# PURDUE COMPARATIVE LITERATURE





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### A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

### PROFESSOR BEATE ALLERT

The biggest news came in August when we were informed that our Head of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, Professor Venetria Patton, resigned from Purdue University and became a Dean at the University of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana. Congratulations to her and thanks for the support she has given our Comparative Literature Program over the years. Professor Alfred Lopez has now taken on the role of Interim Head of SIS and we welcome him cordially and look forward to more years of excellent communications.

My contract as Director of Comparative Literature at Purdue University was renewed in August 2021 for another three years (renewable), based on the wonderful support I got from all of you, much appreciated, thanks!

Although the last year was still marked by ongoing Covid 19 restrictions, with online teaching until this Fall 2021 semester (so glad to be face-to-face again!), and cancelled events that had been planned but postponed until next year, it was still a productive year. We had five students who graduated from Purdue University last year (3 MA and 2 PhDs). We were able to accept one new graduate student into our graduate program in Comparative Literature, so we hope to accept more in the future to balance out the numbers of departures and arrivals.



# RECENT & UPCOMING EVENTS



Dr. Catalina Florina Florescu Friday, March 25th

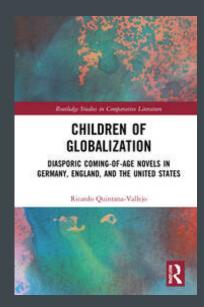
One of our distinguished alumni, Catalina holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature and Medical Humanities and is actively interested in issues related to the body as seen through immigration, LGBTQ, and interdisciplinary lenses. She currently teaches courses in theater, literature, cinema, and writing at Pace University in New York City, and is the New Play Development Curator at Jersey City Theater Center. Catalina's recently published volume is titled Staging Breast Cancer Trilogy, a volume about theater just as much it is about healing through it. Readers can find useful information from therapists, cancer survivors, in addition to the voices of the characters themselves. She will come to speak about her work and her visit will be sponsored by Comparative Literature, Classics, Italian, and Theater Departments.

Dr. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo April 2022

Purdue Comparative Literature alumnus who finished with his PhD in May 2020, and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University National Autónoma de Mexico, will come back to speak to our program to give lectures and speak about his new book *Children of Globalization: Diasporic Coming of Age Novels in Germany, England, and the United States* (Routledge 2022). He is also a co-editor of the volume *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World* contracted to be forthcoming with Purdue University Press. His visit will be sponsored by Comparative Literature, Spanish, and German Departments (SIS and SLC).

We hosted our Comparative Literature program dinner on Thursday, November 18th. Thank you to all who joined us!





# WELCOME TO OUR NEW GRADUATE STUDENT



We are very excited to welcome Ching-Jen Sun from Taiwan into our Comparative Literature PhD program. He joined us in August 2021 with a Fulbright Fellowship to begin with. He came to Purdue with Fulbright Graduate Study Full Grant. He obtained a Master's degree from the Institute of Foreign Languages and Literatures at National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan. Prior to coming to the US, he worked as an English tutor for eight years, and a translator for five. Ching-Jen is also a baseball player, and a guitarist who released two albums. He can be reached at sun999@purdue.edu.

### **GRADUATIONS**

- Hassan Butt competed his Master's degree with his thesis "From Partition to Kashmir: Comparative Study of Borderlands and Borderization in South Asian Literature," directed by Professor Aparajita Sagar.
- Rachel Hackett completed her MA with a thesis on "Crime Fiction as a Lens for Political and Social Critique in the Modern Arab World: Elias Khoury's White Masks and Yasmina Khadra's Morituri," directed by Professor Ahmed Idrissi Alami.
- Han Hao completed his MA with a thesis on "Milton's Iconoclasm and Homeric Images in Paradise Lost," directed by Professor Beate Allert. Han Hao was accepted by the University of California at Santa Barbara into the PhD program in Comparative Literature with a scholarship.
- **Dr. Lang Wang** was honored with a PRF grant from Purdue University last year and has completed her Ph.D. with a dissertation on "Aspirations and Ambivalences of New Woman: French and Chinese Women's Press and Fiction, 1900-1930," directed by Professor Tom Broden. She has accepted a permanent faculty position at Beijing Institute of Technology, a major research university.
- Dr. Meng Wang completed her PhD with a dissertation "An Annotated Translation of Chapters 21-30 of the Late Ming Dynasty Novel, Xingshi yinyuan zhuan 醒世姻缘傳 (Marriage Destinies to Awaken the World),"directed by Professor Shaun Hughes. Meng Wang has a continuous academic teaching position at Mercyhurst University in Pennsylvania.

