A Word from the Director of Comparative Literature
Professor Beate I. Allert

This is my fifth semester as director of the Comparative Literature Program, and we are excited to have four PhDs completed since our last newsletter: Dr. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo, Dr. Ghaleb Alomaish, Dr. Riham Ismail, and Dr. Zihan Wang. Congratulations!!!! We also had dissertation prospectus defenses, three graduate students in the PhD program advanced to candidacy ABD: Jiacheng Fan, Stacey Smythe, and Alejandro Rodriguez de Jesus. Three graduate students are expected to complete their MA next semester, each with a Master’s Thesis: Hassan Butt, Rachel Hackett, and Han Hao. Best wishes! We had 20 strong applications into our Comparative Literature Graduate Program for fall 2020 and were able to accept two new students despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic: Gwénäël Jouin from the U Sorbonne Paris and Andrew Kroninger from State U Tennessee. Both are excellent recipients of Lynn Fellowships. We are also proud to have Fulbright scholar Hassan Butt with us. Lang Wang, ABD, received a PRF Grant this year. Thank you for unwavering support of our Comparative Literature program.
Dr. Catalina Florescu (Alumna Comparative Literature Purdue University)  
Theatre Curator, New York Metropolitan Area

Due to the pandemic this event was cancelled. We will be rescheduling when we are able.
In February 2020, we had two guest lectures: Alumna Dr. Christina Weiler, Teaching Assistant Professor and Alumnus Dr. Joseph Rockelmann, Teaching Assistant Professor, both now from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Weiler gave a public talk on “Expressionism, Freedom of Expression, and the History of Early German Cinema” which inspired a large audience for lively discussion. She also spoke in the CMPL World Literature class on Henrik Ibsen’s 1879 play *A Doll’s House* with a particular emphasis on women’s liberation and freedom of self-determination and speech in the context of nineteenth century naturalism.

The following day, Christina and Joe offered a stellar PowerPoint presentation for graduate students with much advise about the ways of “Professionalizing,” including in how to create effective dossiers and portfolios.

In February 2020, Dr. Howard Mancing, Professor Emeritus of Spanish and Comparative Literature, spoke about his latest book *The Life of Miguel de Cervantes in Fact and in Fiction* with a few s(n)ide remarks about his contemporary, William Shakespeare.
Welcome to the new Graduate Students

Andrew Kroninger

Andrew is entering his first year as a Ph.D. student of Comparative Literature. After having spent the past six years at Middle Tennessee State University earning his B.A. (English), B.S. (German) and M.A.T. (also in German), Andrew is excited to be in West Lafayette and to be a part of Purdue. Though he will read and study anything put in front of him, his long-term research involves the worldwide influence of Fyodor Dostoevsky on fiction writers and the factors enabling his works to transcend place and time as impactfully as they have. Being fluent in the German language and experienced with Russian, it is his hope that he will be able to combine his passions for language, literature, and history into unique and worthwhile contributions to the field of Comparative Literature.

Gwénaël Jouin

Gwénaël is a PhD student interested in the 17th, 18th and 19th century French, British and American novel. His work focuses mostly on the Picaresque Novel and the Histoire comique. He is also interested in Rhetoric, History and Philosophy. He speaks French, English, Spanish and reads Latin.
Welcome New Faculty

Dr. Patricia Hart
Professor, School of Languages and Cultures

Patricia Hart (PhD University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) is a Professor of Spanish. She has written widely on Hispanic film, popular culture, and literature, and has given invited lectures on Hispanic film all over the U.S. and in Spain, Colombia, Ireland, Italy, and England. Her most recent scholarly work is on sound design and history in Spanish cinema. Hart received the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in memory of Charles B. Murphy in 2007. Her positions at Purdue have included Chair of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Chair of Purdue’s Inter-Disciplinary Film and Video Studies Program.

