

Kudos Newsletter - Fall 2017

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Upcoming Events

Working Outside
Academia & Job
Interview Workshops
Spring 2017

Introducing
Cohort 2017

A big welcome to our
entering class!



Ana-Christina Acosta Gaspar
Ana-Christina Acosta Gaspar De Alba Ana-Christina's research is focused in Latin@ literature and politics, with interests in codeswitching, family narratives, and writing across distance. Her creative writing is focused on the connective tissue between loved ones, the things we say and the things we mean, the people who shape us. She holds a BA in English/Latino Studies from Indiana University and a Creative Writing MFA from Virginia Tech.

Kathryn (Pewenofkit)

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

Foundations of a Scientific Cognitive Literary Theory and A Brief Explication of Literary-Cognitive Principles in J. R. R. Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings

Welcome Back to Returning Students & A Big

Bridwell-Briner Kathryn (Pewenofkit) Bridwell-Briner holds a D.M.A. in music performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, an M.A. in performance from Florida Atlantic University, and a B.M. from Stephen F. Austin State University. She has completed all coursework for a second M.A. in music history and literature from FAU where she focused on Comanche hymns as liminal space for agency and identity in the post-Allotment era in southwestern Oklahoma. She has published articles about the Comanche and Kiowa/Plains Apache in the *Great Plains Journal* as well as entries in the *New Grove Encyclopedia of American Music*. Kate has presented papers at the Symposium of the International Horn Society, Southeast Horn Workshop, Northeast Horn Workshop, and at the International Feminist Theory and Music Conference. Of Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache descent, Kate is actively involved in the Comanche Nation's language revitalization program and her work here at FAU focuses on reclaiming Comanche cosmology through language and the arts supported by the creation of digital space where post-allotment Comanche identity may be created, nurtured, and sustained. Beyond language work, Kate's research interests includes intergenerational trauma and healing in Indigenous communities, sovereignty, Indigenous futurisms, identity and cultural rhetorics through Indigenous popular musics, and the creation of space/agency for Indigenous descendants in the U.S.



Domenica Diraviam

Welcome to Cohort of 2017



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

New Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Ashvin Kini

1. What is your area of focus?

I work in literary and cultural studies with a focus on postcolonial and U.S. multiethnic literature and film. My interests are in critical ethnic studies, queer of color critique, women of color feminisms, Asian American studies, British and U.S. empire, and comparative diaspora studies.



2. What are you currently working on?

I'm currently working on an article manuscript drawn from my larger book project on the cultural politics of Black-Asian affiliations and solidarities. Using frameworks from critical ethnic studies and queer studies, the article examines the gendered racialization of diasporic South Asian Muslims in the post-9/11 United States by looking at two contemporary Bollywood films, Karan Johar's *My Name is Khan* and Kabir Khan's *New York*. Paying particular attention to each film's instrumental usage of U.S. Black identities and political struggles, I argue that *My Name is Khan* and *New York* both shore up and problematize post-Civil Rights discourses of U.S. multicultural exceptionalism.

3. What classes are you currently teaching and what classes will you be teaching in the Spring?

This semester, I am teaching the undergraduate survey in literary theory, as well as a colloquium for GTAs teaching in the writing program. Next semester, I will be teaching an undergraduate course called Asian Literature in English, which will focus on literatures of the South Asian diaspora. We'll be engaging works by South Asian-origin writers and

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

filmmakers from a variety of locations, including Britain, Canada, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Trinidad, Uganda, and the United States.

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 *Coolie 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 capitalist 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 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

International Forum of Dramatic Playwrights, Frankfurt, Germany, sponsored by the ASSITEJ.

Carmen has presented her work at The Miami Book Fair International, and Editorial Egales, Spain. She has been interviewed and reviewed in several newspapers, books and literary publications, including: CNN en español, Miami Herald, *Elas Hablan de la Isla*, *Espéculo* of the Complutense University of Madrid, *New York Times*, and *Nuevo Herald*. Carmen also has years of experience in television news writing and production, and has worked as a radio producer, talk show host, and journalist. She has taught Spanish and drama.

Ali Friedberg Tal-mason holds a B.A. in Arts and Humanities from Florida Atlantic University and a J.D. from University of Miami School of Law. Summer studies include coursework at Centro Cultural del Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, and University College London Laws, UK. She was Associate Editor and Sub-Articles and Comments Editor of the *University of Miami Inter-American Law Review* and author of *Reconsidering the Doctrine of Discovery: Spanish Land Acquisition in Mexico (1521-1821)*, 17 *Wis. Int'l L.J.* 87 (1999). Her professional experience includes public interest law, appellate law, and alternative dispute resolution. Current research interests include law, government, and visual arts in the Americas; colonization and indigenous studies; and intellectual property rights. Ali is a GTA for the Department of English at FAU and currently teaches College Writing.