### FACULTY DEPARTURES

- Dr. Partricia Hart, Professor of Spanish, Comparative Literature, and Film, has retired.
- Dr. Clotilde Landais, Associate Professor of French, Comparative Literature, and expert in Digital
  Humanities., has left Purdue University for another permanent academic teaching position in Hong Kong.
  Thanks to both wonderful colleagues who have done excellent work in our Comparative Literature
  program during the past years, heartfelt congratulations, and best wishes!

## **PROGRAM NEWS**



Jiacheng Fan was awarded a 2021-22 Ross-Lynn Research Scholar Fund for his dissertation titled "The Evolution of Shishi and Its Influence on Chinese Historical Fiction, 1950 to Present"

Committee members: Beate Allert (chair), Shaun Hughes, Daniel Hsieh, Hongjian Wang

Jiacheng wrote a project description, which we've shared below. Congratulations to Jiacheng!

My current project aims to address the lack of transcultural and historical perspective in the study of the Chinese term shishi among the current scholarship. By implementing the methods of new historicism and sociology of literature, it shall examine the genealogical development of shishi and its long-lasting influence on modern Chinese literature, especially the critic and creation of historical fiction. Originally invented as a translation for the Western term "epic," shishi was then greatly expanded and modified by Chinese intellectuals and eventually evolved into a unique aesthetic paradigm for evaluating literary works and inspiring writers. My project will explain how a foreign literary concept converged with local ideologies, producing something new and distinct that became, as I shall argue, one of the most influential tropes of literature during the socialist period of China.

The evolution of shishi could be divided into two major phases. First is the revolutionary era (1949-78), when writers tried to build a unified identity for the newborn nation with literary works inspired by communist ideology. After 1978 is the post-revolutionary era, marked with writers' effort of borrowing more experimental elements to supplement their visions of shishi. Therefore, instead of providing a single static definition, my project will try to demonstrate the flexible nature of shishi and demonstrate how its connotation changed throughout different eras.

### Gwénaël Jouin



- Monitored a session in April titled "Sense and Senses in Milton's Garden and Other Places" at the Renaissance Society of America. The session was sponsored by the Taiwan Association of Classical, Medieval and Renaissance Society. The presenters were Pr. Chia-Yin Huang from the Chinese Culture University in Taipei, Taiwan, William Chien-Wei Yang from the National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan, and Gwénaël Jouin. Gwénaël presented a paper titled "Milton and the Poetics of Flowers" and he is now working towards its publication.
- Gwénaël also earned a Research Assistantship to work on Pr. Angelica Duran's
  and Pr. Islam Issa's *Milton Across Borders and Media* (Oxford UP, 2022/3). He
  makes sure the articles' footnotes and Works Cited lists match the Oxford
  University Press format.



**Kristin Leaman** is the new HSSE librarian that liaises with Comparative Literature. She is here to support the program with any of our library and information literacy needs. Here she introduces herself:

I have a BA (Theatre) and MA (English Literature) from Purdue University, and an MLS with a specialization in Rare Books and Manuscripts from Indiana University. During my graduate years, I was a GA in the Purdue Archives and Special Collections. I spent two years as the Special Collections Cataloger at the Lilly Library and then served as the Bicentennial Archivist and then Assistant Archivist at the Indiana University Archives. I am currently writing my dissertation for a PhD in English Literature from Purdue University. My research interests involve textual studies and print culture in early modern England. My office is in Stewart Center 253, email is leamankb@purdue.edu, phone 496-0907. I'm happy to meet virtually or in-person!

