Since the publication of our last Newsletter, Latin American Studies became a stand-alone academic unit at Washington University in St. Louis. As an independent program, LASP faces new opportunities and challenges. While the program will be able to acquire more visibility as a space for the advancement of research, learning, and cultural activities related to the Latin American field of study, it will be facing a process of academic redefinition and consolidation that will lead to an enhanced and updated curriculum, both at the undergraduate and at the graduate level. Some of the requirements and course content of our program have been recently revised in order to ensure the quality of instruction and the articulation of our curriculum with departments and instructors that share our interest in Latin America and offer interdisciplinary learning opportunities to our students. At the same time, we are working on expanding our range of sites for study abroad. In addition to the already existing programs in Chile and in Cuba (in this case through the Focus Program coordinated by Prof. Sklodowska and Prof. Schraibman), our students continue to take advantage of the recently established program in Argentina (through the WashU/IFSA-Butler U center in Buenos Aires). Furthermore, we are currently working on new possibilities in the Andean region, which would provide our students with the opportunity to attend immersion-type courses in a country where indigenous cultures constitute a substantial part of national population, thus exposing our students to a complex and multilayered landscape of symbolic production and linguistic diversity.

We are proud to inform that students who have graduated with a major in Latin American Studies in recent years have found placement in some of the best graduate programs in the country. They are currently pursuing or have completed degrees in Latin American literature and culture (in UC-Berkeley, Ohio State, Boston University and UC-Santa Barbara), Urban Studies (NYU), Social Work (Washington University, NYU, UT-Austin), International Policy and Development (UC-Berkeley, Pittsburgh, London School of Economics), Latin American Studies (Vanderbilt, Florida), Public Health (University of Washington-Seattle) and Law (NYU, Harvard, Miami), among others. Several recent graduates have received Fulbright fellowships, which allowed them to teach and conduct research in Argentina, Brazil and Colombia. Some students have found employment in government agencies, nonprofit organizations and corporations directly engaged in Latin America. Some alumni currently work at the U.S. Congress, the California House of Representatives, the Tico Times newspaper, the Center for International Policy, the Children’s Defense Fund, Ipas, Farmer Brothers, the SPHERE Institute, J.P. Morgan and others. In other cases our major has become a pathway for programs such as the Peace Corps and Teach for America.

Students registered in our Graduate Certificate continue to advance their interdisciplinary studies and enjoy the opportunity to apply for a Summer Grant that allows them to conduct research in Latin America. This Certificate constitutes a great complement to their PhD studies, extremely useful in an increasingly demanding job market. Last but not least, new faculty members specialized in Latin America, Prof. Diana Montaño (History), Rebecca Clouser (International and Area Studies) have joined WashU in postdoctoral positions. The courses they teach and the energy they bring to our area of study constitute an enriching addition to LAS. Also, the Portuguese program continues to develop under the supervision of Valeria Souza, thus allowing our students to obtain proficiency in this language and to become closer to the area of Brazilian Studies, that we hope to expand in the near future.

We hope that this new issue of the Newsletter will help students and faculty in this and other universities become familiar with our work and plans, and follow closely the progress we make in the enhancement of our program of study.
Old men dressed in military uniforms playing hurdy gurdies made in 19th century Berlin; knifegrinders and scribes: emigrants from a world of improvised solutions to everyday problems. The knifegrinder had set up shop on the street just outside a beautiful eighteenth century building filled with people who had come for a book launch, gathering in the beautiful colonial courtyard at dusk. He pedaled a bicycle wheel that drove an axle attached to a flintstone, on which he sharpened the blades his clients brought him. The sparks and grate of metal on stone mixed with the cacophony of street vendors peddling their wares, blended with the clamor of promenaders walking the pedestrian mall in the waning afternoon.

Our time in Mexico City seemed to expand to take up a much larger space than our five crowded days there, reaching from the vast ritual spaces of Téotihuacan an hour by bus from the Distrito Federal, to the halls of the Syndicate of Electricians, site of one of the most cinematically impressive murals of the post-revolutionary decades in Mexico by David Alfaro Siqueiros. It was a social journey as well, into a world where most people make do with very little while thriving on a communal street culture unmatched by any city north of the border. It was, as one student wrote, “a most enriching week—aesthetically, intellectually, gustatorially, sonically, and socially!” From conversations with union activists to witnessing a rain storm from the balconies above the Zócalo—the central public space of Mexico City—to studying onsite some of the most massive and ambitious public murals in the world—the ‘Sistine chapels’ of the Mexican Revolution—we entered a history and culture different in fundamental ways from where we had come. For so many residents of the US, Mexico has long been experienced through a series of flattened stereotypes: since the early 1990s, narco violence; government corruption; murders and kidnappings—replacing older stereotypes that dominated a different generation’s image of Mexico, of tequila-swilling tourists and anonymous locals mired in poverty. Mexican culture—as we have explored in our seminar “TransAmerica: The US and Mexico between the Wars”—has long exploited and mocked these stereotypes, its own sense of nationhood in many ways a post-colonial reaction to the economic dominance of the US and Europe from the 19th century forward.

There were many lessons for us all, beyond the joys of sun-warmed pedestrian malls, adventurous new cuisine (ant eggs and corn fungus, as well as smoky rich chocolate-infused molé) and a form of intensely public urban space characteristic of most of the world beyond Europe and the US. We witnessed a culture in which the past is only one millimeter below the surface, pressing its claims from the Aztec excavations below the Zócalo, to the subsiding foundations of modern buildings, sinking slowly into the primordial ooze of the lakebed on which the city was built some five centuries ago; from the frightening Aztec goddess Coatlicue, holding court in the Museum of Anthropology—decorated with human skulls and snakes—to the great mural cycles of Diego Rivera, bringing vividly to life the imagined world of the Valley of Mexico before the Fall (the Conquest).

