided**



Author and professor, Catalina Florina Florescu discusses briefly her journey from critical to creative writing in her adoptive language and her return to her first love, theater.



Dr. Florescu was born in communist Romania and has been living in the States for the past two decades. Her interest in the human body, how it breaks and how it heals, has been part of her academic and creative research and writing, a passion that she discovered by accident, post a traumatic event in her life.

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Co-Sponsored by: Comparative Literature,
School of Languages & Cultures, English,
Anthropology, Theatre, Classics, Italian

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

Recent Events

A special event was the guest lecture by Berlin scholar and publisher Dr. Christian A. Bachmann who visited Purdue University on his USA lecture tour in September 2019. He spoke at Purdue University on September 10, 2019 about “Soundwaves and Semiotic Ripples: Visualizing the Invisible in European Periodicals and Early American Comics.” He also spoke in the context of another class on “Kafka’s Metamorphosis” These events were co-sponsored by Comparative Literature and the School of Languages and Literatures and they drew wonderfully engaging audiences. We are also thankful to the West Lafayette Public Library to have offered us their beautiful Elm and Walnut Rooms upstairs for this occasion.



Dr. Christian A. Bachmann (Berlin) 

“Sound Waves and Semiotic Ripples: Visualizing the Invisible in European Periodicals and Early American Comics”

Dr. Christian Bachmann (Berlin) International Guest Lecture

co-sponsored by the Purdue University Comparative Literature Program, School of Interdisciplinary Studies and the School of Languages and Cultures in the context of Prof. Beate Allert's “Ekphrasis and Visual Theory” course

held in English, open to the general public
reception and discussion included

Welcome to the new Graduate Students



Hassan Qadeer Butt

Hassan is on a Fulbright Scholarship. He is here to pursue an MA in Comparative Literature at Purdue University. His areas of interest include Postcolonial studies, South Asian Anglophone literature, Partition literature, Urdu Novels, Modern Urdu Poetry, Institutionalization of Literary Study and Decoloniality. Hassan has worked as a teacher, public speaking instructor, and as an oral historian in Pakistan before he joined us in August 2019.



Rachel Hackett

Rachel is a new MA student in Comparative Literature at Purdue from Detroit, Michigan. She graduated in December 2018 from Wayne State University with a double major in English and French. This semester Rachel is teaching two sections of French 201. Rachel is interested in crime literature, trauma theory, and feminist theory. She also came in August 2019.



Han Hao

Han is a new MA student in Comparative Literature and a teaching assistant in Chinese. He received his Bachelor's degree in Chinese Language and Literature from Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou. Han has been taking courses in ancient Greek, Biblical literature, and literary theory. His interests include Classics, literary criticism, and reception studies that involve Classics and later literary thoughts. He studied one year at UC Berkeley CA and is new here at Purdue since August 2019.

Welcome New Faculty into our Comparative Literature Program

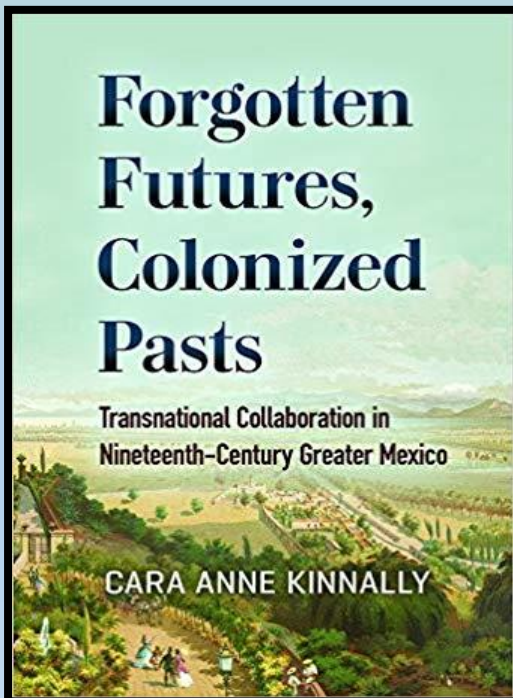
Dr. Cara Kinnally

Associate Professor, School of Languages and Cultures (Spanish)

We are happy to welcome a new affiliated faculty member, Dr. Cara Kinnally, Associate Professor of Spanish at Purdue University. She received a combined Ph.D. in Hispanic Literatures and American Studies from Indiana University in 2013. Her research centers on the legacies of race/racism, colonialism, and nationalism in Spanish American and U.S. Latino/a literary and cultural production from the nineteenth century to the present, with a special focus on Mexican and Mexican American literature. Her current book project, *Between Two Empires: Spanishness, Whiteness, and Transnational Collaboration in Greater Mexico*, examines how nineteenth-century Mexican and Mexican American writers negotiated and strategically employed discourses of Spanishness, whiteness, hemispheric solidarity, and modernization in an attempt to foster the building of transnational coalitions and political as well as intellectual communities with Anglo Americans.