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 Pigeons 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 commodify 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).





Charlie Gleek
Charlie Gleek holds a B.A. and M.A. in Political Science, as well as an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership. Charlie's primary research concentration is in environmental literary and cultural criticism, with a minor specialization in environmental science. Charlie's current research project examines how stories serve to document individual and community resistance against state and corporate-backed extractive economies such as oil and gas, mining and timber, and industrial-scale fishing and farming. A veteran educator, Charlie has more than a decade of experience teaching students in universities and secondary schools. Charlie has also designed interdisciplinary curriculum and trained faculty in the United States, Europe, Latin America, and Asia in progressive pedagogies and approaches to service learning. Charlie has several published journal articles and books, most recently in *The Journal of American Culture*, *Pearson Education*, and, i.e.: inquiry in education. Charlie currently teaches courses in the Department of English and is the Vice President of the Comparative Studies Student Association for 2017-18.

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 marinero?* 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 Flint's chapter entitled "The Depiction and Reception of Monstrosity in Tod Browning's *Freaks*" will be published in the forthcoming collection *Monster Media in their Historical Contexts* (edited by Verena Bernardi and Frank Jacob). Her forthcoming chapter in the collection, *Elder Horror on Screen: Hermits, Harbingers, and Hags*, entitled "The Limits of 'Sundowning': M. Night Shyamalan's *The Visit* and the Horror of the Aging Body," is slated for publication in late 2018. Her review of *Post-Millennial Gothic: Comedy, Romance, and the Rise of Happy Gothic* is also forthcoming in *the Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*.

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, Metafiction, 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

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 and Latino 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 Latina/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 alumni updates and student scholarly work.

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

Dyanne then participated in a third conference, traveling to the Bahamas to present a paper on the dialectics of racial harmony in Edwidge Danticat's *The Farming of Bones* at the Caribbean Studies Association's 42nd annual meeting. She is extremely grateful for the grant FAU awarded her that enabled her to attend this international conference.

The highlight of Dyanne's year was her acceptance to Cornell's School of Criticism and Theory. She participated in a six-week seminar under the direction of Carolyn Rouse, Director of Anthropology and African Studies at Princeton. During the seminar entitled "A Radical Rethinking of Social Justice," Dyanne led a class lecture on colonialism, coloniality, and development theory and also presented separately on the semiotics of race. This summer seminar afforded Dyanne opportunities to learn from various academic luminaries in diverse disciplines.

Priscilla Renta

Priscilla Renta presented her writing and research on the healing power of salsa dancing at the Rhythm & Power Conference ("When the People Dance: Salsa, Power, and Performance in New York City") with a panel of renowned scholars in the field of Latin Music and Dance Studies on Sunday, September 17, 2017. She also co-edited a special issue of the Centro Journal of Puerto Rican Studies called [Rhythm & Power: Performing Salsa in Puerto Rican Communities](#).

Luke Wilson

Over the course of his first year at FAU, Lucas Wilson has produced two publications: "Enduring Anti-Semitic Christian Scripts in Elie Wiesel's *The Gates of the Forest*" in the forthcoming edited volume *The Novels of Elie Wiesel* and "Dismantling Christian Readings of Jewish Literature in the Christian College: A. M. Klein's *The Second Scroll*" in the forthcoming edited volume, *MLA Teaching Options in Jewish-American Literature*. Lucas received several fellowships, including a European Holocaust Research Infrastructure Fellowship; a New York City Public Library Short-Term Research Fellowship; and a Charleston Research Fellowship. He has also received several scholarships and grants, including Sigma Tau Delta's Edwin L. Stockton, Jr., Graduate Scholarship; a Southern Jewish Historical Society Research/Travel Grant; a Research Grant from University of Hartford; and travel grants from both the WJSA and SCMLA. Moreover, he presented his work at the philoSOPHIA Annual Meeting, the WJSA Conference, the SCMLA Conference, the Annual RMMLA Convention, and the College of Charleston. Lucas finished his year in Germany as a participant in the Bergen-Belsen International Summer School.

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 the rhetoric of medical activism and health social movements. Currently, he is interested 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 the 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 Symphony 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 promoted music education 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 Yarling.

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 a 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 Kojin Karuwa's *On Being Human* and the other on Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o'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 Bolaño, Daniel Alarcón, and Junot Díaz. 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. Stacy Lettman is an Assistant Professor of Caribbean Literature. She received her Ph. D. from the University of Southern California in 2011. She has been an Assistant Professor at the University of Central Arkansas since 2015. Her dissertation examines the "sublime language of violence" in Jamaican literature and music. In 2012 she published an essay on *Looking for Livingstone* in *Encounters* and she is guest-editing an issue of the *Journal of Caribbean Literatures* to be released next year. She will also publish an essay on Caribbean captivity narratives in that issue.

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



CSSA Conference Spring 2016



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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