### Dr. Olga Lyanda-Geller

• We are happy to welcome Olga as a new Comparative Literature affiliated faculty! Her areas of specialty are the Russian language, modern Russian literature, philosophy of language, history of language, and linguistics. She will be serving on the committee for Andrew Kroninger, one of our PhD students.

### Dr. Jen William

- Professor and Head of the School of Languages and Cultures, was recognized by Dean Reingold on CLA's For the Honor for the recent publication of her co-edited book, *The Tender Gaze: Compassionate Encounters on the German Screen, Page, and Stage* (Boydell & Brewer 2021). This new essay collection develops a new supplemental gaze theory known as the "tender gaze" and traces its occurrences in German film, theatre, and literature. Jen's own essay on post-dramatic theatre is included in the volume.
- Additionally, Jen, along with co-author Howard Mancing, Professor Emeritus of Spanish, signed a contract with Palgrave McMillan Publishing for a forthcoming book in the series *Cognitive Approaches to Performance and Literature*, out sometime next year.

### Dr. Angelica Duran

- She spoke on "Milton in Hispanoamerica" as the keynote speaker at the British Milton Seminar (virtual, March 20, 2021)
- She participated in the April 2021 Renaissance Society of America Virtual 67th Annual Meeting, as a presenter on "Milton Visualized for Children, ca. 1900–2021," as a respondent on the panel "Milton and Globalization: The Arts," and as the chair of the panel "Milton and Globalization: Variations on/of Reading."
- In Spring 2020, she completed her Harry Ransom Center (UT Austin) Distinguished Fellowship, to work on her monograph-in-progress Milton in Hispanoamerica.
- On campus, she interviewed the YA fiction writer, first in coordination with the Purdue Latino Cultural Center Literature Club (November 2020), "Virtual Author Visit with Sandra Fernandez Rhoads, Author of Mortal Sight (2020)," then during the Purdue English Department and Student Union Board's 70th Annual Books & Coffee Series (February 2021), "Sandra Fernandez Rhoads's Mortal Sight."



### Alejandro Rodriguez de Jesus:

Completed his prelims and prospectus defense in Fall 2020 and taught the
 CMPL 267 World Literature course in fall last year with such success that he
 received the Excellence Teaching Award in the School of Languages and
 Cultures. He is working on his dissertation, chaired by Prof. Daniel Morris
 (English Department) and with Professors Patricia Hart, Beate Allert, and
 Alfred Lopez on the committee. His dissertation topic is: "Sharing Dylan's
 Euphantasiotos Role in Francoist Spain."

#### Dr. Beate Allert

### Lectures/panels:

- Beate I. Allert, "Goethe and Climate Change" Lecture was presented at the Atkins-Goethe Conference November 5-7, 2021 in Chicago on November 6, 2021 Rubenstein Forum organized by the Goethe Society of North America. Beate Allert received a Purdue University ASPIRE Grant for this.
- ASECS 2021: Beate I. Allert chaired the panel "Lessing and Dreams" on Zoom on Saturday April 10, 2021. Classes taught:
  - CMPL 630 Professor Allert taught the graduate seminar on Functions and Methods of Literary Interpretation, cross-listed with LC 630 Literary Criticism and Bibliography with 10 graduate students from countries including China, France, Nigeria, USA in Spring 2021.
  - CMPL 590 Han Hao (Allert as his major professor) Special Topics Course "Metaphor: Hans Blumenberg and Others" (summer 2020). He completed his MA thesis in summer 2021 and was then accepted at the University of California in Santa Barbara in August 2021 to complete his doctorate there with a fellowship he received.
  - CMPL 698 MA thesis by Han Hao "Iconophobia: Interpreting Signs of Zeus in Homer" directed by Beate Allert.
  - CMPL 590 Shiyu Zhang, "An Analysis of Love between Victims of War in Geling Yan's Little Aunt Crane and Taika Waititi's Jojo Rabbit" (summer 2020).
  - CMPL 699 (Stacey Smythe, as co-chair of her committee until then) Dissertation Prospectus defense on June 26, 2020 (Topic then: "Something from Nothing; Nothing from Something: Redefining Shakespearean Tragedy as the Failure of the Artist to Actualize Potential within the Context of Renaissance Self-Fashioning.") New topic as defined then: "The Confluence of Visual Art and Theater in the Age of Michelangelo and Shakespeare" Beate Allert now chair of committee.
  - CMPL 699 Jiacheng Fan dissertation advising as chair of committee Fall 2021. He is the recipient of a Purdue Fellowship 2020-2021.
  - CMPL 699 Shiyu Zhang, dissertation advising as co-chair Fall 2021.