Bucknell University Press published Dr. Kinnally's *Forgotten Futures, Colonized Pasts: Transnational Collaboration in Nineteenth-Century Greater Mexico* in April of 2019.



Dr. Kinnally's book traces the existence of a now largely forgotten history of inter-American alliance-making, transnational community formation, and intercultural collaboration between Mexican and Anglo American elites. This communion between elites was often based upon Mexican elites' own acceptance and reestablishment of problematic socioeconomic, cultural, and ethnoracial hierarchies that placed them above other groups—the poor, working class, indigenous, or Afro-Mexicans, for example—within their own larger community of Greater Mexico. Using close readings of traditional literary texts, such as novels, as well as diaries, letters, newspapers, political essays, and travel narratives produced by nineteenth-century writers from throughout Greater Mexico as evidence, *Forgotten Futures, Colonized Pasts* brings to light the forgotten imaginings of how elite Mexicans and Mexican Americans defined themselves and their relationship with Spain, Mexico, the United States, and Anglo America in the nineteenth century. These “lost” discourses—long ago written out of official national narratives and discarded as unrealized or impossible avenues for identity and nation formation—reveal the rifts, fractures, violence, and internal colonizations that are a foundational, but little recognized, part of the history and culture of Greater Mexico.

CMPL Faculty News

Dr. Beate Allert

Director, Comparative Literature

- On January 5, 2019, Prof. Beate Allert presented at the MLA Convention in Chicago on “Lessing, Fable Theory, and the Principle of Reduction.” Her new book *G.E. Lessing: Poetic Constellations between the Visual and the Verbal* (Synchron 2018), had just been published a couple of weeks before (www.synchron-publishers.com).
- During the summer 2019 she conducted an independent study with second year Comparative Literature MA study with Shiyu Zhang on the topic “Representations of Pain and Visuality in Chinese War Literature and Film” in which Lessing’s *Laocoon* approach was applied.
- Dr. Allert is teaching a graduate course “Ekphrasis: Visual-Verbal Dynamics” this Fall 2019. The course has 14 participants including two lecturers, one from U Freiburg and one from U Grenoble of our Purdue U exchange programs. It sparked marvelous presentations by all involved, a diverse international and interdisciplinary group with wide-ranging backgrounds and fascinating research topics, including debates from antiquity up to the latest research concerning ekphrasis or how to present images, or articulate verbally and acoustically the visual. A visit to Purdue Digital Envision Center was on the schedule in the context of Melanie Swan’s presentation (she is an ABD from the Department of Philosophy). The course involves research into various modes of visuality in literature, poetry, the visual arts, photography, philosophy, psychology, science and cognition. Participants come from countries such as China, France, Germany, Pakistan, Spain, and the USA.
- Beate Allert spoke at a film evening in the context of the SLC World Film Series this year. She introduced and discussed the film “*Welcome in Germany: Willkommen bei den Hartmanns*” (2016) which addresses various perspectives on aging, adoption, family dynamics, cultural diversity, multiculturalism, and immigration, all very relevant topics not only in Germany and Europe but also elsewhere. The film touches upon these serious topics in the context of a lighthearted comedy. A lively and interesting discussion followed.
- She received an ASPIRE Grant to chair a panel and to present a paper at the Annual Conference of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (ASECS 2020) in St. Louis in March 2020. On behalf of the Lessing Society she chairs the panel “Lessing and Dreams” and will also give a talk on A. von Humboldt.
- A co-edited book on Alexander von Humboldt, tentatively titled *Alexander von Humboldt: Seeing the World*, is in the planning stage and most likely to be published by Purdue University Press. The idea to co-edit such a book gained its first spark when Beate Allert taught Niall Peach, a graduate student in Spanish Literature at Purdue a GER 590 special topics course in Fall 2018. Niall’s dissertation, on whose committee Beate Allert serves, will closely examine the work of this author who travelled from Europe all the way to South America, met President Thomas Jefferson, travelled across Mexico, Cuba, Peru and back to Europe and then to Siberia before he died in Berlin. Alexander von Humboldt was one of the very first environmentalists. We celebrated his 250th birthday with a display glass case in Stanley Coulter Hall that showed some of his books, images, maps, and articles about him (amongst some animals, shells, rocks, and on shiny blue waves. The book will be co-edited by Beate Allert, Christopher Clason, Niall Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo. John Purdue, the founder of our university, also had also an interest in the travelogue by Alexander von Humboldt and there are interesting documents in our Purdue University archives. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, ABD will chair the Humboldt panel at the ASECS conference in St Louis in March 2020.

