

Weltliteratur: Crossing Boundaries
An Interdisciplinary Conference on World Literature

March 19, 2010

McKenna Hall, University of Notre Dame

Presenter Biographies

Najia Alameddin is a second year graduate student at the University of Texas at Arlington where she is a graduate teaching assistant in French and Arabic. She is especially interested in the intersection between Arabic and French literatures. Her research in the coming years will be focused on language and trauma and the ways in which the maternal and adopted languages implicate the writers' political and psychological positions.

Brian Armstrong received his B.A. in Philosophy and Russian from the University of Kansas (1993), his M.A. in Comparative Literature from the University of Oregon (1996), and his Ph.D. in Philosophy from The Pennsylvania State University (2007). His dissertation argued for a new interpretation of the ethical view of the early Wittgenstein and focused on Ibsen as an illustration of that ethical view. He is now a member of the English and Foreign Languages faculty at Augusta State University, where he primarily teaches a year-long, team-taught, interdisciplinary World Humanities course.

Mary Claypool is a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her dissertation explores intersections between adoption and colonization in 19th century French and 20th century Francophone literature. She also enjoys thinking about discourses of resistance, processes of identity formation, and the public humanities.

Daniel Costello is a graduate of the University of Chicago and is presently a Ph.D. candidate in the Comparative Literature program at the University of California at Irvine. His present research interests include investigating the relationships between literature, memoir, and collective memory.

Marianne Peracchio DiQuattro is a Ph.D. candidate in Literature at the University of Notre Dame. Her academic interests include avant-garde theatre, modern and postmodern novels, phenomenology, and the teaching of writing to disinterested young people. Her extra-curricular work includes directing plays, finishing her book, and learning how to cook everything from scratch.

Monika Edinger is currently in her second year of the MA program in French Literature in the Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies at the University of British Columbia. She completed her BA Honors in Romance

Studies in 2008 (at UBC), and plans to finish her MA thesis in December 2010. Her research focuses on multilingual lyric poetry of the troubadours and other secular writers of the 12th through 16th centuries; other interests include Humor Studies, Medieval Theatre and Comparative Literature.

Ben A. Heller, Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Notre Dame, focuses on modern Spanish American and Caribbean literatures, particularly poetry, representations of nature and environmental criticism, and translation. He is the author of *Assimilation, Generation, Resurrection: Contrapuntal Readings in the Poetry of José Lezama Lima* (Bucknell University Press, 1997), co-editor with Elzbieta Sklodowska of *Roberto Fernández Retamar y los estudios latinoamericanos* (Instituto Internacional de Literatura Iberoamericana, 2000), and contributing author to *Huellas de las literaturas hispanoamericanas* (Ed. John Garganigo, Prentice Hall, 1997, 2002).

Gloria Maité Hernández, is a PhD. Candidate at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Emory University. Studied playwriting at the Instituto Superior de Arte of Havana, Cuba, where she published *La Noche de San Juan y dos monólogos* (2002). Her dissertation in progress compares Spanish and Sanskrit mystical literature. An article and a book chapter on this topic are forthcoming in Spanish publications.

James Hussar is a proud graduate of the University of Notre Dame's PhD in Literature Program. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at California State University, Fullerton. James's research interests into Jewish Latin American literature and intertextual relationships between Spanish American and Luso-Brazilian literature.

Marike Janzen is a Lecturer in Humanities and Western Civilization at the University of Kansas, where she teaches courses in the World Literature and Peace and Conflict Studies programs. She earned the PhD in comparative literature at the University of Texas at Austin. Her work focuses on leftist German and Latin American authors during the Cold War, and she has recently published on Anna Seghers and Alejo Carpentier.

Harry Karahalios is a Ph.D. candidate in the Ph.D. in Literature Program at the University of Notre Dame. He has an M.A. in English literature, and is currently writing his doctoral dissertation on representations of contemporary immigration in Spanish and Greek literature and film. His research focuses on the national anxiety that the presence of immigrants causes in Spain and Greece, and the geocultural location of Southern European countries in relation to the European Union. His wider research interests include contemporary European cinema, transnational forms of identity construction, cross-cultural communication and migration. Harry Karahalios teaches Spanish language and literature, as well as contemporary European cinema. He has organized various film festivals and film exhibits, including the annual Chicago Greek Film Festival, which ran from 2003 to 2006.