Dr. Aletha Stahl
Senior Intercultural Learning Specialist,
International Programs-CILMAR

Aletha Stahl, PhD in Comparative Literature from the University of Iowa, is a Senior Intercultural Learning Specialist within Purdue’s Center for Intercultural Learning, Mentorship, Assessment and Research (CILMAR). Before joining CILMAR two years ago, she spent more than two decades in the Department of Languages and Cultures at Earlham College, where as Professor of French and Francophone Studies she taught multiple courses in French and in interdisciplinary programs; developed and led international study programs in Martinique, Haiti, and Montreal, among others; served as Teaching and Learning Consultant and Co-Director for the Center for Social Justice; and advised students both academically and on their senior capstones. At Purdue, her responsibilities include working with instructors and programs on curricular needs assessments and intervention design related to intercultural learning, facilitating workshops primarily for faculty and staff, and managing the Growing Intercultural Leaders Program.
Dr. Thomas Broden:

- Grant: Co-investigator, member of research and organizing team, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada, “Subventions savoir” Grant for “Dictionnaire de sémiotique bilingue en ligne” (“Bilingual Online Dictionary of Semiotics, with Glossary and Conceptual Maps”), Louis Hébert of Université du Québec Principal Investigator, $165,000 for 2017–2022.

Dr. Angelica Duran

- She was recognized by Dean Reingold on CLA’s For the Honor recognition on her sixth book.
- She completed the contract for the 28-chapter edited collection, Milton across Borders and Media (Oxford UP, forthcoming 2022), which is co-editing with Islam Issa (U Birmingham), her co-editor from the award-winning Milton in Translation (Oxford UP 2017).
- Her entry on Paradise Lost is part of the digital resource, World Epics, https://edblogs.columbia.edu/worldepics/, which also houses the entry on The Thebaid by former Director of Comparative Literature Charles Ross; and that here 5-minute video is part of the "Purdue Experts on COVID-19" webpage, https://www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/faculty-expert-videos/, to pay tribute to the very troubling pandemic and show the value of literature in all times.

Muhammad Hassan Qadeer Butt, (MA Student)

- Hassan is presenting his paper “Pakistan as Borderland in Intizar Husain’s Basti and Quratulain Haider’s River of Fire” in the panel “Writing Pakistan: Literature, Nationhood, and Identity" at the 52nd Annual Convention of the Northeastern Modern Language Association.

Alomaish Ghaleb (Alumnus)

- Ghaleb is a new Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature in the English Department at the Jazan University in Jazan, Saudi-Arabia.

Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo (Alumnus)

- Ricardo has a two-year postdoc position in the National Autonomous University of Mexico with his project "Intersectional Cartographies of Urban Spaces in Queer-Migrant Coming-of-age Novels in the United States."
Student Completions and Rights of Passage

Ph.D. Completed this academic year:

❑ Dr. Ghaleb Alomaish, (Ph.D. 2020) defended his dissertation in April 2020, “Image Projection and Perception in Saudi, Arab, and American Literatures.” (Chair: Ahmed Idrissi Alami, Committee Members: Beate Allert, Shaun Hughes, Aparajita Sagar). He already has a long-term university teaching position and a beginning Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature in the English Department at the Jazan University in Jazan, Saudi-Arabia.


Ricardo also has a new book completed accepted and to be published (December 2020) with Routledge Press: *Children of Globalization Diasporic Coming-of-Age Novels in Germany, England, and the United States*. Preorder is available [here](#).

❑ Dr. Riham Ismail, (Ph.D. 2020) defended her dissertation in May 2020, “The Construction and Negotiation of Identity and Place in Muslim Women's Fictional Narrative.” (Chair: Paula Leverage, Committee Members: Jean Beaman, Keith Dickson, Aparajita Sagar).


ABD Completed (Prelim and Prospectus Defense, advanced to candidacy)

❑ Lang Wang "Aspirations and Ambivalences of New Woman: French and Chinese Women’s Press and Fiction, 1900–1930.” (Chair: Thomas Broden, Committee Members: Daniel Hsieh, Germina Veldwachter, Hongjian Wang) Lang was awarded the Purdue Research Foundation Research (PRF XR) Grants. This is a one-year award to assist faculty who supervise PhD research in the development of new (or the continuation of ongoing) research projects, by providing for a PRF Research Assistantship. Lang is working with Dr. Thomas Broden. Lang’s article “Nationalist and Anti-Nationalist Feminist Discourses in Late Imperial China” is published by *International Comparative Literature*. Her French article “Vers un nouveau modèle philosophique pour l’amour” is accepted by *The French Review*.