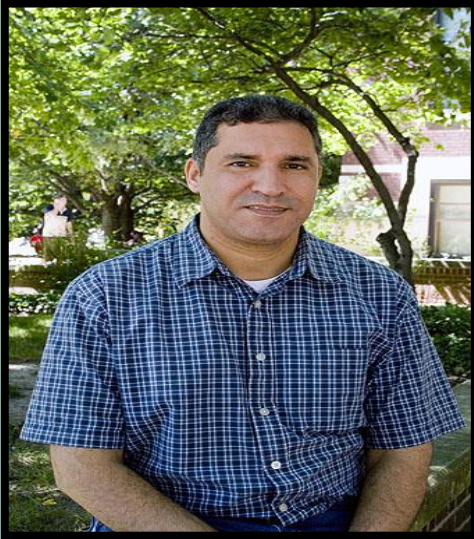


News cont'd

Dr. Ahmed Idrissi Alami

Associate Professor of Arabic, School of Languages and Cultures, CMPL Affiliate

- Dr. Alami, Associate Professor, co-authored an article on a newly discovered manuscript written by a Muslim African slave in Jamaica written in English transcribed in Arabic script. WMQ: "Muhammad Kabā Saghanughu's Arabic Address on the Occasion of Emancipation in Jamaica" *The William and Mary Quarterly* Volume 76, Number 2, April 2019, 3rd series .



- Dr. Alami has been invited to present further research on this subject in the symposium American Contact: Intercultural Encounter and the History of the Book, which will take place at Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania on April 23-25, 2020.
- He is presenting the paper "Appropriation of Imperial Texts and the Reconfiguration of Arab Cultural History" in MESA international conference (New Orleans, LA, Nov. 14-17, 2019) in the panel "Multilingualism, Cultural Diversity, and the Evolution of Arabic Literature," and he is the organizer of the MESA 2019 panel "Worlding Arabic Literature through Transnational Contexts." He will also be one of the facilitators of the MESA's Committee for Undergraduate Middle East Studies (MESA, New Orleans, LA, November 14 from 1:00-4:00 pm).
- He will also co-preside the panel "(Re) Imagining Early Modern Anglo-Arab Encounters" scheduled at the Modern Language Association Convention on Friday, 10 January 5:15 PM-6:30 PM, 201 WSCC in Seattle, WA, Jan. 9-12, 2020.

Dr. Nadège Veldwachter

Associate Professor, Francophone Literatures
School of Languages and Cultures,
CMPL Affiliate

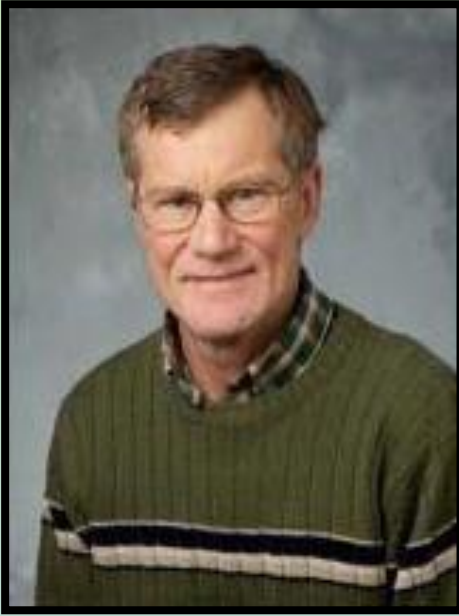
- Conference: "Lessons 'le pays en dehors' Taught Us: The 1937 Haitian Massacre and the Holocaust," 13th Meeting of the International Association of Genocide Scholars (IAGS), The Rutgers Center for the Study of Genocide and Human Rights and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at American University of Phnom Penh, 14-19 July 2019, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Invited Talks:

- "Humanitarian Aid and Small Nations," Genocide and Agency in Africa and the Diaspora, 6th Annual Genocide research Symposium, Northeastern Illinois University, November 5th, 2019.
- "The Tyranny of the Gift: The Politics of Human Rights between Haiti and Israel," Spring 2020 Scripps College Humanities Institute series "(Re) Centering Wounds," Scripps College, February 8th, 2020).



News cont'd



Dr. Thomas Broden

Professor, School of Languages and Cultures (French), CMPL Affiliate

Dr. Broden presented his plenary lecture “(Dés)accords collectifs: Le développement du groupe de recherches (post-)greimassien” [Collective (dis)agreements: The development of the (post-)greimassian research group] at the Congress of the Association Française de Sémiotique, meeting on the topic “(Dés)accords: à la recherche de la différence propice [(Dis)agreements: in search of the propitious difference],” held at the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon, France, on 11–14 June 2019.