An advanced Ph.D. candidate at Vanderbilt University, **Robert Kelz** has spoken about German cultural life on the River Plate at numerous conferences and has an article on nationalist German theater in Argentina during World War II in the forthcoming volume *Text as Culture, Culture as Text*, to be published by Cambridge Scholars Press. His talk today on intercultural performances at the Free German Stage in Buenos Aires, Argentina, draws from archival research in Argentina, Brazil, and Germany, and forms a part of the third chapter of his dissertation, “Competing Germanies: The *Freie Deutsche Bühne* and the *Deutsche Theater* in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1938-1965.”

Charles Leavitt is a student in Notre Dame’s PhD. in Literature program, and an Annese Fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, specializing in Modern Italian Literature and Culture. He is currently working on a project examining literature and the role of the intellectual in post-Fascist Italy.

Mustafa Mirzeler, an Associate Professor of English at Western Michigan University, was born in Kiremithane village, a Kurdish village, in southern Anatolia, Turkey. During his childhood he was an apprentice to storytellers and walked to distant villages with traditional bards and participated in the performances of oral tradition in the days when storytellers were almost sacred personages in the villages. They came from a deeply rooted ancient tradition of professional bards of Chukurova that is, the ancient Cilicia, where Homer once lived and told stories. For his graduate and post graduate studies he went to Sub-Saharan East Africa and traveled more than 1000 miles on foot from village to village on the plateaus and desert plains and became an apprentice to African storytellers and learned the art of storytelling from the African storytellers, poets, and historians. He also traveled to Azerbaijan and worked with Azeri storytellers.

Anna Morlan received her M.A. in Humanities and Social Thought from New York University, and is currently teaching at the English Department at Pace University, while doing her second M.A. in English Literature at Hunter College, NY. Her past work has focused mostly on transnational tendencies in the work of Vladimir Nabokov, while her current interests include the effects of self-translation on the work of anglophone female writers, as well as the implications of transnational theory in approaching post-colonial literature.

Rosario Nolasco-Bell is a Ph.D. Candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Arkansas and an instructor of Spanish at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith where she also teaches Latino Literature for the English Department. She is a first generation Mexican American and college graduate. She lived in South Bend from 1985 to 1992 and for some of that time she attended the University of Notre Dame and worked at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Lorelaine Otero obtained a BA in Arts in Humanities from the University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus, on 2008, with a major in English Literature

and a minor in Hispanic Studies. She is now in her first year of the Translation Graduate Program, again at the Universidad de Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras Campus.

Wendy Pfeffer is Professor of French and Assistant Dean for Graduate Education in the College of Arts & Sciences, University of Louisville. Editor-in-chief of the scholarly journal, *Tenso*, the only North American periodical dedicated to Occitan language and literature, she is currently completing a massive bibliography of works published in or on Occitan literature from the thirty-year period 1977-2007. She is the author or editor of five books and numerous articles relating to medieval literature in Old French and Occitan; she has also published several articles on Occitan as an element of culture in contemporary France.

Nathan Snaza is a PhD candidate in Comparative Literature at the University of Minnesota – Twin Cities who works on the intersections of world literature, critical animal studies, and curriculum theory. He is writing his dissertation on the relations among language, community, and education in the texts of Friedrich Nietzsche and the fiction of Kazuo Ishiguro, Daniel Barnes, Franz Kafka, and J.M. Coetzee.

Hans-Peter Söder is resident director of the *Junior Year in Munich* at the *Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München*. His most recent monograph deals with cultural theory at the turn of the century (*This Way Madness Lies: Max Nordau on Fin-de-Siècle Genius*, 2009). He is on the executive board of *The International Society for the Study of European Ideas (ISSEI)* and advisory editor of *The European Legacy*.

Dan Webb received his PhD in Political Science from the University of Alberta in February of 2010. Currently he works as a sessional instructor at Carleton University in Ottawa. His primary interest is in contemporary, Continental political theory.

Hannah Zdansky, currently a student in the Ph.D. in Literature Program at the University of Notre Dame, received her B.A. from Baylor University. After that, she went on to take an M.A. at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Her research interests include, broadly speaking, the cross-cultural influences, literary and otherwise, shared between the Celtic world, England, and France during the Middle Ages.