#### Dr. Thomas Broden

- 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"), Louis Hébert of Université du Québec Principal Investigator, \$165,000 for 2017–2022.
- Purdue College of Liberal Arts Aspire grant "The Development of Semiotics in France and the USA" to deliver an address in Limoges and do research in Paris, Sept.-Oct. 2021, \$2,500

# PUBLICATIONS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

### Dr. Angelica Duran

- Published her seventh book, Global Milton and Visual Art (Rowman & Littlefield, 2021), for which she leadedited and for which she co-authored "An Introduction: Things Visible" and single-authored the chapter "Doré's Illustrations with Cromos in El Paraíso perdido."
- Published two chapters, "Emilia Pardo Bazán's Milton" in Women (Re)Writing Milton (Routledge, 2021) and "Mexican Miltons" in *Making Milton* (Oxford UP, 2021)
- She and her co-editor Islam Issa (Birmingham, UK) have progressed on the contracted edited collection,
   *Milton across Borders and Media* (Oxford UP, forthcoming 2022/3), enough to successfully recruit as a
   Research Assistant Purdue Comparative Literature doctoral student Gwénaël Jouin to oversee formatting
   matters for the 26 chapters.
- Her most recent digital publications are the 48-minute audio-recording "Episode 7: Paradise Lost 7" (2021) in Promiscuous Reading: A John Milton Podcast and 13-minute audiovisual recording "Lycidas, 1637 and 2021" 2021 Milton Society of America Annual Dinner Program.

### Dr. Shaun Hughes

- "The Cursed Carolers in Medieval and Early Modern Scandinavia." The Cursed Carolers in Context. Ed.
  Lynneth Miller Renberg and Bradley Phillis. Studies in Medieval History and Culture. London: Routledge,
  2021. 125-41.
- "Stories Found on Stone Walls: Contemporary Research on the *Riddarasögur*." *Scandinavian Studies* 93 (2021): 114-40.
- "Assembling Memory: The Questionnaire of 1817 from Den kongelige Commission til Oldsagers Opbevaring
  and the Origins of Icelandic Romantic Nationalism." Myth, Magic, and Memory in Early Scandinavian
  Narrative Culture. Studies in Honour of Stephen A. Mitchell. Ed. Jürg Glauser and Pernille Hermann. Acta
  Scandinavica. Cambridge Studies in the Early Scandinavian World 11. Turnhout, Brepols, 2021. 301-20.
- "How the Story "Das Abenteuer der Neujahrsnacht" (1818) by Heinrich Zschokke (1771-1848) became an Icelandic Saga." *An Icelandic Literary Florilegium: A Festschrift in Honor of Úlfar Bragason*. Ed. Marianne Kalinke and Kirsten Wolf. Islandica 62: An Issue of New Norse Studies. Ithaca: Cornell University Library, 2021. 75-103.