Professor Broden chairs Lang Wang’s PhD Committee.



Dr. Broden (right) also chaired the session “(Dés)accords médiés [Mediated (dis)agreements]” at the conference, and was elected a Member of the Executive Committee and a member and representative of the International delegation of the Association Française de Sémiotique.



Dr. Thomas Broden (left) at the Congress of the Association Française de Sémiotique in Lyons, France

News cont'd

Dr. Angelica Duran

**Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and
Religious Studies**

- In 2018-19, Dr. Angelica Duran earned a Purdue Enhancing the Humanities fellowship that enabled her to conduct research at the Dalí Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA, in June 2019 and at a number of museums and libraries in Strasbourg, France, in July 2019 for her monograph-in-process *Milton in Hispanoamerica* and edited collection-in-process *Global Milton and Visual Art*, contracted with Lexington Press.



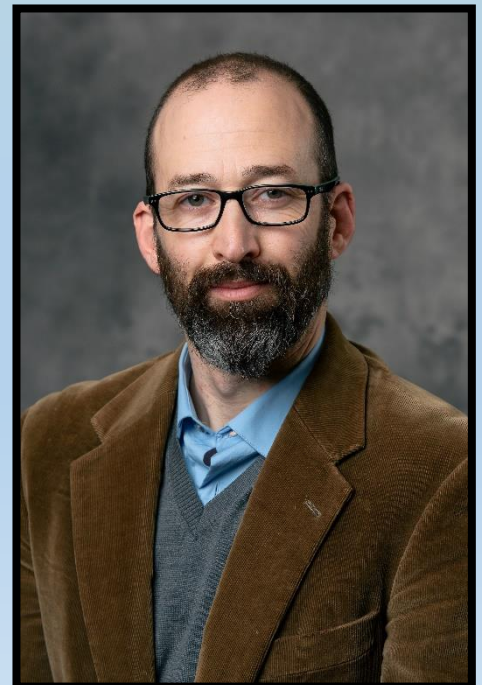
- In August 2019, she collaborated with contacts at the Universidad Veracruzana-Xalapa in Mexico as a Fulbright Specialist.
- Awards:
 - Harry Ransom Center (UT Austin) Distinguished Fellowship, \$2,000
 - Fulbright Specialist, “The Settling and Unsettling of the Americas: Books, Libraries, Presses, Maps”; Universidad Veracruzana, Xalapa
 - Purdue Office of the Vice President for Research and English Department - Subvention Award for *Milton in Translation* (Oxford UP) and *Milton among Spaniards* (U of Delaware P), \$2,750
 - Purdue Office of the Vice Provost Transformation Plan Award for “Latinx Faculty Retention and Success,” \$500
 - Purdue College of Liberal Arts Enhancing the Humanities Grant, “Global Milton2,” \$31,900; Dalí Museum, St. Petersburg, FL, and research on Gustave Doré, Strasbourg, France
 - Milton Society of America’s 2017 Irene S. Samuel Memorial Award for

an outstanding multi-author volume, *Milton in Translation*, ed., Angelica Duran, Islam Issa, and Jonathan R. Olson. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2017 January 2019

Dr. Jeffrey Turco

**Associate Professor of German, School of Languages and Cultures,
CMPL Affiliate**

- Dr. Jeffrey Turco has been on sabbatical in 2019. This year he was a Senior Fellow at the Martin Marty Center for the Public Understanding of Religion at the Divinity School of the University of Chicago. He has been working on a project on the intersection of religious, literary, and proverbial language in Grimms’ *Children’s and Household Tales* as a lens on the tangled “juncture of realities code-named ‘religious’ and ‘secular’” in German literature and society in the nineteenth century.
- Dr. Turco spoke on “Integrating the Liberal Arts” in a panel on “Teaching Literature to Non-Majors in other Departments” at the MLA Annual Convention in Chicago. An article of his on the Old Norse Saga of Perceval is forthcoming in *Arthurian Literature*.

