The 11th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature

Rethinking Comparison: Relationality, Intertextuality, Materiality

26 - 28 September 2014

The University of Texas at Austin

Keynote Address by Professor Natalie Melas, Cornell University

(Please see our website for updates at: http://sites.utexas.edu/gracls/)

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 26

11:30 am: Registration (SAC 3.106)

Coffee will be available from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm in SAC 3.106.

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 1 Panels

1.1 On Pretzelcoatl: The Conquest of Mexico in the U.S. Popular Imagination (SAC 3.116)

Moderator: Dr. Gretchen Murphy

Hannah Alpert-Abrams (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Dustin Hixenbaugh (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Andrew Uzendoski (English, UT Austin)

1.2 Politics and Literary Aesthetics (SAC 3.112)

Moderator: Dr. Hannah Wojciechowski

Yucong Hao (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Towards Literary Liberalism: Cultural Productions in Wartime Japan”

James Staig (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Listen Closely to the Cadavers: the Physicality of Voice in Néstor Perlongher’s Anti-Dictatorial Poetry”

Regina Mills (English, UT Austin):
“Gendering Revolution in Francisco Goldman’s The Long Night of White Chickens and Héctor Tobar’s The Tattooed Soldier”

1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Session 2 Panels

2.1 Literary Interstices: Literary Texts, Prior Knowledge, and Foreign Language Learning (SAC 3.116)
Sponsored by the Texas Language Center
Moderator: Dr. Thomas J. Garza

Yekaterina Cotev (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Using Modern Literary Tales to Teach Intermediate Russian”

Melissa Demos (French and Italian, UT Austin)
“Teaching the Four Tenses of the Subjunctive Through Benni’s ‘Four Veils of Kulala’:
Some Techniques for Utilizing Literature in the Lower Division Language Classroom”

Daniel Kahozi (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“It happened when this was happening: When Verne's Le Voyage au Centre de la Terre takes us
to the center of imparfait and passé compose”

Maryam Shariati (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Interrelated Entities: Integrating Literature into Language Teaching”

2.2 Writing Identity, Race, and Migration (SAC 3.112)
Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Wilks

Célia Carmen Cordeiro (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Laurinda Andrade and Rose Peters Emery: Two Self-Made Luso-American Women and
Their Life Stories”

Ben Weiss (African History, UT Austin)
“A Voice Sweeter than Salt: Toyin Falola and the Construction of Subaltern Narrative
Space”

Emily Lederman (English, UT Austin)
“Ashes, Altars and Queer Saints: A Reading of the Archive in Felicia Luna Lemus’s Like Son
(2007)”

Tia Butler (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Beam me up, Scotty”: The Representation of Haitians in the Science Fiction Genre”

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Roundtable: That which is called theory… (SAC 2.302, Legislative Room)
Co-facilitators: Dr. Tarek El-Ariss and Roanne Kantor

Jonathan Fleck (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Kimberly Canuette Grimaldi (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Calvin Johns (Anthropology, UT Austin)
Lia Siewert (Anthropology, UT Austin)
Jayita Sinha (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Jennie Wojtusik (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)

This roundtable session seeks to foster an open discussion among panelists, facilitators, and
attendees about the role of theory in comparative work and our academic worlds more
broadly. Some of our questions for discussion include: how does theory shape your
academic studies and your field? What are the challenges, tensions, and frustrations involved in using theory? Does engaging theory to discuss objects and literature from non-western national and geographic areas pose particular problems? Is theory the genre of the 20th century? Is literature theory? What does it mean to read theoretically (versus using theory)? How does one theorize by staying close to the text, the language? What is the connection between theory and language? Does the fact that so much theory is translated pose specific problems? And finally, what does theory mean to us, as comparatists, and as scholars working in various disciplines, languages and literatures?

