Kudos Newsletter - Fall 2017

Congratulations to All Recent Graduates!

Dr. Lindsey Averill - Summer 2016
**Fattitude The Movie**: Theory and Praxis of Creating a Documentary that Examines Fat Representation and Fat Social Justice

Dr. Angela Martin - Spring 2016
**Writing to Exist**: Transformation and Translation into Exile

Dr. Benton J. Fazzolari - Spring 2016
**Tracing a Technological God**: A Psychoanalytic Study of Google and the Global Ramifications of Its Media Proliferation

Dr. John Bronsted - Spring 2016

Welcome Back to Returning Students & A Big
It has been a sincere pleasure to welcome our new cohort of students to the PhD program in Comparative Studies at FAU and to see all the familiar faces of returning students, as well. We were extremely fortunate to welcome 8 new students into the Cultures, Languages, and Literatures track this fall, including three new Presidential Fellows (Ana Christina Gaspar de Alba, Kathryn Bridwell-Briner, and Charles Gleek) and our first Schmidt Doctoral Fellow in Somaesthetics (Priscilla Renta). This means that as of Fall 2017, we have 48 students in the CLL track, 3 in the Public Intellectuals (PI) track, 3 in the Literatures, Literacies, and Linguistics (LLL) track, and 2 in the Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) track. The PhD program's accolades continue to grow - thanks to the diligence and intelligence of our students - and this newsletter gives copious evidence of that. The program itself is also growing, and in multiple ways. The PhD executive committee is currently hard at work conceptualizing a new social science track which we hope to start recruiting for in the Fall of 2018. In addition, we are working hard to secure support for our new program initiatives: building a PhD internship program, creating a new alumni mentorship program, fostering new interdisciplinary partnerships with intercollegial partners, and exploring new and innovative models of dissertation research. For alumni of the program, please don't hesitate to drop me a line, introduce yourself, and tell me a bit about what you've been involved in since leaving FAU - as the new director of the program, there are many of you I haven't had the pleasure of meeting, and I'd genuinely enjoy hearing from you. For current students - keep up the excellent work. You make us proud! Sincerely, Adam Bradford

Adam Bradford, PhD
Director, PhD in Comparative Studies
Domenica Diraviam holds an M.A. and a B.A. in Secondary Education of French and Italian from the University of South Florida. Her academic interests as a doctoral candidate include the Italian diaspora and digital humanities. Currently, Domenica is a Senior Instructional Designer at Broward College. In addition to years of experience as a blended and face to face course developer and instructor of French, Italian, and Spanish at the junior high, high school, and post-secondary level, she has also developed and facilitated study abroad programs to Italy. Her outside interests include family time, traveling, cooking, and running.

Carmen Duarte

Carmen Duarte received a bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts with a major in theatre arts in her native Cuba, where she was a theater director, as well as playwright. She has two internationally performed plays and five published books. She received a Master's Degree in Spanish and Literature in Florida Atlantic University. The play ¿Cuánto Me Das, Marinero? has been performed in several Latin-American countries, including Colombia and Argentina, and has been included in several theater anthologies. Other plays, such as Stradavarious, have been performed in different Latin-American countries, including Brazil. Duarte was invited to speak at the Second International Assembly of Dramatic Playwrights, in 1990, sponsored by the University of York, Toronto, Canada. In 1993 she was invited to be a speaker at the Fifth

I will also be teaching a graduate seminar on feminist critiques of colonialism, empire, and slavery for the Comparative Studies program. This will be an interdisciplinary cultural studies course drawing from literature, history, anthropology, film studies, and performance studies. We’ll read a range of feminist scholarship and cultural texts to think through the gender and sexual politics of the Atlantic slave trade, British colonialism and U.S. imperialism in Asia, and settler colonialism in the Americas. We'll pay particular attention to feminist comparative and relational methods that grapple with multiple, nonequivalent histories and forms of colonial violence and dispossession. Some of the key texts for this course will be Saidiya Hartman’s *Lose Your Mother*, Gaiutra Bahadur’s *Cookie Woman*, Lisa Lowe’s *The Intimacies of Four Continents*, Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, as well as essays by Anne McClintock, Deborah Miranda, Audra Simpson, Angela Davis, Stephanie Smallwood, Gayatri Gopinath, Rosa Linda Fregoso, and others.