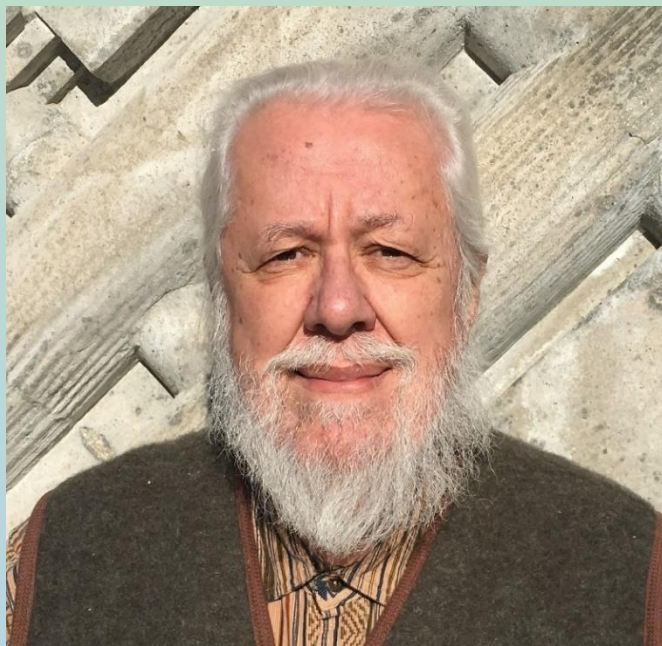


News cont'd

Dr. Shaun F. Hughes

Professor of English, Medieval Studies, Post-colonialist Studies, and Comparative Literature

- Dr. Shaun Hughes is a long-time member of the affiliated faculty in the Program in Comparative Literature.
- In April 2018, he served as the major professor for Malick Coly who defended his dissertation in Comparative Literature on “Secular Discourse in Postcolonial West African Narratives: Problems and Perspectives. A Comparative Study.”
- Currently Dr. Hughes serves as chair for Meng Wang who is close to finishing her dissertation on the seventeenth-century Chinese novel, *Xingshi Yinyuan Zhuan* (“Marriage as Retribution, Awakening the World”) and is a member of the dissertation committees for Ghaleb Alomaish and Fan Jiacheng.
- In 2018, Dr. Hughes was invited to present the lecture, “‘A Never-Ending Story’: History, *Saga*, and Secondary Creation” for the AMS Forskermøde [Arnarnagnæan Researcher Meeting] in the Arnarnagnæan Institute, Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics, University of Copenhagen, and he gave the following conference presentations: “Assembling Memory: The Danish Commission for the Conservation of Antiquities’ Questionnaire of 1817-1823 and the Origins of Icelandic Romantic Nationalism,” International Conference on Romanticism: “Romantic Assembly,” Greenville, SC; “*Atla saga Ótryggssonar*: Old Wine in a New Bottle, The 17th International Saga Conference: Íslendinga sögur, Reykjavík and Reykholt, Iceland; “Herder’s Influence on the First Published Collection of Icelandic Folklore: *Íslenzk æfintýri* (Reykjavík, 1852),” International Herder Conference: “Herder and the 19th Century,” Parainen (University of Turku), Finland; and “Seeing through Animal Eyes: Imagining Non-Human Alterity in Old Norse,” 2018 Medieval Association of the Midwest Conference: “Exploring Space in the Middle Ages,” Purdue University, West Lafayette.
- In 2019 he has presented the conference papers: “Deafness, the Inability to Speak, and how such Disability is Addressed in Medieval Iceland” at the 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo and “Inkle and Yariko in Iceland” at the 109th annual Meeting of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies” in Madison, WI.



Student Achievements

- ❖ Ghaleb Alomaish, working on a comparative study of Modern Arabic and English representations of Arabia, will be defending his dissertation by the end of the academic the year May 2020 (advised by Dr. Idrissi Alami). His working title is “Shifting Sands. A Comparative Study of Saudi and American Representations of Saudi Arabia 1932-2019.”
- ❖ Hassan Butt, first semester MA student in CMPL with a Fulbright Scholarship 2019-2020, is presenting at a conference organized by South Asian Literary Association (SALA) next year in January. The theme of the conference is “South Asia in the Academy: Classroom Practices, Professional Citizenship, and Intellectual Agency”. The title of his paper is “State and the Marginal Place of South Asian Literature in English in Pakistan's English Departments". It is an ongoing project which details the ways in which literary study is institutionalized in South Asia. Fulbright funding will assist Mr. Butt’s conference trip. Hassan also has a publication in the local journal in Pakistan: Akbar, Anam, and Hassan Qadeer. “The Difference Between Pakistani Idiom and Indian Idiom: A Case Study of *Mohsin Hamid’s The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and Aravind Adiga’s *The White Tiger*.” *Explorations*, vol. 27, 2016, pp. 75-91
- ❖ Jiacheng Fan successfully completed his Prelims and Prospectus Defense for the PhD on November 20, 2019. He is writing his dissertation on the transcendental in Chinese and Western literatures (advised by Dr. Allert).
- ❖ Riham Ismail, Ph.D. candidate presented a paper in the international conference 'Failing Identities' that took place in Belgium in Fall 2019. Last Spring, Riham Ismail in collaboration with the French department, received Purdue's Engagement Grant for successful community outreach: “Speaking Lafayette’s Language: Re-Linking The French Cultural Heritage of Greater Lafayette.” Her dissertation (advised by Dr. Paula Leverage) is about to be completed in 2020.
- ❖ Lang Wang, passed her preliminary exams in November of 2018 and her prospectus defense in February of 2019 (advised by Dr. Broden). Lang also received a Lynn Fellowship during 2019-20, gave birth to a baby in April 2019, and will defend her dissertation in 2020, “Aspirations and Ambivalences of New Women: Comparative Study of French and Chinese Women’s Works in the Early Twentieth Century”.
- ❖ Zihan Wang, Ph.D. Candidate, defended his dissertation prospectus on “Fiction Medicine, Nationalism, and the Communist Revolution in China since 1900” in Spring 2018 and has since been working on his dissertation integrating Chinese and American studies, film, medical discourses, with literature and culture studies for his Comparative Literature Ph.D. He received a PRF Research Grant from Purdue University and hopes to complete his doctorate in 2020. His adviser is Prof. Dino Felluga who just returned back to Purdue U after a sabbatical.

