# CLS News

Newsletter of the Program in Comparative Literary Studies

# Program in Comparative Literary Studies

#### **Program Director**

Christopher Bush c-bush@northwestern.edu 847-467-0958

#### **Director of Graduate Studies**

Jörg Kreienbrock j-kreienbrock@northwestern. edu

## Director of Undergraduate Studies

Christoper Bush c-bush@northwestern.edu

#### **Program Assistant**

Tara Sadera tara.sadera@northwestern.edu

#### **CLS Office**

1860 Campus Drive Crowe 1-117 847-491-3864

www.complit.northwestern.edu

## News at CLS



It has been an exciting year for Comparative Literary Studies, which has supported events ranging from a reading by inaugural poet Richard Blanco to a centennial celebration of Marcel Proust's A la recherche du temps perdu, from a lecture on Kierkegaard and tragedy by Leonardo Lisi (Johns Hopkins) to

an intimate conversation with Ta-Nehisi Coates (*The Atlantic*) about French and the politics of race in France.

The range of the program's course offerings continues to grow through partner-ships with the many new literary studies initiatives taking place around the university. The new program in Middle Eastern and North African Studies, with an under-graduate major and a graduate certificate, offers literature courses from our own Brian Edwards, Hannah Feldman, and affiliate Rebecca Johnson. This fall also saw the birth of a new Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, which will have eight literature faculty working on China, Japan, Korea, and South Asia. Together these units will have offerings from elementary language courses (in eight different languages) to graduate seminars on literature, cinema, and culture.

This summer CLS will send two graduate students, Maziyar Faridi and Sonia Li, to the Institute for World Literature in Hong Kong. Generous support from The Graduate School and the Weinberg Office of Research and Graduate Studies will allow CLS to provide full funding for the students, the first from Northwestern to attend the Harvard-based IWL.

CLS continues to collaborate with literature and literary studies groups such as the Comparative Modernisms workshop (led by Harris Feinsod and Alejandra Uslenghi) and the Poetry and Poetics Colloquium (Susannah Gottlieb, Director), as well as numerous critical theory groups on campus, including the Afterlife of Phenomenology workshop, the Critical Theory Undergraduate workshop, and the Program in Critical Theory (co-directed by Peter Fenves and Penelope Deutscher).

Watch for the spring newsletter for announcements about next year, including new graduate-level collaborations with Classics; the expansion of our undergraduate "Reading World Literature" course into a multi-quarter sequence; and an array of new course offerings, including graduate seminars on Nabokov, African post-colonial theory, and Lacan.

#### **Christopher Bush**

Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature Program Director, Comparative Literary Studies Associate Professor, Department of French and Italian

## Student News

Alexandra Becker had an essay published at the end of last academic year in the UC Berkeley Comparative Literature Undergraduate Journal Travel Section titled "Driving Lessons." She is set to complete her undergraduate studies in three years, at the end of this year, and has been accepted to the BA/MA program in Comparative Literary Studies. In her free time, she writes songs and sings in the choir at the Sheil Catholic Center.

**Brett Brehm** will be presenting a paper this March, 2014, at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association's annual conference in Chicago. The title of his paper is "Resounding Paris: Urban Acoustics in Baudelaire and Mallarmé." He is currently conducting research on his dissertation, "Kaleidophonic Modernity: Sound, City, Technology" in Paris.

**Ruth Martin** started her tenure as a Graduate Student Fellow in the Brady Scholars Program in Ethics and Civil Life. This summer, she attended "Transcendentalism and Social Action in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller" as an NEH Summer Institute Scholar. In September 2013, she delivered the panel "Margaret Fuller's Creative Reading: Excision, Excerption and the Creation of Woman" at "The Return of the Text: A Conference on the Cultural Value of Close Reading" at the Le Moyne College Religion and Literature Forum. She is currently acting as Research Coordinator for the Classicizing Chicago archive and website: www.classicizingchicago.northwestern.edu.

CLS Alumna **Jennifer Croft** is currently living in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she is studying and translating contemporary Argentine literature and is the founding editor at *The Buenos Aires Review*. She most recently had a translation, dealing with the crisis in the Ukraine, published in the op-ed scetion of the NY Times.

CLS Alumna **Julia Ng**, following her post-doc at Harvard University, has taken a position as a lecturer at Goldsmiths, University of London.

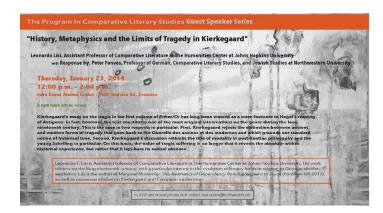
## Faculty News

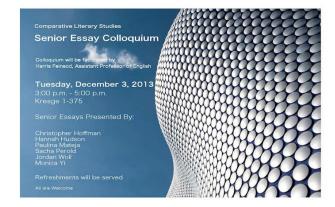
Professor **César Braga-Pinto**'s "Othello's Pathologies: reading Caminha with Lombroso" will be published in *Comparative Literature* in spring 2014. He was a respondent at the MLA Conference panel "Missed Connections and Misencounters: Rethinking Twentieth-Century Inter-American Literature" in January. He will also be presenting on "Black Citizens and the Invention of the Brazilian Gentleman" at the American Comparative Literature Association in March, and on "The Writer in the closet: Raul Pompeia's Reputation" at the Latin American Studies Congress in Chicago in May. He is currently conducting a research project entitled "Concordia Discors: Race and Sociability in Brazilian Lettered Culture (1888-1940)" to investigate theorizations and literary representations of friendship sociability during the period following the abolition of slavery in Brazil, until the establishment of the discourse that came to be known as "racial democracy" in the 1930s.