4. What was your dissertation on?
My dissertation was called *Racial Encounters: Queer Affiliations in Black and South Asian Diasporas*. It was a transnational study of race and sexuality that looked at the meetings of Black and South Asian diasporic formations engendered by both British and U.S. empire in four locations: postcolonial Trinidad, British East Africa, Thatcher-era London, and the post-9/11 United States. In each of these contexts, Black and South Asian subjects have historically been positioned in differential relation to each other. I analyzed literature, film, government documents, historical narratives, and family photographs to argue that diasporic cultural production not only documents these moments of convergence, but also enables critically resistant cultural and political practices, including forms of diasporic memory making and queer feminist models of cross-racial affiliation and coalition that refuse the comforts of solidarities forged through analogy and equivalence.

5. What was your recent publication in *South Asian Review* on?
My essay in *South Asian Review* is called “Diasporic Relationalities: Queer Affiliations in Shani Mootoo’s “Out on Main Street.”” In it, I offer a critical reading of Shani Mootoo’s “Out on Main Street” as an alternative to the neoliberal Indian state’s mobilization of diaspora discourse. I suggest that the nationalist construction of an undifferentiated diasporic Indian subject is the outcome of a project of forgetting in which histories of colonial indenture are subsumed by the Indian state’s global capital ambitions. I read “Out on Main Street” not only as a representation of the residues of British colonialism embodied in multiply displaced postcolonial subjects, but also as a text that theorizes diaspora queerly to critique the essentialism of diasporic nationalisms and imagine queer feminist modes of affiliation and collectivity that resist the beckoning call of exclusionary nationalisms.

6. Any additional areas of interest?
Popular Hindi film has been a major interest of mine since I was a kid, so it’s exciting to be able to write and think about Bollywood now, both as a fan and as a critic.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Lindsey Averill

Dr. Lindsey Averill, a recent graduate of FAU’s PhD in Comparative Studies program, has come a long way since her first years as a graduate student. Her now internationally acclaimed documentary, *Fattitude*, is making its rounds to film festivals and screenings across the country, and will be showcased in a special screening and Q&A at FAU on November 14.

Averill’s first spark of inspiration was ignited in Dr. Jane Caputi’s class at FAU. Dr. Caputi encouraged students to think about varied forms of oppression, which encouraged Averill to reflect on her own experiences with it. “One of the oppressions that I experienced, in a self-terrorism kind of way, was fat shaming,” Averill said. She was first inspired in the checkout line at a supermarket, by a *Glamour* magazine and its plus sized models, which, Averill notes, “don’t really look like fat women.” Although the *Glamour* spread boasted body-positivity with their army of plus-sized models, Averill reflected, “If these are the soldiers, I am not invited.” Since this first fat studies piece, Averill has published much on teen media and its influence in popular culture.

After diving head-first into fat studies research, Averill approached her business partner, Viridiana Lieberman, about making a film. They raised $55,000 on Kickstarter, interviewed fat studies scholars around the country, and are now showcasing their final product from Vancouver to New York. They have received awards, worldwide recognition, and standing
ovations for their work. Their film strives to change the perspectives on fat and body image; “we want to change the national conversation,” Averill said, “instead of envisioning it as a personal problem, we need to view it as a cultural problem.”

Although Averill’s dissertation was largely tied in to her documentary, she also wrote a 250-page dissertation that "does the active work of breaking down fat representation of women in media." She now laughingly refers to it as a happy "mistake" and a "convoluted" journey, but that was all part of the process. Averill states, "When you’re doing a dissertation in the Comparative Studies program, you have to look outside the box and ask, can I pitch this?” And thankfully, she did.