Saturday, September 27

10:00 am – 12:00 pm: Registration (SAC 1.106)
Continental Breakfast, catered by O’s

10:30 am – 11:45 am: Session 3 Panels

3.1 Genres of Crime, Violence, and Memory (SAC 3.116)
Moderator: Dr. Jason Borge

Valeria Rey de Castro (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Memorias disidentes de la Argentina post kirchnerista en Los Topos y Soy un bravo piloto de la nueva China” (This presentation will be in Spanish.)

Amanda Moore (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“The French/Kreyòl Divide in Haiti and the Politics of Genre”

Sam Cannon (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Popular Criminology and Places of Memory in the Graphic Novel Detective Heredia”

3.2 Vision, Violence, and Guilt: Relationality in Dostoevsky (SAC 3.112)
Moderator: Dr. Michael Pesenson

Kaitlin Shirley (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Dostoevsky and Matricide: Mother-Daughter Relationships in Crime and Punishment”

Chloe Papadopoulos (Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Toronto)
“Narrative Recovery and Recapitulation: G-v, the Narrator-Chronicler of Demons”

Jennie Wojtusik (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Guilt, Alterity, and the Divine in The Brothers Karamazov”

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 4 Panels

4.1 Insiders, Outsiders, and Others (SAC 3.116)
Moderator: Dr. Barbara Harlow

Eva Singer (Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, UT Austin)
“The Allure of the Exotic: Finding the Individual through Romanticism and Orientalism”
Nika Setek (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Blurred Lines of Civilization: Myth and Ritual in *Lord of the Flies* and *The Island of Dr. Moreau*”

Yekaterina Cotev (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“From folklore to literature: rethinking the changeling myth in Nadezhda Teffi’s ‘Vurdalak’”

Catalina Iannone (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“El País’ ‘babel madrileña’: the myth of *convivencia* in contemporary journalistic discourse”

4.2 Parisian Connections: Transmission, Simultaneity, and Diaspora (SAC 3.112)
Moderator: Dr. Alexandra Wettlaufer

Katie Logan (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“1001 Nights of *Ulysses*”

Joceyn Wright (French and Italian, UT Austin)
“An-Nisa and La Créole: Racial ambiguity and otherness in George Sand’s *Indiana*”

Andrew T. Wilson (Independent Scholar)
“Transcending the National: Contemporary Immigrant Literature and the Shared Experience”

4.3 Intertextuality and Textual Strategies (SAC 3.106)
Moderator: Dr. Lynn Wilkinson

Matthew Lundin (Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin)
“Ottomania: Reviving Intertextual Practices in Contemporary Middle Eastern Literature”

Roy Holler (Comparative Literature, Indiana University)
“Pilgrims, Peddlers, and Vampires. Agnon’s Jew as Dante’s Contrapasso”

Marie Papineschi (Comparative Literature, Indiana University)
“Hagar’s Spring: Old Testament Theophanies and the Kantian Sublime”

1:30 pm – 2:15 pm: Lunch
We recommend the food offerings on the ground floor of the SAC.

2:15 pm – 3:45 pm: Session 5 Panels

5.1 Roundtable – Reflections on Collaboration: Approaches to Graduate Scholarship and Teaching (SAC 3.116)

Sheela Jane Menon (English, UT Austin)
Katie Logan (Program in Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
Rebecca Macmillan (English, UT Austin)

This roundtable is an open conversation in which graduate students will share strategies for collaborative research, writing, and teaching. Audience members and roundtable moderators are invited to pose their own questions/concerns, share experiences, and consider how to
build productive academic relationships while also negotiating individual goals and disciplinary expectations.

### 5.2 Inclusion and Exclusion: Topics in Caribbean, Afro-diasporic, and Latin American Literature (SAC 3.112)
Moderator: Dr. César Salgado

Franklin Strong (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Plácido’s Blues: James Weldon Johnson’s Translation of ‘Despedida a mi madre’”

Erika Said White (Spanish, UT San Antonio)
“Neobaroque Literature in Latin America and Reading as Inter-semiotic Translation: A Feministic Approach”

Marianela Muñoz M. (LLILAS, UT Austin):
“And What About Oral Traditions of Indigenous and Afro-descendants of the Central American Caribbean?: Reflections on Space and Potentialities within Discussions of Contemporary Cultural Productions”