For students of Art History and visual culture, perhaps the greatest lesson was of an art form that addressed the public directly, with monumental images and refracted narratives of nation-building: long histories arcing across the divide between pre- and post-Conquest Mexico, and forging continuities between Mexico’s own revolutionary legacy and struggles for justice, and the international events leading up to World War II and beyond. A public art that remains today a part of the everyday environment of ordinary Mexicans. Sometimes they look, often they don’t. And sometimes the lessons of historical conflict and change
are lost on them—a dream of revolution far from their own lives. But these murals generate great pride nonetheless, and a reminder that Mexico is not fated to be the vassal of the U.S. and the global economy, despite the ongoing effects of neoliberalization.

Angela Miller and her students in “Transnational America” gratefully acknowledge the support of the Art History and Archaeology Department, whose travel fund supported their week-long trip to Mexico City over Spring Break.

**News from the Library**

**A digital collection from the Biblioteca Palafoxiana**

Felicidades to the Colegio de Mexico Library and Puebla’s Biblioteca Palafoxiana on their joint project of making the Palafoxiana catalog of rare/unique holdings is accessible. The Palafoxiana was founded in 1646 in Puebla, Mexico and has more than 41,000 books and manuscripts ranging from 15th to 20th century. The digital collection contains items of the first books printed in Mexico before 1601 and represents some of the first printings of the New World. Titles in the digital collection are from the following institutions Biblioteca Palafoxiana in Puebla, Biblioteca Lafragua, Biblioteca Franciscana, Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas and the Cushing Library at Texas A&M.

**Latin American Newsstand**

This database’s detailed indexing helps users quickly find the news information they need. Each issue of each newspaper is indexed thoroughly, so researchers have access to not only top news stories but also the information contained on the various sections of the papers. The indexing covers not only complete bibliographic information but also companies, people, products, etc.

**Past Events**

**Out of Bounds: Graduate Conference**

The Spanish Graduate students organized Out of Bounds: Movements in and beyond Iberian and Latin American Cultures, their second Spanish Graduate Conference held at Washington University from February 28, 2014 to March 1, 2014. The conference featured graduate and undergraduate presentations from universities across the United States as well as France. Topics ranged from exile in Francoist Spain, migrant and social movements across border in Latin America, early modern writing on geographical displacement in Golden Age Spain to contemporary art and legibility in textual representation. The conference keynote speaker, professor Gwen Kirkpatrick (Georgetown University), presented images on indigenous representations and movement in early twentieth century, theorizing the textualization of indigenous migrations. The conference was sponsored by the Romance Languages and Literatures Department; the Center for the Humanities and Latin American Studies (International and Area Studies) at Washington University in St. Louis.
Past Events

Director Gloria Rolando

On October 2014, Cuban leading documentary filmmaker Gloria Rolando presented and discussed her recently released film "Reembarque/Reshipment" (58 min. In Spanish, with English subtitles). "Reshipment" deals with a forgotten chapter in Cuban history when thousands of Haitian laborers were forcefully repatriated ("reshipped") to Haiti in the 1930s when they were no longer needed in Cuban sugarcane fields or coffee plantations. The film combines the voices of historians and Haitian witnesses into a powerful tribute to the interwoven destinies of the peoples of Cuba and Haiti. The event was co-sponsored by: African & African American Studies, Center for the Humanities, Comparative Literature, Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Film and Media Studies, Latin American Studies, Romance Languages and Literatures, Vice Provost Adrienne Davis, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Professor Mónica Díaz

Mónica Díaz specializes in the history and literature of Colonial Latin America and the Early Modern Atlantic. Her research focuses on indigenous cultures and discursive production. Her book *Indigenous Writings from the Convent: Negotiating Ethnic Autonomy in Colonial Mexico* (2010) examines the existence of the only three convents opened exclusively for indigenous women in colonial Mexico. Her research has been funded by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Ministry for Cultural Cooperation between Spain and the United States, the Hispanic History of Texas Project from the University of Houston, the University of Texas Pan American, the Newberry Library, and Georgia State University.

Professor Stephanie Kirk

On February 2015, Prof. Kirk presented a paper entitled “Masculinity, Religion and Power in Colonial Mexico” at the RLL Faculty Colloquium. Kirk examined the fashioning of Jesuit masculinity in seventeenth and eighteenth-century colonial Mexico in which the production and dissemination of knowledge emerges as a key element. She demonstrated how Jesuit colleges, prominently located within urban and highly visible settings, constituted spaces from which young creole men were fashioned in the image of the Jesuits and from where the members of the Society carried out public performances of erudite and pious masculinity which enabled them to consolidate their influence among elite groups.

Writer/blogger/artist Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo

In January 2015, Cuban novelist Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo, who recently immigrated to the United States after years of clashing with the Castro regime, explored the topic in the lecture "U.S.-Cuba: A New Era or a New Ire?" at Washington University in St. Louis. Pardo Lazo is the author of five narrative books, including "Boring Home," which was censored by the Letras Cubanas publishing house in 2009. Following its subsequent release in Europe and South America, he has not been permitted to publish, study or work in Cuba. On three occasions, he was arrested and prevented from leaving the island but in 2013 finally was allowed to emigrate, in the wake of migratory reforms launched by the government of Raul Castro.
Past Events

Professor Ignacio Infante
Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Spanish

In the talk “Transnational Translation Series: Translating An Untranslatable,” Prof. Infante discussed his ongoing co-translation, Sky-quake: Tremor of Heaven, a long prose poem by the Chilean avant-gardist Vicente Huidobro. Published in 1931 in Madrid under the title Temblor de cielo, and in 1932 in Paris under the title Tremblement de ciel, Sky-Quake: Tremor of Heaven is an operatic and densely metaphorical work based on the legend of Tristan and Iseult. Even though the Oxford Book of Latin American Poetry (2009) lists this poem as one of Huidobro’s four principal works among his fascinating oeuvre, it has not been previously translated into English.