Student News

Kira Apple
Kira Apple is the editorial assistant to Dr. William L. Leap for the Journal of Language and Sexuality, a peer-reviewed journal in publication since 2012. As secretary for the Comparative Student Association, she has also been working as conference coordinator for CSSA’s October conference, "The (Dis)Order of Things: Mechanisms of Power and Control."

Cora Bresciano
Cora Bresciano was recently awarded a grant from FAU’s South Florida Cultures Platform to initiate her online project called, "The Art of Peace: A Global Vision of Peace by the World’s Young People." The very first project, from a school in Kampala, Uganda, may be seen at www.blueplanetwriters.org/the-art-of-peace. This past summer, at Blue Planet Writers Room, the global education non-profit that she co-founded in 2008, she and her co-director coordinated and led the second annual summer institute, "Bridges Rather than Walls: Connecting Students to the World with Creative Writing and the Arts." Her presentation at this institute was titled "A Bridge of Birds: Creative Work as Positive Resistance."

Skye Cervone
Skye Cervone was appointed as an editor of peer-reviewed publications for The Eaton Journal of Archival Research in Science Fiction. The Eaton Journal is an online, peer-reviewed journal edited by graduate students and published by the College of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences and The Eaton Science Fiction and Fantasy Collection of the libraries of the University of California, Riverside. She was elected as the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA) Public Information Officer, an Executive Board position she was temporarily appointed to in 2016 to fill a vacancy. Skye presented two conference papers and was the co-organizer of a roundtable discussion. Her paper, "Neoliberal Colonization: Corporate Dystopia in Fredrick Pohl and C.M. Kornbluth's The Space Merchants," presented at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association's annual conference in Jacksonville, Florida, exemplified how reading The Space Merchants through the lenses of biopolitics and post-colonialism is essential to understanding Pohl and Kornbluth's vision of dystopia. Her paper, “The Disruptive Terror of Political Animals: Investigating Pigoons in Margaret Atwood's MaddAddam Trilogy,” presented at the annual IAFA conference in Orlando, Florida, argued the pigeons’ journey from patented product to political animal disrupts the human/animal boundary and offers a scathing critique of neoliberal efforts to commodity life. Also at the IAFA conference, Skye co-organized and moderated “Digging Deep into Other Worlds: Archival Research in Science Fiction and Fantasy” for The Eaton Journal. Some topics covered included how digital culture impacts archival research and the archival process, the ethical implications of archival research, and how current authors curate their personal archives to promote current and future scholarship. A transcript of "Digging Deep into Other Worlds" is forthcoming in The Eaton Journal. Skye also has two reviews forthcoming in Science Fiction Film and Television and will be presenting a paper on Octavia Butler’s Kindred at the Modern Language Association’s annual conference this January in New York.

Daniel Creed
Daniel Creed was appointed as an editor for The Eaton Journal of Archival Research in Science Fiction. The Eaton Journal is an online, peer-reviewed journal edited by graduate students and published by the College of Humanities Arts and Social Sciences and The Eaton Science Fiction and Fantasy Collection of the libraries of the University of California, Riverside. In addition, after being nominated and chosen by the board, Dan officially took over as the Division Head for Fantasy Literature for the International Association of Fantastic in the Arts. This appointment places Dan in charge of evaluating abstracts, creating panels and paper sessions, and developing future conference plans for the annual International Conference of Fantastic in the Arts. The appointment runs through 2020 (minimum term).
Dan also presented papers at two conferences and co-organized and participated in a panel discussion. He presented the paper "Utopian Souths: The Fantastic Mode and the Escape from Dystopia" at the 2016 South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference in November, 2016. The paper focused on how southern literature utilizes the fantastic mode to create an episodic memory of a past that never was in an attempt to escape the horror vacui of southern history in the Reconstruction era through the twentieth century. At the 2017 IAFA conference in Orlando, Dan's paper, "The Pen is Mightier as a Sword: Memory and Discovery in Steven Erikson's Malazan series" focused on the multi-level functions of memory within and outside the diegesis of the guest of honor's epic fantasy series. In addition to presenting the paper on Erikson, Dan co-organized and responded as a participant on a panel entitled "Digging Deep into Other Worlds: Archival research in science fiction and fantasy" for the Eaton Journal of the same name. The panel focused on archival research from the experience of scholars and authors, and how each deals with ethical conflicts and discovery within authorial archives. A transcript of the panel discussion is forthcoming in The Eaton Journal.