### Dr. Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo

- "Indiana Reads Alexander von Humboldt." *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World.* Purdue University Press, in press.
- "No Mass or Kaddish: The Forgotten Poet in Heinrich Heine's Late Poetry." *Memory in German Romanticism*, accepted manuscript.
- Smil, Vaclav. ¿Deberíamos comer carne? Trans. Ricardo Quintana Vallejo. Fondo de Cultura Económica, in press.
- Murrah-Mandril, Erin. *In the Mean Time*. Nebraska Press, 2020. *In Mexican Studies*, vol. 37, no. 2, Aug. 2021.
- "Outgrowing *Gastarbeiterliteratur*: Germanness Redefined in the Poetry of Zafer Şenocak and Zehra Çirak." *North Meridian Review*, vol. 1, no. 1, Sep. 2020. Pp. 7-28.

### Gwénaël Jouin

• Pr. Dino Felluga, along with Marybeth Perdomo, Alex Anderson, Monica Wolfe, Ayla Wilder, Allyn Pearson, Alyssa Fernandez, Stacey Smythe, Matt Morgenstern, and Gwénaël Jouin, from the Comparative Literature Department, published a critical edition of Arthur Hugh Clough's *Amours de Voyage* on COVE at the end of Spring 2021. The edition is now under peer-review process. Gwénaël wrote most of the annotations on history, some annotations on philosophy, and one annotation on linguistics, which can be found at https://editions.covecollective.org/edition/amours-de-voyage/amours-de-voyage. Gwénaël also wrote a paratextual essay titled "Arthur Clough's *Amours de Voyages* and the Revolution of 1848," which readers can find at https://editions.covecollective.org/edition/amours-de-voyage/arthur-clough%E2%80%99s-amours-de-voyage-and-revolutions-1848.

### **Andrew Kroninger**

• Has an upcoming publication in the form of a chapter of the book *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, set to be published by Purdue University Press. The chapter is entitled "The Meeting of Two Alexanders - Causes and Consequences of Humboldt's and Pushkin's Mutual Admiration."

### Dr. Lang Wang

• "Deux romans au féminin: vers un nouveau modèle philosophique pour l'amour" [Two women's novels: toward a new philosophical model for love] in *French Review*, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of French (vol. 95, no. 1, 2021, pp. 207-217).

### Dr. Beate Allert

- Beate I. Allert, "Forum: Current Trends in German Eighteenth Century Studies: On Recent Scholarship on the Visual." *German Quarterly* 93. 2 (Spring 2020): 255-268.
- Beate I. Allert, "Temporality in Herder and Bergson," in *Herder and the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Lisa Steinby. This essay is based on the International Herder Conference in Turku Finland 2018 for which Beate Allert had received a Purdue University PRF Research Grant. (Heidelberg: Synchron, 2020), pp. 345-357.
- Beate I. Allert. Mayer, Paola. *The Aesthetics of Fear in German Romanticism*. Montréal: McGill Queens University Press, 2020. Allert's review was published in *Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies* (Toronto) Seminar 57.2. (May 2021): 177-179. DOI: 10.3138.
- Beate I. Allert, Christopher R. Clason, Niall A. Peach, and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo, eds. *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the world* (Purdue University Press, forthcoming). Book manuscript first version submitted and contracted on January 4, 2021.
- Beate I. Allert, "Art and Aesthetics in Alexander von Humboldt," essay in Beate Allert, Christopher Clason, Niall Peach, Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo, eds. *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*. Book manuscript submitted and accepted January 4, 2021. Allert's essay in this co-edited volume will be about 30 pages. Contracted to be forthcoming with Purdue University Press.
- Beate I. Allert, "Images for Memories: From Ekphrasis to an Excess of Memory in German Romantic Literature," in Christopher Clason and Robert Mottram, eds. *The Inexhaustible Gathering: Assembly and its Other in German Romantic Literature, Science, and Society.* Forthcoming with Routledge Press.