Professor Paloma Diaz-Mas
2015 Felice Massie Distinguished Visiting Professor in Hispanic Literature

Paloma Díaz-Mas is research professor at the Institute of Language, Literature and Anthropology, Center for the Humanities and Social Sciences in Madrid, Spain. Her lectures were on the presence of the Sephardim in Modern time and she will hold four workshops with graduate students over the course of her visit to campus. She gave the lecture “The Sephardim in Modern Times: The Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries” on April 16, 2015.

Professor Frederick Luis Aldama
Arts & Humanities Distinguished Professor & University Distinguished Scholar Ohio State

Professor Aldama gave a lecture to embark faculty, graduate and undergraduate students and staff on the overreaching presence of Latino Pop Culture in the United States and Latin America. In his research and teaching he uses the tools of narrative theory and cognitive science to enrich understanding of literature, art, music, film, comic books, and video games by and about Latinos. He is the author and editor of twenty-two books, including Latino/a Literature in the Classroom: 21st Century Approaches to Teaching (2015). Aldama has published numerous articles, co-edits the series Cognitive Approaches to Literature and Culture, World Comics and Graphic Nonfiction, and Global Latin/o Studies. He is editor of several book series, including Latino & Latin American Profiles (University of Pittsburgh Press) and Latino Pop Culture (Palgrave). He sits on the board of journals such as Narrative, the Journal of Narrative Theory, the “Americas” book series, and the Oxford Bibliographies in Latino Studies.

Professor Andrew Brown
2015 Romance Languages and Literatures Faculty

Professor Brown gave a talk titled “Sampled Science Fiction: Digital Strategies in Contemporary Latin American Narrative.” His research and teaching interests focus on issues of technology, science, global popular culture and Latin American cultural identity. Professor Brown is currently editing a collection of essays on Latin American science fiction and critical theory and has begun work on a project that examines the functions the aesthetics of sampling and mashups in recent Latin American narrative.
Past Events

Hispanic Graduate Students Writing Group

Sponsored by the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures

Since 2012, the Hispanic Graduate Students Writing Group (GWG) has worked as a permanent writing workshop for students of the Graduate Program in Hispanic Literatures. Thanks to these regular meetings, its members have been able to share their academic research and improve their writing, editing, and critical skills. Some of the works that the students have shared in the GWG, have been presented in conferences or have been published in academic journals and edited book collections, thanks in part to the feedback given by their peers.

Latin American Colloquium

Sponsored by Latin American Studies

During the last semesters, the Latin American Colloquium has gathered professors and graduate students from different departments of Washington University, around the multidisciplinary study of Latin American Culture. Some of the topics of these presentations have been: politics of memory, the intellectuals and mass media, digital culture, indigenous political movements, satirical writing, and countercultural narrative.

Latin American Film Festival

Sponsored by the Latin American Students and Latino Graduate Student Alliance

The Latin American Students and Latino Graduate Student Alliance partnered to hold Washington University’s Latin American Film Festival. The festival featured Machuca (2004) and Clandestine Childhood (2012), focusing on themes of childhood and dictatorship in Latin America. Professors Acree and Sanchez-Prado, from the Latin American Studies Program, facilitated discussions at the event.

Portuguese at WashU

At WashU a four-semester sequence of Portuguese courses is offered that allows students to develop an advanced level of proficiency with only two academic years of study. During the first academic year, students take PORT 101 and 102A or—if they are already fluent in Spanish—PORT 103 and 104. Regardless of which of these sequences a student takes, all of the grammar required to establish a solid foundation in the language is taught within the first year. Without question, the most unique feature of the first year courses is the intercâmbio (or exchange) program, which piloted in Fall 2013 and has since been maintained as a direct result of its immense popularity. During the intercâmbio, each WashU student is paired with a Brazilian student with whom they Skype or do Google video Hangouts on a weekly basis. Students then document their intercâmbio experiences online via multimedia journals using Tumblr. This program has been extremely successful, and students report maintaining close ties to their intercâmbio partners long after the courses have ended. Some have even gone on to meet their partners in person, whether here in the U.S. or in Brazil.

During the second academic year, in PORT 215 and 220, there is a focus on honing and perfecting students’ written and oral skills through the critical study and discussion of literature, music, and film. In effect, PORT 215 and 220 are introductory literature and culture courses, upon completion of which students can expect to have attained native to near-native (or professional) proficiency in the language. Outside of the traditional classroom, Portuguese at WashU is supported through extra-curricular activities such as the “Lusophone Table” or “Lusophone Movie Nights,” the latter of which was introduced in Fall 2014. By participating in these activities, students are able to practice Portuguese in more relaxed, informal settings which supplement the formal work done in the classroom.
Faculty Updates

Romance Languages and Literatures


Andrew Brown has lectured and published widely this year, with articles on posthuman identity, sampling aesthetics and the practices of reading with Internet appearing in books and journals in Europe, Latin America and the US. He has given public lectures in those same places, with lectures at the Universidad de San Marcos in Perú, the Universidad de Murcia in Spain as well as UC Riverside, Lehigh University and Stanford University in the US. He continues to participate in research groups in Spain and the UK that focus on the intersections of science, technology and Latin American literature.