Lastly, Dan has two encyclopedia entries forthcoming in a volume concerning the alien in science fiction. The volume is based on an unfinished project following the death of author Mike Levy, and is now being edited by Farah Mendlesohn for post-humous publication. Dan's entries on John W. Campbell and Robert Heinlein will appear in the finished volume, and he will be given a contributing author credit in the front matter.

Carmen Duarte
Carmen Duarte's most recent novel, El inevitable rumbo de la brújula, was published in November 2016. It was also presented at the Miami International Book Fair last November. Carmen also recently did a presentation about Historical Novels at Books and Books in Coral Gables. Previous publications include ¿Cuánto me das marino? in 1994 (theatre plays), Hasta la vuelta in 2001 (novel), La danza de los abanicos in 2006 (novel), and Donde empieza y acaba el mundo in 2013 (novel).

Stephanie Flint

Stephanie is finishing her final year as Comparative Studies Student Association president and is assisting with the upcoming CSSA conference this October. In addition the CSSA conference, she will be presenting at the Mid Atlantic Popular Culture Association's annual conference on "Brotherly Love Will Keep Us Together: A Roundtable on Gender, Sexuality, Monstrosity, Metatfiction, and More in the CW series Supernatural" this November.

Charlie Gleek
Charlie Gleek is in his first year of his Ph.D. in Comparative Studies, working in visual culture and rhetoric around themes of class, gender, and race across the disciplinary boundaries of art history, cultural studies, digital humanities, and literary studies. Charlie has a forthcoming review of Talitha LeFlouria's Chained in Silence: Black Women and Convict Labor in the New South in The Journal of American Culture in February of 2018. Charlie's recent conference presentations include a reading of his essay, "And So Dies My Clan: Trauma Time and Indigenous Literature" at the NonfictionNOW 2017 conference in Reykjavik, Iceland this past June, as well as his presentation "Read. White. Litmag: Whiteness in the Fall 2016 Issue of Brevity" which he will present at our upcoming Comparative Studies Student Association conference in October. Charlie was awarded an FAU Presidential Fellowship for both the 2017-18 and 2018-19 academic years.

Damara Martin
Damara Martin published "What Chu Tryin ta Say, Doe? in Hippocampus Magazine (creative nonfiction), and her poem "Bumblebee," which explores colorism in the African-American community, coming-of-age, and race in America, will be published in the next volume of The African American Review. Damara was awarded the FAU Diversity Fellowship for the summer term of 2017, as well as the Delores A. Auzenne Fellowship for the Fall term of 2017.

Dyanne Martin
Dyanne Martin presented at the Semiotic Society of America’s 41st annual conference, where Marcel Danesi, Professor of Semiotics and Linguistic Anthropology at the University of Toronto, invited her to co-author a book on the semiotics of race. Her proposal to Danesi and Bloomsbury is forthcoming. She also presented at the College English Association’s 48th annual conference. Her paper on the rhetoric of freedom in The History of Mary Prince won the "best in section" award, and the CEA Critic is publishing this essay.
Priscilla Renta is a dance and Latinx studies scholar whose recent work includes movement as a healing, transformational and spiritual practice. She is co-editor of the special issue *Rhythm & Power: Performing Salsa in Puerto Rican Communities*, published by the Centro Journal of Puerto Rican Studies in 2017. Her work on Afro-Latin dance has been published in the anthologies *Salsa World* (Temple University Press, 2013); *TechnoFuturos: Critical Interventions in Latino/o Studies* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2007), as well as in the Fall 2004 issue of the *Centro Journal of Puerto Rican Studies*. She has taught Caribbean dance and dance history in Chicago, New Jersey and New York.