Achievements cont'd

- ❖ Ricardo Quintana Vallejo (advised by Dr. Duran) will be defending his dissertation “Children of Globalization: Diasporic Coming-of-age Novels in Germany, England, and the United States” in April 2020. In Spring 2019 he received the *Certificate of Outstanding Achievement in Teaching Spanish* by the School of Languages and Cultures and the *University Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award* by Purdue University. He also received the *Certificate of Outstanding Achievement Teaching German* by the School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue U. Ricardo is co-editing an Alexander von Humboldt book of essays with Professor Allert. Ricardo has also recently published an article: Quintana-Vallejo, Ricardo. “Geografía humana de la colonia Roma: Las ciudades imaginadas en El vampiro de la colonia Roma (1979) y Las batallas en el desierto (1981).” *Chasqui Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana*, vol. 48, no. 2, 2019. He participated in the German Studies Association Conference: “Breaking the Bildungsroman: How *Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre* Breaks the Mold It Is Said to Create”. *German Studies Association*. Forty-Third Annual Conference. Portland, OR. Oct. 3-6, 2019.



- ❖ On August 19, Whit Laga (advised by Dr. Allert) defended his thesis “The Picturesque Domestication of Iran for an American Counter-Modern Retreat” and finished with his MA with Professors Beate Allert as chair of the committee and Professor Charles Ross from English, Professor Stacy Holden from History, Professor Ahmed Idrissi Alami from Arabic/SLC serving on the committee.



This picture to the right shows in the center B. Whit Laga after he defended his Master's Thesis “The Picturesque Domestication of Iran for an American Counter-Modern Retreat” on August 19, 2019. His committee members Ross (left), Allert, Holden (History), and Alami.

Faculty Publications

❖ Dr. Beate Allert

- Book: Beate I. Allert, *G.E. Lessing: Poetic Constellations between the Visual and the Verbal* (Synchron, 2018).
- Beate I. Allert, “Linien, Punkte und Chiffren: Konzeptualisierungen des Graphischen“ in *Text/Script: Schrift und Grafisches im Vergleich* (Bielefeld, 2019), ed. Linda Simonis and Monika Schmitz-Emans (Bielefeld: Aisthesis, 2019), pp. 241-258.
- Beate I. Allert, “Transitions and Slippages of Mimesis in E.T.A. Hoffmann’s *Der Goldene Topf*, *Die Fermate*, and *Das oede Haus*” in *E.T.A. Hoffmann and Transgressive Romanticism*, ed. Christopher Clason. Liverpool University Press, 2018, pp. 94-111.
- Beate I. Allert, “Temporality in Herder and Bergson,” in *Herder and the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Liisa Steinby (Synchron forthcoming December 2019). This essay was based on a presentation she gave at the International Herder Conference in Turku, Finland with the support of a Purdue ASPIRE Grant.
- Professor Allert also submitted two book reviews which are accepted and to be published: one for *Goethe Yearbook 2020*, the other in *Lessing Yearbook 2020*.
- Prof. Beate Allert is planning to be co-editing a book on Alexander von Humboldt, tentatively titled *Alexander von Humboldt: Seeing the World*, is underway. The idea to co-edit such a book had its spark when Beate Allert taught Niall Peach, a graduate student in Spanish Literature at Purdue a GER 590 special topics course in Fall 2018. This book will closely examine the work of this author who travelled from Europe all the way to South America, met President Thomas Jefferson, travelled across Mexico, Cuba, and back to Europe and then to Siberia before he died in Berlin. Alexander von Humboldt was one of the very first environmentalists. We celebrated his 250th birthday with a display glass case in Stanley Coulter Hall that showed some of his books, images, maps, and newspaper articles about him (amongst some animals, shells, rocks, and on shiny blue waves (made of a bright turquoise silk scarf). The book will be co-edited by Beate Allert, Christopher Clason, Niall Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo. He discovered that John Purdue, the founder of our university, also had also an interest in Alexander von Humboldt and that there are interesting documents in our Purdue University archives. Ricardo, who focuses on John Purdue reading Alexander von Humboldt, is chairing the Humboldt panel at the ASECS conference in March 2020 (also with Allert and Peach among the panelists there).