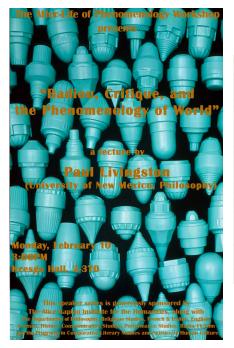
Professor Elisa Marti-Lopez presented at numerous conferences between May 2013 and January 2014. Her presentations include "The Impertinent Cemetery: Deciphering the Modern City in Narcis Oller's La febre d'or" at the 2014 MLA Conference, Chicago; "Mort, representació i imaginació literària: La febre d'or de Narcís Oller" at the Universitat d'Alacant, Spain; "Who is Afraid of Cemeteries? Memory, Oblivion, and Urban Spaces of Death" at the Arnos Vale Cemetery, UK; "On Death" at the University of Sheffield, UK; "Death and the City in the Work of Benito Pérez Galdós and Narcís Oller" at the University of Sheffield, UK; "Cemeteries as Object of Study: An Open Inquiry" at the University of Bristol, UK, and "Urban Spaces of Death: Cemeteries as Narratives of the Modern City" at the University of London, UK.

Professor **Samuel Weber**'s new French book, titled *Inquiétantes singularités*, was published on January 15th by the Parisian publisher Hermann. The book was translated by **Charles Coustille**, a French dual-PhD student in CLS. Professor Weber delivered the keynote address at the Quadrennial Conference of CLAROC (Comparative Literature Association of the Republic of China) in Taipei in Dec. 2013 as well as other lectures in Basel, Frankfurt, London and at Cornell in 2013. He has upcoming lectures at Brown in March, and SUNY-Buffalo in May 2014. He is currently conducting research on Kafka, Hölderlin and his long-standing project, "Toward a Politics and Poetics of Singularity."

## Recent CLS Events



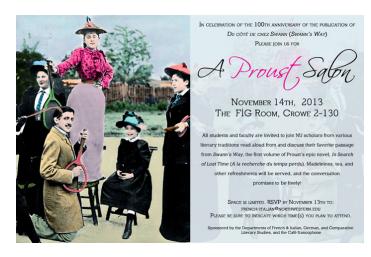


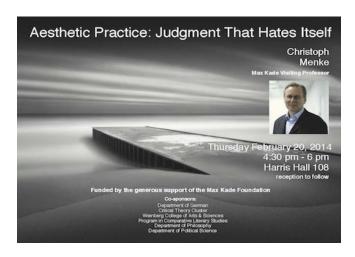


### Co-Sponsored Events









# CLS Spring 2014 Schedule

Course	Title	Days	Time	Instructor
CLS 211/SLAV 255	Topics in Genre: What Is Lyric Poetry?	MW (Disc. F)	11-12:20 Disc: F 11	Clare Cavanagh
CLS 301/CLA 350	Practices of Reading: Contemporary Literary Theory and Ancient Texts	TTH	2-3:20	Marianne Hopman
CLS 304-20/ENG 386	Studies in Theme: The Alien as Other	TTH	12:30-1:50	Sarah Valentine
CLS 304-22/SPAN 397	Studies in Theme: Labyrinths	MW	12-1:20	Elisa Marti-Lopez
CLS 311/ENG 306	Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation	MW	11-12:20	Reginald Gibbons
CLS 313-20/ENG 386/ MENA 301-3	Texts and Contexts: 20/21 Century Literature & Film from MENA: National Traditions, Global Influences	MW	2-3:20	Brian Edwards
CLS 375-20/ENG 386	Literature and Its Others: Cowboys and Samurai in Fiction and Film	MW	11-12:20	Andrew Leong
CLS 375-21/MUSICOL 343	Music & Shakespeare	MW	11-12:20	Linda Austern
CLS 383/PHIL 315	Studies in French Philosophy: Reading Foucault	TTH (Disc. F)	6-7:20 Disc: F 12, 1 TH 7:30	Penelope Deutscher
CLS 390/ENG 365	Postcolonial Animal	TTH	3:30-4:50	Evan Mwangi
CLS 390-21/GER 346	Tragedy Ancient & Modern	Т	1:00-4:00	Sam Weber
CLS 412	Graduate Student Seminar	Т	3-5	Caitlyn Doyle
CLS 413	Comparative Studies in Theme: Ovidian Poetics	М	2-5	Will West
CLS 481/GER 401	German Literature & Critical Thought	М	2-5	Sam Weber
CLS 487/ENG 481	Studies in Literature and the Arts: The Digital Age	TH	2-5	Brian Edwards

## Courses in non-Western literatures in translation offered through CLS

Course	Title	Days	Time	Instructor
CLS 211-21/ALC 290	Living Epics: Ramayana and Mahabharata	MW	3:30-4:50	Laura Brueck
CLS 274-3/ALC 274-3	Intro to Chinese Literature in Translation: Modern	TTH	3:30-4:50	Peter Shen
CLS 304-21/ALC 390	Fashion Matters: Clothes, Bodies and Consumption in East Asia	TTH	2-3:20	Paola Zamperini



#### CLS 311/ENG 306:

### Theory and Practice of Poetry Translation

Professor Reginald Gibbons

MW 11:00-12:20pm, Crowe 1-125

Together we will translate several short poems and study theoretical approaches to literary translation and practical accounts by literary translators. We will approach language, poems, poetics, culture and theoretical issues and problems in relation to each other. Your written work will be due in different forms during the course. In your final portfolio, you will present revised versions of your translations and a research paper on translation.