Stephanie Kirk’s co-edited volume Religious Transformations in the Early Modern Americas was published in October 2014 by Penn Press. She also published several articles and essays: Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, Sor Filotea de la Cruz, and the Construction of Clerical Masculinity in Colonial Mexico” (Lives and Works of Early Modern Women, 2015); “Gender and the Writing of Piety in New Spain,” American Literary History (26 (1) Spring 2014); and “Mapping the Hemispheric Divide: The Colonial Americas in a Collaborative Context”( PMLA, Vol. 128, no. 4, October 2013). Prof. Kirk gave invited lectures on Sor Juana and religion in an early modern context at Virginia Tech and OSU respectively and presented papers at the Congreso Perú Transatlántico and the “Society of Early Americanists, 8th Bi-Annual Meeting. She was recently awarded a Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship to work on her scholarly edition and translation of Carlos de Sigüenza y Góngora’s convent chronicle, Paraíso Occidental (1684).
Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado’s new book was published in 2014: Screening Neoliberalism. Transforming Mexican Cinema 1988-2012 (Vanderbilt University Press). It is a study of the impact that privatized exhibition structures and changes in production schemes had in the aesthetics and ideologies of fin Mexico in the past 25 years. Screening Neoliberalism delves into the institutional and cultural processes that allowed Mexican film to rise into its current international status, as well as the way in which the industry created a domestic market for middle- and upper-class viewers, undoing a decades-long tradition of Mexican film as a popular cultural product.

Mabel Moraña’s latest publications include a collection of essays titled Inscripciones críticas. Ensayos sobre cultura latinoamericana and Bourdieu en la periferia, both published in 2014 in Santiago de Chile by Cuarto Propio. Her book Arguedas/Vargas Llosa. Dilemas y ensamblajes (2014) which was awarded the Katherine Silver Kovacs Prize (MLA) and the Premio Iberoamericano (LASA), is now forthcoming in English. Democracia, otridad, melancolia. Roger Bartra ante la critica (co-edited) will be published in Mexico by Fondo de Cultura Económica. During her sabbatical leave last Fall Professor Morana presented her books, conducted seminars, and lectured in Argentina, Peru, Mexico, Uruguay, Germany and Switzerland.

Tabea Alexa Linhard recently completed her second book, Jewish Spain: A Mediterranean Memory (2014). She is currently working on a collectively authored volume on Mapping Migration and Identity: An Interdisciplinary Resource. She is an ACLS Fellow with her research project, Unexpected Routes: Exile, Migration and Memory (1931-1945), which examines how different forms of displacement shaped cultural production emerging from the Spanish Civil War and World War II in relation to the paths to safety that spread across the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. A significant part of the book involves intellectual and cultural production of German exiles in Mexico in the 1940s.

Elzbieta Sklodowska has recently published “Genealogías de la diaspora africana: José Antonio Aponte y los archivos de la represión” in América sin nombre 19 (2014): 27-33 and “Invento luego resisto: El Período Especial en Cuba a través del lente de género” in Cuadernos de Literatura del Caribe e Hispanoamérica 18 (December 2013): 81-103. Her article “Palabras mutiladas/miradas entrecruzadas: el escritor negro y la autoficción en La soledad del tiempo de Alberto Guerra Naranjo” is forthcoming in the special issue of Revista de Crítica Literaria Latinoamericana (Fall 2015) focusing on Afrodescentant cultures. She continues to serve as Faculty advisor in the Minority Junior Faculty Development Program, as the Faculty Ambassador to the University of Chile for the McDonnell International Scholars Academy, and as the Student Ombudsperson in Arts and Sciences. During the academic year 2014-2015 she organized the visits to Washington University of two distinguished Cuban visitors, filmmaker Gloria Rolando (October 2014) and writer, photographer and blogger Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo (January 2015).
Valéria M. Souza earned her Ph.D. in Luso-Afro-Brazilian Studies & Theory from The University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Her main research interests involve language and embodiment, and her areas of specialization include sixteenth-century Portuguese literature and twentieth and twenty-first century Brazilian literature, with sub-specializations in Disability Studies, Gender Studies, and Critical Animal Studies. Her dissertation examined representations and the aesthetics of disability in the Brazilian classic, Grande Sertão: Veredas (1956). Some of her recent work accepted for publication includes the articles “Irate, with no grace of style”: Stuttering, Logorrhea, and Disordered Speech among Male Characters in Luís Vaz de Camões’ The Lusiads (1572),” included in the volume Literature, Speech Disorders, and Disability: Talking Normal (Routledge), and “Sô Candelário’s Inheritance: Leprosy as a Marker of Racial Identity in João Guimarães Rosa’s Grande Sertão: Veredas,” which will be featured in Libre Acceso, a forthcoming volume on Critical Disability Studies in Latin American literature and film (eds. Susan Antebi and Beth Jörgensen). At Washington University in St. Louis, Valéria teaches Portuguese language classes. She is particularly interested in working with students to engage the learning process outside of the traditional classroom in order to cultivate strong interpersonal relationships—ideally lifelong partnerships—between Washington University students and the broader Lusophone community, both locally in St. Louis and globally in various Portuguese-speaking countries.