Caroline Webb
Caroline Webb is an Assistant Professor of English at Broward College.

**About This Issue:**

Kudos go to Stephanie Flint for writing and editing this issue of *Kudos*.

Please send your news items and photos to sflint2015@fau.edu for the next issue. We are especially interested in hearing about alumna updates and student scholarly work.

Visit us [Ph.D. in Comparative Studies Website](#).

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**New Faculty**

School of Communication and Multimedia Studies

**Professor Adam James Smith**, Assistant Professor of Journalism and faculty advisor to Student Media (OWL TV and OWL Radio). Adam is a filmmaker from Yorkshire, UK. He holds a keen interest in urbanization and how individuals and communities adapt to rapid change. To date, he has produced, directed and edited four short documentaries in America - The Diner, Love & Allegiance (co-dir Tijana Petrovic), Shangri-La, Role Play - and one feature documentary in China, The Land of Many Palaces (co-dir Song Ting). He is currently in post-production on Americaville, a feature-documentary about the replica Wyoming town of Jackson Hole on the outskirts of Beijing, China.

Professor Demetrius Dukes is an Instructor in the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies. His interest in digital art evolved from a desire to explore the lineage between traditional and digital art forms. His academic research is centered around exploring 20th century art forms and their influence on contemporary games. His personal interests include painting, 3D modeling, developing content for 3D animation, and developing interactive games. While earning his MFA at Florida Atlantic University, Demetrius has taught courses in 3D animation, character modeling, visual effects, digital compositing, and augmented reality.

Dr. Christina Childs DeWalt earned her Ph.D. in journalism from the University of Oklahoma in 2017. A two-time (2015, 2016) recipient of the prestigious University of Hawaii's Carol Burnett Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Media Ethics, DeWalt researches in the areas of mediated social influence and media ethics with a particular focus on health and environmental communication. Most recently, her dissertation, which investigated how digital storytelling tools and literary language could advance the effectiveness of climate change news coverage, was awarded the Nancy L. Mergler Dissertation Fellowship. DeWalt teaches in a number of areas including new media, media ethics, media writing, and communication theory.
Dr. Matt Sobnosky, an instructor, has a PhD in rhetoric from the University of Nebraska. He has taught previously at Emerson College, the College of William and Mary, and Hofstra University. His research focuses on the rhetoric of social protest, with a particular interest in agnotology, or the study of ignorance as a feature of social and political discourse.

Department of History

Dr. Carl Suddler is an Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora History. He received his PhD in 2015 from Indiana University, where he wrote his dissertation entitled "Young Forever: The Criminalization of Urban Youth, 1939-1964". Most recently he was an Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Black American Studies at the University of Delaware. In 2015-16 he was a Postdoctoral Fellow at the James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference at Emory University, and served as Editorial Assistant for the Journal of American History from 2011-14. Dr. Suddler is currently putting the finishing touches on his book manuscript, Presumed a Criminal, to be published by New York University Press. His research and teaching interests include African American history, African diaspora, twentieth-century U.S. history, urban history, history of crime and punishment, the carceral state, sports history, and histories of childhood and youth.

Department of Music

Anthony M. Messina serves as Visiting Assistant Professor/Associate Director of Bands and Director of Athletic Bands at Florida Atlantic University. His responsibilities include overseeing all aspects of the athletic band program, which includes direction of the Marching Owls and Parliament Sound Basketball Band, and conducting the Symphonic Band. Mr. Messina is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Wind Conducting from the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS), holds a Master of Music in Wind Conducting from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music (Bloomington, IN) and a Bachelor of Music Education from Wayne State University (Detroit, MI).