#### Dr. Thomas Broden

### Articles published:

- "A. J. Greimas in the World: Travels, Translations, Transmissions." *Semiotica*, 42 pages, 17,000 words. Published online Nov. 2021, https://doi.org/10.1515/sem-2020-0040, print expected in 2021-2022.
- "Reception, Translation, and Cultural Context: Projects for Greimas's Sémantique structurale (1966) in English, the Place of Linguistics in the Human Sciences, and Franco-American (Dis)connections."
   Historiographia linguistica: International Journal for the History of the Language Sciences 48.1 (2021). 83-117. https://doi.org/10.1075/hl.00066.bro
- "Tarptautinė Algirdo Juliaus Greimo kūrybos recepcija" [The international reception of A. J. Greimas's work]. *Semiotika* (Vilnius) 16 (2021). 104-130. http://dx.doi.org/10.15388/Semiotika.2021.10 Translated by Kęstutis Nastopka. Submitted in November 2020, accepted in April 2021, published in print and online in July 2021. Lithuanian translation of an enlarged version of my October Araraquara lecture in French adapted for a Lithuanian public. *Semiotika* is the journal of Vilnius University's A. J. Greimas Centre of Semiotics and Literary Theory and is indexed in twelve international services. ISSN 1392-0219 | eISSN 2424-547X.
- "La recepción internacional de la obra de A. J. Greimas" [The international reception of A. J. Greimas's oeuvre]. *Tópicos del Seminario* (Puebla, Mexico) 46 (July-Dec. 2021): 168-186. Translated by Dominique Bertolotti Thiodat.
- "A recepção internacional da obra de A. J. Greimas: viagens, traduções, transmissões" [The international reception of A. J. Greimas's oeuvre: Travels, translations, transmissions]. *Estudos Semióticos* (São Paulo) 17.1 (April 2021), 46 p. DOI: https://doi.org/10.11606/issn.1980-4016.esse.2021.181034. Portuguese translation by Patricia Veronica Moreira and Flavia Karla Ribeiro Santos.

### Book chapter:

• "A. J. Greimas in English Translation: Style and Terminology, Chronology and Cultural Context." In Denis Bertrand and Ivan Darrault-Harris, eds., À même le sens. Limoges: Lambert-Lucas, series Sémiologie et sémiotique, 2021. 5000 words.

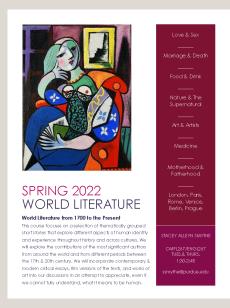
### Invited presentations:

- "Hommage à Jacques Fontanille: de Limoges aux États-Unis" [Homage to Jacques Fontanille: From Limoges to the United States]. Université de Limoges, international symposium À même le sens, 8 Oct. 2021, Limoges, France.
- "La Transmission intergénérationnelle: Greimas à l'étranger" [Intergenerational transmission: Greimas abroad]. Association Française de Sémiotique, Summer Round Tables on "La sémiotique demain: générations en rapport, rapport sur les générations" [Semiotics tomorrow: relations among generations, reports on generations], Second meeting, "Relais / Transmission et traduction" [Relays / transmission and translation], 8 July 2021, via zoom, recorded and distributed 12 July.

# SPRING 2022 COURSE OFFERINGS

Check out other recent course offerings:

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



### **CMPL 267/ENGL 267**

STACEY SMYTHE

This course focuses on a selection of thematically grouped short stories that explore different aspects of human identity and experience throughout history and across cultures. We will explore the contributions of the most significant authors from around the world and from different periods between the 17th & 20th century. We will incorporate contemporary & modern critical essays, film versions of the texts, and works of art into our discussions in an attempt to appreciate, even if we cannot fully understand, what it means to be human.

### **CMPL 650/ENGL 673**

DR. APARAJITA SAGAR

This section of the course is titled "Cultural Intersections in the Global South." We will address the following questions: how have early and contemporary postcolonial writers represented identities and histories that are produced at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ableism? How have questions of capital and the biopolitical, in their early and contemporary manifestations, shaped culture and been addressed via cultural and literary postcolonial studies? How has the field of Global South studies responded to feminism, disability studies, queer studies, critical race theory, and subalternity (or most extreme forms of disenfranchisement)?



We wish you a happy holiday season ahead and all the best for the completion of this and next semester!

With warm greetings,

Beate Allert, Director