Art History and Archaeology

Ila N. Sheren will be publishing her first book, tentatively titled Portable Borders: Performance Art and Politics on the U.S. Frontera since 1984 with University of Texas Press. In addition, another of her essays on U.S.-Mexico border art will appear in the forthcoming Blackwell Companion to Modern and Contemporary Latin American and Latino Art (September 2015). She is currently involved in research on antiglobalization movements in art of the twenty-first century.

Angela Miller (Professor, Art History and American Studies) will be the William C. Seitz Senior Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, 2015-2016, where she will work on her book project “Countermodernism: Reason and Magic in American Art at Mid-Century.” Recent publications include: “Reading Ahab: Rockwell Kent, Herman Melville, and C. L. R. James,” ReNew Marxist Art History (London, England: Art/Books, 2014); and “Home and Homeless in Art Between the Wars,” Blackwell Companion to American Art, 2015. Over the past decade she has supervised undergraduate Honors’ theses in Art History, on art in Chile under the dictatorship and in 20th century Brazil; along with graduate thesis work on Mexican art in the late 20th century and on Brazilian contemporary art.

Anthropology

David Freidel, in February 2015, organized at the Santa Fe Institute a weekend Maya Working Group session entitled “The Maya Materialization of Time.” This was the third Maya Working Group session he has organized. The previous sessions, in August 2012 and August 2013, were focused on solar year commemoration buildings called E Groups and their role in the origins of Maya civilization. Those two sessions resulted in an edited volume that has been submitted to University of Florida Press for review. The Santa Fe Institute sponsors work on complex systems of all kinds, including human cultural systems.

Rebecca Clouser joined the International and Area Studies Program in the fall 2013 as a postdoctoral teaching fellow. Her research focuses primarily on critical development studies in post-conflict Guatemala; research interests include: cultural geography, critical development studies, geographies of emotion and affect, and memory studies. Recent publications include the article “Facing fear: the importance of engaging with fear in development literature” in an April 2014 issue of Progress in Development Studies. She presented the following papers at conferences: “Reality and rumor: the gray areas of development work in Guatemala” at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers’ conference (Panama City, Panama; January 2014); “Censado: Surveys, surveillance and Guatemala’s geographies of fear and development” at the Association of American Geographers’ conference (Tampa, Florida; April 2014); “Contrasting narratives of crisis, development and security” Association of American Geographers’ conference (Chicago, Illinois; April 2015); “Geographies of memory, nationalism and development in Guatemala” to be presented at the Conference of Latin Americanist Geographers’ conference (Fortaleza, Brazil; May 2015).

Kedron Thomas has been conducting research with indigenous Maya entrepreneurs in highland Guatemala for ten years. She recently completed a book on their lives and work, tentatively titled, Regulating Style: Law and Fashion in the Knock-Off Economy, to be published by the University of California Press next year. The book examines cultural dimensions of the globalization of intellectual property law, asking how Maya business owners who use popular brand names on the fashionable clothing they manufacture for the Central American market are contending with the criminalization of their trade as brand “piracy.” Over the past year, Dr. Thomas has also co-edited special issues of two journals, PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review and Critique of Anthropology, on the topic of rethinking crime and illegality from an anthropological perspective. Both issues featured her research in Central America.

International and Area Studies

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Bret Gustafson is writing a book on the geocultural politics of energy in Latin America, focusing on natural gas economies and the politics of inequality and indigeneity in Bolivia. He continues to publish on Indigenous rights issues, with various works in press, including an article on new regimes of language in Bolivia, and book chapters on the politics of language revitalization (with Ajbee Jimenez and Felix Julica); mining and social movements in the Andes (with graduate student Natalia Guzmán); and the cartographic politics of gas in Guarani country, Bolivia. He also writes and serves as a contributing editor for the digital media collective, NACLA (North American Congress on Latin America).
**Comparative Literature**

**Ignacio Infante** has recently published *After Translation: The Transfer and Circulation of Modern Poetics across the Atlantic* (Fordham University Press, 2013). *After Translation* examines from a comparative perspective the various ways in which translation facilitates the circulation of modern poetry and poetics across the Atlantic. It rethinks the theoretical paradigm of Anglo-American “modernism” based on the transnational, interlingual and transhistorical features of the work of key modern poets writing at both sides of the Atlantic—namely, the Portuguese Fernando Pessoa; the Chilean Vicente Huidobro; the Spaniard Federico García Lorca; the San Francisco-based poets Jack Spicer, Robert Duncan, and Robin Blaser; the Barbadian Kamau Brathwaite; and the Brazilian brothers Haroldo and Augusto de Campos. *After Translation* has been described by Rebecca Walkowitz as “an original, ambitious, and timely contribution to several established and emerging fields: comparative modernisms, transnational literary studies, poetics, and translation studies.” His article “Remaking Poetics after Postmodernism: Intertextuality, Intermediaity and Cultural Circulation in the Wake of Borges” appears in the Winter 2015 issue of *Comparative Literature* (Duke UP).

**Political Science**

**Brian F. Crisp**, with colleagues **John Patty** and **Maggie Penn**, is working on a project to study bicameral legislatures. Much of their theorizing and much of the empirical work are content to focus on lower chambers. However, the literatures on agenda control, coalition building, and policy stability point to the need to consider how bicameralism works as a system. In addition to advancing theory on bicameralism, they will collect cameral procedures, transcripts of floor minutes, and roll call vote results in the nine upper chambers of Latin America. This project is being funded by the National Science Foundation (Grant # SES-1227186).