Dr. Courtney D. Jones, Assistant Professor: prior to his appointment at Florida Atlantic University as the Assistant Professor of Trumpet & Artistic Director of the Jazz Ensemble, Jones was a Lecturer of Music at Columbus State University while recording his Solo CD project, "Between 2 Worlds," at the Joyce and Henry Schwob School of Music. Between teaching and solo performing engagements, Courtney has continued to perform with ensembles, Curtis and instrumental performance in inner-city schools through the Music Outreach Program at UCLA, The Harmony Project of Los Angeles, and Trumpets 4 Kids in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Jones taught for two years as Visiting Assistant Professor of Trumpet at the Voxman School of Music at the University of Iowa, performing with Orchestra Iowa, the Dubuque Symphony, and gave solo performances with both the Cedar Rapids Municipal Band and New Horizons Band.

Assistant Professor Matt Baltrucki holds a bachelor's degree in Commercial Music Technology from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Florida, and a Master's degree in Sound Recording from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. As a producer, recording, mixing and mastering engineer, Matt has, and continues to work with ensembles across many diverse styles of music, from traditional and modern classical chamber music, to contemporary tango, jazz, punk, metal, indie rock and popular music genres. Matt has worked on albums released on numerous record labels including ATMA Classique, Centaur, Broken World Media, Top Shelf Records and Hoot/Wisdom Recordings.

Department of Philosophy

Instructor Matthew Nichols maintains the percussion studio, teaches applied percussion, directs FAU's Concert Percussion Ensemble, and serves as Percussion captain for the Marching Owls. He also teaches Percussion Pedagogy and Methods. While in South Florida, Mr. Nichols has had the opportunity to perform with the Miami Symphony Youth Orchestra and perform with the Miami Symphony, the South Florida Symphony Orchestra, the Florida Grand Opera, and the New World Symphony. Mr. Nichols holds a Bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he studied under Justin Alexander, Peter Martin, Jim Jacobson, William Messerschmidt, Brian Jones and Tony Martucci. He holds a Master's degree from the University of Miami, where his teachers were Svet Stoyanov, Matthew Strauss, and John Yaarling.

Dr. Robert Leib is a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Philosophy department. He received his PhD in 2016 from Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, where he wrote his dissertation entitled "Political Myth: An Archaeology of Magical Language". In addition to receiving an MA in philosophy from Villanova in 2013, he received an MA in philosophy from Kent State University in 2009 and a MA in liberal arts from St John's College in Annapolis in 2007. While in residence at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, Dr. Leib conducted research on his project, "The War on Language: Nazi-Deutsch and its Legacy". His research and teaching interests...
include Language and Power, Michel Foucault, Phenomenology, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics and Politics, Giorgio Agamben, Ernst Cassirer and Holocaust Studies.

Department of Theatre and Dance

Lee Soroko has spent the past 10 years teaching and directing productions in the Conservatory and Bachelor of Arts Theatre program at the University of Miami. He earned his Master of Fine Arts from the Professional Actor Training Program at the University of Texas and is a member of the Actors Equity Association. For six years he served on the National Governing Body as Treasurer of the Society of American Fight Directors. Lee is a Certified Teacher with the SAFD in Stage Combat as well as a recognized theatrical firearms instructor. As a professional Fight Director, he has provided the choreographed violence for professional theatres, opera companies and universities across America. Here in South Florida he works with the Maltz-Jupiter Theatre, the Florida Grand Opera, PalmBeach Dramaworks, SlowBurn Theatre, Zoetic Stage and the Colony New Theatre of Miami. Lee continues to work as an actor (when he can) having recently appeared in the Discovery Channels crime series, "Truth is Stranger than Florida" and a McDonalds commercial. Lastly, Lee is a former Fellowship recipient for his creative work in mask with the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Department of English

Dr. Ian Macdonald is an Assistant Professor of Science Fiction. He received his Ph. D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University in 2014, where his dissertation investigated the emerging genre of African and diasporic Science Fiction. He was Assistant Professor of English at Wittenberg University in Ohio from 2014 through last year. In 2016 he published two articles, one on Kojo Laing's Big Bishop Roko and the Altar Gangsters and the other on Ngugi wa Th’iongo's Wizard of the Crow. These appeared in the Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Inquiry and Research in African Literature, respectively.