❑ Jiacheng Fan “The Pursuit of Epic in Modern Chinese Literature” (Chair: Beate Allert, Committee Members: Hongjian Wang Route, Shaun Hughes)

❑ Stacey Allyn Smythe “The Confluence of Art and Theater in the Age of Michelangelo and Shakespeare” defended her prospectus defense June 2020 (Chair: Beate Allert, Committee Members: Elena Coda, Catherine Dossin, Daniel Morris)

❑ Alejandro Rodriguez de Jesus “Sharing Dylan’s Euphantasios Role in Francoist Spain” (Chair: Dan Morris, Committee Members: Beate Allert, Patricia Hart)
Publications and Work in Progress


• **Beate I. Allert**, “Temporality in Herder and Bergson,” in *Herder and the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Liisa Steinby (Heidelberg: Synchron, 2020), 345-357. Allert’s essay was based on her presentation at the International Herder Conference in June 2018 in Turku in Finland, supported by a PRF travel Grant.


• **Broden, Thomas F.** “Pour la méthode comparative en sémiotique: l’exemple des études sur le récit” [For the comparative method in semiotics: the example of narrative studies]. *Semiotica* 234. Published online in March 2020, print edition anticipated late 2020. 7,300 words, 14 pages.


Publications and Work in Progress, continued


- **Broden, Thomas F.** “Diachronija i rezhimi diskursa v intellektual’noj biografii” [“Diachronies and discursive regimes of the intellectual biography]. Русский семиотический альманах [Russkij semioticheskij al’manah/Russian Semiotic Almanac] (Moscow) 2. Translated by Inna Merkulova from the French. 5,000 words, expected in early 2021.


Spring 2021 Course Offerings

Check out other recent course offerings: https://cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/courses/complit.html

CMPL 630 Functions and Methods / LC 630 Literary Theory and Bibliography
Prof. Beate Allert

This course helps student to hone their scholarly tools, to work on research and writings skills from a variety of theoretical perspectives. It is for graduate students who prepare themselves for research, conference presentations, and publication. We shall interact with a variety of philosophical and critical approaches to literary texts and culture study, including Hermeneutics, Reader Response Theory, Structuralism, Visual Theory, Poststructuralism, Marxist Literary Theory, Frankfurt School, Gender and Feminist Criticism, Psychoanalytic Theories, New Historicism, postcolonial, minority, and from a wide spectrum; apply MLA style & professionalize as a scholar.

CMPL 267 World Literature II
Alejandro Rodríguez de Jesús

This is a course on world literature from around 1700 to the present. We will focus on texts from different nations and genres. Although representative of only a small portion of the broad richness in World Literature, these texts showcase a wide variety of genres, styles, and themes. The main objective of this course is to read works of world literature and think about why these texts are important. In order to do that, we must place each work in a global literary context; this in turn means that we will attempt to define what makes a literary work overstep its national, language-based borders and become “world literature.”
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**CMPL 230/ARAB 334 North African Literature & Culture**
Prof. Ahmed Idrissi Alami

Survey of the culture and society of North Africa (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya) with emphasis on issues of American Orientalism, transatlantic cultural history, race, identity politics, immigration, gender, and negotiations of modernity through literature, and other forms of artistic expressions, including film, folk tales and music. This class surveys the Maghreb from a (trans-) historical perspective, giving special emphasis to the modern cultures as shaped by both the Early Modern, Colonial and Postcolonial experiences of North Africa. *No prerequisites. All readings in English.*

**HIST 641 Interdisciplinary Global Readings**
Ariel de la Fuente

This reading seminar intends to feed the methodological imagination of students by showing them how economics, psychology, literature, and art can enhance their historical research. It may help them learn, for example, how developments in psychology can prepare scholars to deal with the problem of bias that all researchers (regardless of discipline) permanently face in their own investigations. At the same time, readings will show how the historical method has been applied to other fields and used to challenge accepted explanations of problems as varied as the behavior of the market economy or the origins of photography. In short, one of the major goals of the seminar is to encourage methodological cross-fertilizations that potentially may lead to innovative contributions in the students’ respective fields. In addition, the readings are global in scope and cover cases and processes in Europe, Asia, Africa, the US, and Latin America.
We wish everyone has a wonderful winter break and we look forward to the start of the Spring 2021 semester.