**Guillermo Rosas** is associate professor of Political Science at Washington University in St. Louis, where he has taught since 2003. His research focuses on the economic consequences of political regimes and on the effect of political institutions on behavior of political elites in Latin America. He teaches courses on Latin American Politics, Comparative Politics and Political Economy, and Linear Models. He graduated from El Colegio de México with a B.A. in International Relations and earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from Duke University. Before joining Washington University, he taught at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, in Mexico City. Starting in July 2012, Rosas is Faculty Fellow in residence in Brookings College at Washington University. He has co-published the following articles: “Reassessing the Trade-off Hypothesis: How Inflation Drives the Corruption Effect on Presidential Approval” (forthcoming), “The Varying Toll of Corruption Perceptions on Pro- Incumbent Vote Choice” (in press), and “Local Public Goods As Vote-Purchasing Devices? Persuasion and Mobilization in the Choice of Clientelist Payments” (2014).

**Romance Languages and Literatures**

**Iván Eusebio Aguirre Darancou** is presently in his fourth year in the Hispanic Literature and Cultures PhD program at Washington University in St Louis, working as well on a Certificate in Latin American Studies. He has hosted radio shows in Mexico (2006-2011) and St. Louis (2013-present), with topics ranging from cultural criticism to alternative news. His research focuses on countercultural expressions in Latin America and Spain, especially through the presence of hallucinogenic substances in literature and other cultural products, as well as in the changes in gender roles and sexualities. He is currently writing his dissertation on the countercultural body in Mexican capitalism from the 1920’s to the 1990’s, as a body coursed with affects that stands against the mestizo body. Iván has participated and debated his research in academic conferences in Monterrey, UTEP, Emory University, UC-Irvine, LASA, and SCMS. Currently he has published articles on Augusto Monterroso (“Yo soy ellos: Augusto Monterroso y el arte del devenir animal” *La mosca en el canon*, 2014), Guillermo Cabrera Infante (“Memoria e identidad (auto)biográfica en La ninfa inconstante de Guillermo Cabrera Infante”, *Hispanic Review*, Autumn 2014) and Fernando del Paso (“Estamos hecho de palabras y las cosas también: una lectura contracultural a Palinuro de México a la luz de la literatura mexicana de los sesenta,” *Frontal*, Junio 2014).
Britta Anderson keeps working on her dissertation “Criminality and Spirituality in the Borderlands: New Discourses of Mobility,” on the recycling of images and religious practices in literature and public murals as modes of resistance against institutions that limits women’s mobility in border spaces. She presented a conference paper in LASA in May 2014 on the novel Their Dogs Came with Them by Helena María Viramontes and the future of border studies; she organized a panel on masculinities for MACHL in October 2014 and participated in the National Women’s Studies Association in November 2014 in Puerto Rico. Her article “‘Un espacio al que entra-mos’: Presencia como resistencia en Precario de Cecilia Vicuña” was published in 2014 in Vicuñiana: el arte y la poesía de Cecilia Vicuña, a diálogo sur/norte. She will defend her dissertation in 2016.

Stacy Davis is a sixth year Ph.D. candidate. She has a B.A. in English and Spanish from Hollins College (1997) and a M.L.A. from the University of Richmond (2006) with a focus in comparative literature. Combining her main area of focus, nineteenth-century Peninsular literature, with interests in colonial literature and masculinity and transatlantic studies, Stacy is working on her dissertation titled “Hacer las Américas es hacer el hombre: (Re) Constructions of Masculinity Through the indians of Benito Pérez Galdós and Emilia Pardo Bazán.” Her project explores the discursive representations of the indiano and issues of masculinity connected to emigration to the Americas and the end of empire in nineteenth-century Spain as seen in these authors’ novels, plays and short stories.

Alexander Eastman is a PhD candidate in RLL with a specialization in Spanish American and Caribbean literature. His dissertation details the formation of a black public sphere in late nineteenth-century Cuba and charts how black intellectual activists increasingly relied on print media as a tool to mobilize citizens to engage in the struggle for emancipation and civil rights. His article about the autobiography of a black Cuban soldier, “Between Racism and Patriotism in fin de siècle Cuba: Ricardo Batrell’s Creative Resistance” was recently published in the Afro-Hispanic Review. He has two forthcoming articles: “Breaches in the Public Sphere: Racialized Terms of Inclusion in a Text of Transition, Francisco Calcagno’s Aponte” (Bulletin of Spanish Studies) and “Binding Consumption: Cuba’s Early Black Press and the Struggle for Legitimacy, 1879-1886” (Revista siglo diecinueve). His most recent conference participation includes papers on nineteenth-century black baseball clubs in Cuba at the Afro-Latin/American Research Association (Kingston, Jamaica), surf tourism and narratives of discovery at the American Comparative Literature Association (New York) and a paper on the early black press in Cuba at the Latin American Studies Association (Chicago). With the support of the RLL Bryant and Lichter Summer Travel Grant (2014) he spent several weeks in Madrid, Spain, examining censorship records and the journalistic work of exiled Cubans. In July, 2014, he was a graduate fellow at the Cuban Heritage Collection at the University of Miami. He is currently conducting archival research in Cuba with the support of a CLIR Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources (2014-2015).