❖ Dr. Thomas Broden

- “Algirdo Juliaus Greimo bibliografija” [Bibliography of Algirdas Julius Greimas]. In *Algirdas Julius Greimas: asmuo ir idėjos 2* [*Algirdas Julius Greimas: The self and ideas II*]. Edited by Arūnas Sverdiolas and Eric Landowski. Vilnius: Baltos lankos, 2018, pp. 661–692. Lithuanian translation by Jūratė Levina. Chronological list of full references to the first publication of Greimas’s 410 books and articles.

Publications cont'd

❖ Dr. Angelica Duran

- Book: *Milton among Spaniards*. University of Delaware Press, 2019.
- Article: Duran, Angelica and Richard Strier. "Introduction: *Surprised by Sin* at Fifty." *Milton Quarterly* 52.4 (2018): 303-07.
- Article: "Chinese Christian Studies and Anglophone Literary Studies: A Response to Chin Ken Pa's 'Chinese Marxist Biblical Criticism on Jesus: A Study on W.T. Chu (朱维之)'" Guest ed. Sharon Kim and Chloe Starr. *Christianity & Literature* 68.1 (Dec. 2018): 86-99.
- Article: "Milton's Prose Works in the Hispanophone World." *Aletria* 28.3 (Jul.-Sept. 2018): 63-81.
- Chapter: "Epilogue." *Digital Milton*. Ed. Islam Issa and David Currell. Palgrave Macmillan, 2018. 245-59.
- Translation: "A Statue, a Poet, a Poem, and a Translation," introduction with English translation of the 24-line Spanish poem "Harvard Yard" by Mario Murgia. *Milton Quarterly* 53.2 (2019): 115-117.
- Translation: Duran, Angelica* and M Cadawaller with Tim Bolton. English verse translation of Giner de los Ríos's [Spanish] *Milton: Drama in One Act and in Verse*." *Milton Quarterly* 51.4 (2018): 222-293.
- At the MLA Convention in January 2019, the Milton Society of America awarded the volume *Milton in Translation* (Oxford UP, 2017), which she lead-edited, the Irene Samuel Memorial Award.

❖ Dr. Shaun Hughes

- Article: "Runic Signatures in Old English and Early Modern Icelandic Poetry," *Schrift und Grafisches im Vergleich* (Bielefeld, 2019), 395-406.
- Article: "The Use of Proverbs in the Medieval Icelandic *Exempla* and Related Texts," *Words by the Northern Way* (Tempe, 2019), 91-118.
- Article: "The Relationship of the Anomalous Ballad *Þorgeirs rímur* [Stjarkarhöfða] to *Áns rímur bogsveigis*," *Ballads of the North, Medieval to Modern* (Kalamazoo, 2019), 29-54.
- Article: "Cold-War Confrontations: Gerpla and its Early Reviewers." *Scandinavian-Canadian Studies* 26 (2019): 208-39.
- Last year, Dr Hughes published: "The Fortunes of a *Fornaldarsaga* Manuscript" in *The Legendary Legacy: Transmission and Reception of the Fornaldarsögur Norðurlanda* (Odense, 2018) and "Hallgrímur Pétursson and the Icelandic Baroque," *JEGP* 117 (2018).

Fall 2019 Course Offerings

Check out other recent course offerings:

<https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html>

CMPL 650/ENGL 665/LC650 *Ekphrasis & Visual Theory*

Prof. Beate Allert

This graduate course explores interrelations between images and texts, paintings and literature, visual artists and poets from the eighteenth century to the present. It involves selected case studies of Ekphrasis, invites individual projects by students, and requires close readings of both literature and art works. The course draws from selected readings of literary texts and careful viewing of artworks and interacts with such theorists as, Stephen Cheeke, James Heffernan, Christopher Collins, W.J.T. Mitchell, Valerie Robillard, Barbara Stafford, Ruth Webb, and/or others. Students will select their own focus within this broad research field.