Dr. Stacey Balkan is an Assistant Professor in Environmental Literature and Humanities. She received her Ph. D. from the City University of New York, Graduate Center in 2015. She has been Assistant Professor of English at Bergen Community College since 2010. Her dissertation explores the deployment of the picaresque tradition in the fiction of India, including the work of Salman Rushdie, Aravind Adiga, Amitav Ghosh, Indra Sinha, and Chris Abani. She has published journal articles in Social Text Online, The Global South, and CLC Web, as well as book chapters on the work of Roberto Bolano, Daniel Alarcón, and Junot Diaz. She has interests in World Anglophone Fiction, the Global South, and Ecological fiction and theory.

Dr. Ashvin Kini is an Assistant Professor of World Anglophone Literature. He received his Ph. D. in Literature from the University of California, San Diego in 2016 and has spent the past year as a lecturer in their Ethnic Studies program. His dissertation explores queer affiliations in the literature and film of the Black and South Asian diasporas. He has published an article on these topics in relation to Shani Mootoo's story "Out on Main Street" in the South Asian Review.

Dr. José de la Garza Valenzuela is an Assistant Professor of U. S. Latinx Literatures. He received his Ph. D. in English from Miami University (Ohio) in 2016, with a graduate certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. His dissertation investigates the relationship of citizenship and sexuality in gay Chicano fiction. For the past year, he has been a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Illinois-Champaign in the Department of Latino and Latina Studies. He has an article forthcoming on Arturo Islas’ The Rain God in a collection on the queer Latinx immigrant experience.

Dr. Devin Garofalo is an Assistant Professor of 19th century British literature. She received her Ph. D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in May 2017. Her dissertation explores the intersections of 19th century poetry and scientific discourse. She published an essay on Percy Shelley’s Prometheus Unbound in this context in a 2015 issue of Essays in Romanticism. She also published an essay on Letitia Elizabeth Landon’s embodied poetics in Women’s Writing that year. She was the winner of the U of Wisconsin’s Public Humanities Fellowship last year.

Dr. RJ Boutelle is a Professor of early African-American literature. He received his Ph. D. in English from Vanderbilt University in 2016 and has served as a lecturer there since. His dissertation explores and interrogates ideas of blackness and slavery in the 19th century in
a transamerican context through a study of archival sources. He has published an article on the pamphlet Slavery in Cuba in MELUS in 2015, as well as an article on Manzano and Madden's Poems by A Slave in a 2013 issue of Atlantic Studies: Global Currents. He also has a chapter forthcoming on transnationalism in the writings of Frederick Douglass and Frances Ellen Watkins Harper.

Dr. J. Andrew Gothard recently received his Ph. D. from the University of Miami, completing his dissertation on early 20th century British working-class literature. He has published articles on Stanley Kubrick, Patrick McGill and Padraig O'Conaire, Woody Allen, Joe Orton, and Michel Foucault. Beginning fall 2017, Andrew Gothard was hired into a permanent Instructor position.

Comparative Studies Student Association News & Updates

We like to thank everyone who participated in this year's CSSA Conference: The (Dis)Order of Things: Mechanisms of Power and Control. The conference was a great success! We enjoyed many fascinating panels and presentations on a vast array of topics.

We will continue to host social and developmental activities, so keep an eye out for notifications, and please don't hesitate to send any recommendations/requests our way. In the meantime, enjoy some photos from our recent conference, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, etc. at sflint2015@fau.edu.

Stephanie Flint
President
Comparative Studies Student Association

Dean Dr. Adam Bradford Delivers Welcome Address

Dr. Sika Dagbovie delivers her keynote
Panelists enjoy snacks and post-panel conversation

FAU's Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

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