Javiera Jaque Hidalgo is a Chilean fourth-year student in Spanish in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Washington University in Saint Louis. Her main topic of research is the colonial literature and culture of Latin America with a focus on Jesuit missions in Chile. She is coorganizing with Stephanie Kirk a double panel, “Jesuitas y la educación en América Latina: Discursos del saber en los siglos XVI-XVIII,” to be presented at LASA 2015. In the last two years Javiera has presented her research in several conferences. In January 2015 she presented two conference papers: at The Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies at Chicago, and at the MLA Convention at Vancouver. In the previous year, she participated in three conferences: In October 2014, she presented her work at MACHL (University of Wisconsin, Madison). In April 2014, she presented a conference paper at the University of Chicago. In January 2014, she participated in the graduate student conference at The Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies. Javiera also has published her research on colonial encounters in the South Cone: “Performatividad y visualidad del rito entre mapuches y jesuitas en el siglo XVII.” in the book entitled Colonialismo Sur. Eds. Dr. Ana María Presta and Dr. Gladys Iiarregui (forthcoming), and ”Misiones en territorios periféricos de la colonia española en América: Transformaciones del rito en la guerra de Arauco.” Rocky Mountain Review Vol. 68, n. 2, Fall 2014. Currently, she is working on her dissertation.

Gonzalo Montero Yávar started his PhD in 2011. His main fields of interest are Latin American poetry, visual culture, peripheral avant-garde movements, and the relationship between literature and visual arts. During the last semesters, he has written and published articles in peer-reviewed journals, and has presented his academic work in different universities (University of Chicago, New York University, University of Wisconsin-Madison). In Spring 2015, he will participate in conferences at University of Kentucky-Lexington (University of Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference), and San Juan, Puerto Rico (Latin American Studies Association). Recently, he got
a grant from the Chilean ‘Consejo Nacional de la Cultura y las Artes,’ to edit and publish the book *Revista Artes y Letras* (1918). *Reedición*, with the Chilean press Cuarto Propio. This will be his third edited book and will be published in 2016. At Washington University, he has organized the Graduate Students Conference “Out of Bounds: Movements in and beyond Iberian and Latin American Cultures” (2014), and the Graduate Students Writing Group (since 2012). Currently, he is working on his dissertation, titled “La poesía de la plaza pública: escritura poética, visualidad y espacio político. Chile, 1972-1987,” which analyzes how Chilean authors have used the intersection of poetic writing and visual culture as a means of political intervention and occupation of the public space during the second half of the twentieth century.

**Kyeongeun Park** is a third-year graduate student in the Hispanic Literature and Languages program and is taking the certificate in Latin American Studies. Her main interests are the technology and its impacts on the contemporary hispanic literature. In 2013, she spent several weeks in Rosario and Buenos Aires conducting archival research, with the support of GCLAS Summer Research Grant. Her research findings were presented in the conference in fall 2013: “Digitalized imagination on reality: Pola Oloixarac’s *Las Teorías Salvajes*, Nicolás Mavrakis’ *No Alimenten al Troll*, and J. P. Jooey’s *Sol Artificial*.” In the past year, she participated in MACHL with the article titled "La imaginación capitalizada en la era de la tecnología: Sol Artificial de J. P. Zooey." Currently, she is working on the article “En busca de la salvación alucinógena en el imperio neocolonial" which focuses on the figure of drugs and post-apocalyptic vision in Paz Soldán’s recent novel *Iris* for the forthcoming KFLC.

**Silvia Juliana Rocha Dallos** is a third year Ph.D. student, focused on Latin-American colonial and XIX century literature and Certificate in Latin American Studies. She received her B.A in History from Universidad Industrial de Santander (2008) and her M.A in History from Universidad de los Andes (2011). She received a scholarship for studies from the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies of the U. de los Andes (2009–2010), and a Colonial History Research Scholarship from the Colombian Institute of Anthropology and History - ICANH (2010). She has worked as a Professor in the Area of Spanish for the Department of Languages and Socio-cultural Studies from U. de los Andes and as consultant at Cultural Ministry of Colombia. Recently, she earned a Latin American Summer Grant (2013) and focused her research in the “Textos satíricos, anónimos y contraimperiales en México, 1810 – 1830”; she received the Eva Sichel Memorial Essay Prize, in recognition of outstanding achievement for an essay in criticism of Spanish Literature (2014). Last year her M.A research “Vélez Ladrón de Guevera y la representación del sujeto criollo en la poesía colonial neogranadina” was awarded by the Archivo de Bogotá as one of the best graduate academic research written during 2012.

**Jose Carlos Salinas** is a first-year graduate student in Hispanic Languages and Literatures at Washington University of St. Louis. He is also working towards the graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies. His major interests are modernization and nation-state building in 20th century Latin American literature and culture, especially in the Andean Zone.

**Pablo M. Zavala** is a Ph.D. student focusing on Mexican literature, cultural studies and postcolonial theory. He has a forthcoming article titled “La producción antifeminicidista mexicana: autórida, representación y feminismo en la frontera juarense,” in the peer-reviewed journal *Chasqui*. In 2014, he earned the Eva Sichel Memorial Essay Prize for the best essay written during the preceding year. He will be conducting research in Mexico City this summer as part of the Certificate in Latin American Studies. He is a fellow of the Chancellor’s Graduate Fellowship Program.

**Anthropology**

**Natalia Guzmán Solano** is a 2nd year PhD student in the Anthropology department. Her research focuses on the nexus between large-scale mining and women’s anti-mining activism in highland Peru. During the summers of 2014 and 2015 she conducted exploratory and pilot research with women’s groups in Cajamarca, Peru. These women’s organizations are part of a network of activist groups that constitute a social movement against the Conga Mining Project. Through her research she also explore how these forms of activism may be rejecting traditional feminisms constructed by a Euro-American global north and may instead be producing alternative constructions of women’s empowerment. She will present a paper at the 2015 LASA Conference on legal marginalization and the criminalization of protest in the context of the anti-Conga movement titled “Struggle from the margins: Juridical processes and Entanglements with the Peruvian State in the Era of Mega-mining.” She is also co-author with Bret Gustafson on a chapter in a forthcoming volume on social movement resistance to mining projects in Peru.
Fashion knock-offs are ubiquitous. Even in out-of-the-way, rural markets in highland Guatemala, fake branded clothes offer a cheap, chic alternative for people who can’t afford high-priced originals. Fashion companies have taken notice. They now ensure that international trade agreements include stronger intellectual property protections to prevent brand “piracy,” the unauthorized reproduction of trademarked brand names. They justify legal intervention in Central America and other world regions by claiming that piracy threatens corporate profits, although there is little evidence to support this assertion. They claim that piracy is organized crime that drains national economies, funds drug cartels, and fuels terrorism, but the data suggest that knock-off production actually contributes to economic growth in emerging markets.