WORLD LITERATURE

Discover the World Through Literature
Homer to Hamlet Fall 2019

ENGL/CMPL 266
World Literature:
From the Beginnings to 1700
TR 3:30-4:15pm



Instructor: Ricardo Quintana Vallejo
Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature
Research focus on Migrant Literatures and Diasporas in
Contemporary US and Europe
For more information email me at quintan0@purdue.edu



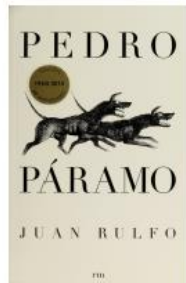
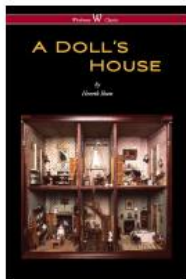
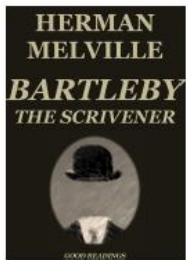
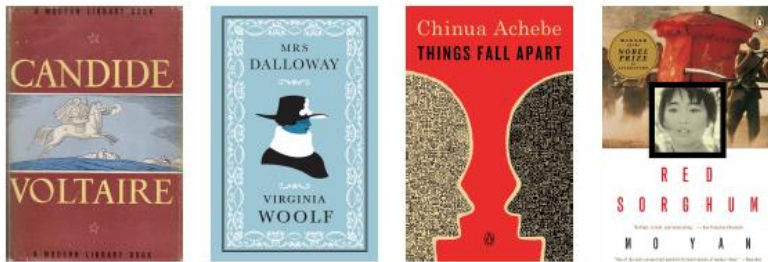
CMPL 266/ENGL 266 *World Literature* Ricardo Quintana Vallejo

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of a range of genres, topics, and literary conventions characteristic of world literatures.
- Discuss those genres, topics, and conventions in relation to their diverse historical, cultural, and aesthetic contexts.
- Produce well-reasoned written arguments about the literature they study based on appropriate use of textual evidence.

Spring 2020 Courses

CMPL 267 – World Literature



WORLD LITERATURE

Seven Countries
Seven Great Works
Spring 2020

ENGL/CMPL 267
From 1700 A.D. to the Present
TR 3:00-4:15pm



Instructor:
Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo
Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative
Literature
Research focus on Migrant
Literatures and Diasporas in
Contemporary US and Europe

For more information email me at
quintan0@purdue.edu

Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, ABD., has taught the two consecutive World Literature courses in the Comparative Literature Program this year: CMPL 266 World Literature 1: from Antiquity to the Eighteenth Century in Fall 2019 and World Literature 2: From Eighteenth Century to the Present in Spring 2020.

New Course Spring 2020!

NEW COURSE! Spring 2020 - T/Th 12:00-1:15pm - GER/CMPL/REL 230

A Brief History of Doom: Ragnarok & Other Apocalypses

Human Cultures: Humanities (HUM)



This course explores the idea of the “end of the world” in Old Norse, biblical, and other traditions, ancient and modern. Topics include visions of the apocalypse and afterlife in Norse Mythology, Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, Shakespeare’s *King Lear*, and Marvel’s *Thor* franchise. We will consider how thinking about “The End” has shaped the present in varied historical and cultural contexts.

(Prof. Jeffrey Turco, e-mail: jturco@purdue.edu)

All readings in English. No prerequisites.



Alumni News

- ❖ **Yuhan Huang** (Ph.D. 2018) is now an Assistant Professor of Chinese at Rochester Institute of Technology.
- ❖ **Yingying Huang** (Ph.D. 2018) is now a Visiting Assistant Professor of Chinese at Lafayette College in Easton Pennsylvania.
- ❖ **Tulin Ece Tosun** (Ph.D. 2018), upon graduation, started working as an instructor at Purdue University English Department where she was teaching English Composition for international student. Since August 2019, she has been working at PLaCE (Purdue Language and Cultural Exchange Program) as a continuing lecturer where she is teaching Introduction to American Language and Culture. Currently, Tulin is co-editing an anthology titled “Women Rewriting History: Critical Resistance through Literature, Film, and Art” with Dr. Lis Bernstein. In this edited anthology she is also publishing her article “*Kadinin Destani: A Contemporary Rewriting and Revision of the Epic of Gilgamesh in Turkish Literature.*”
- ❖ **Malick Coly** (Ph.D. 2018) is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor of French at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania in Slippery Rock, PA.
- ❖ **Laura Ramiro Moreno** (Ph.D. 2018) is currently a Limited Term Faculty in Spanish at the University of North Georgia.

*Thank you for your interest and ongoing support.
Wishing you a wonderful holiday season and all
the best for 2020!*

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