Samuel Ginsburg (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin):
“Cadejo in Cuba: Manuel Galich’s Guatemalan Mythscape”

**4:00 pm – 5:30 pm: Session 6 Panels**

### 6.1 World Literature: Translation, Trends, Theories (SAC 3.116)
Moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza

Anna Ziajka Stanton (Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin)
“Can Translators Save the World?: The Ethics of Literary Translation in a Globalized Era”

Ying Xiong (Comparative Literature, University of Oregon)
“Translation as World Literature: Modernizing a Thousand-Year Sorrow”

Kimberly Canuette Grimaldi (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“What is Modernity? Arguments for temporal and cultural autonomy of modernity in Adonis and Walter Benjamin”

Roanne Kantor (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Chronicle of a Boom Foretold: The rise of South Asian literature in light of Latin America”

### 6.2 Poetry across Distances and the Poetics of Interiority (SAC 3.112)
Moderator: Dr. Samer Ali

Anna C. Cruz (Arabic Language and Literature, UC Berkeley)
“Son(s) of Granada: Affective Comparisons of Time and Space in 20th Century Spanish and Arabic Poetry”

Christina Lancaster (Independent Scholar)
“A New Vernacular: The Dialogue Between Classical and Pre-Modern Japanese Poetics and the Development of the New York School of Poetry”

Stephanie Malak (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“The Case for Mysticality: A Spanish Philosopher’s Caribbean Praxis”
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm
Plenary Address by Dr. Natalie Melas
Introduction by Dr. Wayne Rebhorn
Legislative Room, SAC 2.302

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Reception
SAC Balcony Rooms 3.106, 3.112, 3.116

Sunday, September 28

10:00 am – 11:30 am: Continental Breakfast (CLA 0.124), catered by Einstein’s Bagels

10:30 am – 12:00 pm: Session 7 Panels

7.1  Rethinking Memory and Identity in Shared Cultural Milieus (CLA 0.104)
Moderator: Dr. Naomi Lindstrom
Katie Lazarowicz (Asian Studies, UT Austin)
“Comparing Communities of Cultural Consumption: Indian Children’s Books in Japan”
Alexander Marcus (Religious Studies, Stanford University)
“Solomon and the Demon: Rethinking Cultural Comparison in the Babylonian Talmud”
Gal Sela (Hebrew and Comparative Literature, University of Haifa)
“Heterotopia’ as a Reading Methodology; Between Midrash and Agnon”
Soham Pain (English Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
“Two Women’s Ramayanas: A Comparative Study of Sympathies and Stereotypes”

7.2  Communicating through Media and Modes of Perception (CLA 0.122)
Moderator: Dr. Blake Atwood
Julia Traylor (English, UT Austin)
“In Touch with Postmodernity: A Tactile Perspective on Fredric Jameson’s Cognitive Mapping”
Laura Partain, (Middle Eastern Studies, UT Austin)
“A Dance of Destruction with Ari Folman: On ‘Working Through,’ ‘Empathetic Unsettlement,’ and ‘Cinematic Reverse Shots’ in Dual Perpetrator and Victim Trauma”
Simona Schneider (Comparative Literature, UC Berkeley)
Reinhard G. Mueller (Comparative Literature, UT Austin)
“Moral Communication in Different Cultures: Comparing Front Pages of the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung and the New York Times”

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm: Session 8 Panel

8.1 Mapping Gender and Race: Spaces, Geographies, Imaginaries (CLA 0.104)
Moderator: Dr. Katie Arens

Sarah E. Nicholus (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Mapping Queer Geographies in Natal, Brazil: Mega-Events and International Sex Tourism in the City of Sun”

Deanna Rodríguez (Literature, Texas State)
“The Online City of Ladies: Applying Christine de Pizan’s Model as a Response to Internet’’

Jessica Carey-Webb (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin)
“Mapping Masculinity on the Rio Roosevelt”

Debbie Cifuentes Ramírez (Spanish and Portuguese, UT Austin):