So, why do fashion companies care about fake fashion in Guatemala? What is at stake in the global regulation of style?

Since 2006, my research has focused on these questions, taking Guatemala as a case study for exploring the contemporary relationship between law and fashion. Although many people who are part of the indigenous Maya majority in Guatemala wear brightly colored, hand woven, traditional blouses and skirts, indigenous and non-indigenous Guatemalans alike increasingly clamor for Abercrombie & Fitch sweatshirts, Nike sneakers, and Diesel jeans. Inside small workshops, Maya men use computerized technologies to reproduce these globally popular, branded fashions and sell them around Central America.

I have approached fake fashion from the perspective of these men, seeking to understand why they copy popular brands and how they interact with international legal frameworks that criminalize their livelihood. Two years of ethnographic fieldwork in their workshops and the markets where knock-offs are sold reveals that intellectual property proponents misrepresent the supposed threat that brand “pirates” pose to the global economy. What is more, international law misunderstands how fashion brands work and why people reproduce and wear them. In trademark law, brands are treated as signatures of a product’s authorship, origin, and authenticity. In marketing scholarship, brands are figured as images whose carefully crafted meanings adhere even as they travel across disparate contexts. Highland Guatemala has proven to be a fascinating setting for exploring how brands, as material objects, get picked up as design elements that are integral components in the production of recognizable styles.

Style has emerged as a keyword in my analysis of the regulation of fashion. Social life happens in and with a world of things, and people develop distinctive styles, or ways of doing, through their engagements with material culture. Imitation is intrinsic to this process as people take up and interpret what has come before, while also adapting and innovating existing forms. This dialectic of copying and creativity through which style takes shape is broken apart and removed from its unfolding temporality when intellectual property proponents and law enforcement agents designate some fashion designers and manufacturers as properly creative and entrepreneurial and others as mere copycats. Such categorizations tend to trace racial, gender, and class divides on regional and global scales. At every turn, then, the anthropological investigation of the use of popular brand names and the criminalization of “piracy” demands attention to colonialism and nationalism, indigeneity and difference in and beyond Latin America. In the end, I find that the regulation of fashion knock-offs in Latin America is less about the economic threat that fakes pose to rights-bearing corporations and more about these issues of social distinction. The knock-off trade seems dangerous to fashion firms because, through it, Maya people (and other marginalized populations) are creating new and intimate relationships to the material culture of First World modernity.
Summer Program in Argentina

“This past summer, I studied abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina through the IFSA-Butler Summer Institute for Study Abroad program. For six weeks, I attended classes, stayed with a family, and had the chance to explore an amazing city and country.

I knew I wanted to study abroad in Argentina because it is so linguistically and culturally unique, but I had no idea what to expect from the city itself. I fell in love with Buenos Aires, especially with the entire city excited for the World Cup. I also got the chance to travel to Uruguay, Iguazu Falls, and Mendoza during the weekends with people who are now some of my closest friends, which gave me the chance to see another side of Argentina.

I would definitely recommend this program to other students looking to study abroad in Latin America. I learned so much about the history, culture, and current events of Argentina not only from my host family and teachers, but also from the city of Buenos Aires itself.”

Hayley Perlis  
Washington University in St. Louis ’15  
Candidate for B.A in Spanish and Latin American Studies

Focus Program in Cuba

During Spring Break of 2015, Professors Joseph Schraibman and Elzbieta Sklodowska traveled to Cuba with a group of freshmen enrolled in a two-semester Freshman FOCUS Seminar. Schraibman and Sklodowska have been co-teaching this course since 2001 and in spite of the embargo-related logistical challenges there was only one year when the Cuba trip did not materialize. Cuba is on everybody’s mind due to the recent “thaw” in its bilateral relations with the United States but few travelers are as well-prepared for the visit on the island as the FOCUS students. During the first-semester of this course, organized around the common theme of Cuban culture, they study the historical development of Cuban society from slavery through the Wars of Independence and the Republic. During the second-semester, under the rubric of Stranger than Paradise: Cuban Experience of the Revolution, students learn about the politics of race and sexuality, censorship and dissent, African cultural heritage, and the fusion of differing religious practices. While in Cuba, an intensive program that interweaves leisure and learning takes the group through colonial and modern Havana, and into the countryside. The highlights of the trip include: a rumba performance in Callejón de Hamel, lunch at La Guarida restaurant housed in a building where Strawberry and Chocolate was filmed, a puppet show in a working-class neighborhood of Marianao with local children in attendance, a special tour of Havana’s legendary Art Schools, a visit to Vigía, an independent art book publishing collective in the city of Matanzas, and, of course, a few hours at one of Havana’s splendid beaches. Lectures by invited speakers, visits to art galleries, dancing in Casa de la Música or Fábrica de Arte Cubano and, of course, Cuban cuisine, supplement this unique experience.
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