



PhD IN COMPARATIVE STUDIES

Dorothy F. Schmidt
College of Arts and Letters
Florida Atlantic University

Kudos Newsletter - Fall 2016



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Humanities & Social Justice
Feb. 23-24, 2017

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Working Outside Academia
Spring 2017

Introducing Cohort 2016

A big welcome to our entering class!

Mitchel Baccinelli

holds a B.A. in English from the University of North Texas and an M.A. in Comparative Literature from Florida Atlantic University focusing on Early Modern Italian and Spanish literature. His Master's thesis explored the development of the portrayal of women's desires in Early

Congratulations to All Recent Graduates!



Dr. Kenneth Brander - Summer 2016

"The Temple in Jerusalem Ideolized and the Historic-Synagogue Institution: A Study in Synagogue Purposes in an American Context"

Dr. Gary Brooten - Summer 2016

"The Very Useful Notion: A Rhetorical History of the Idea of Human-Made Climate Change, 1950-2000"

Dr. Laura Quinlan DeJong - Summer 2016

"Seeds of Brightness: Poetic Memory in James Joyce's Ulysses"

Dr. Michael Gold - Spring 2016

A Whiteheadian Interpretation of the Zoharic Creation Story

Modern Italian, English, and Spanish Drama. Currently, his main area of study is in Argentinean Literature, specifically looking at the European influences on the founding of Argentinean Literature, as well as the effect of immigration on the country's literature.



Swati Gilotra

has a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from University of Delhi, India and a Master's degree in English Literature from Ambedkar University, Delhi. Her Master's thesis was on "The politics of desire in Muddupalani's Radhika Santawanam". Her thesis explored how women's desire and sexuality remains an unnoticed and invisible facet in our society. She further wants to work on Indian Literature with her central focus on gender and sexuality both as theoretical concepts and as concepts expressed by women writers and protagonists. Her primary research interests are feminist theories, gender, sexuality and women studies. She also enjoys working on postcolonial literature, decoding myths in Indian religion, fairies and monsters and their representation in literature, film and pop culture. Swati is currently teaching English as a GTA at FAU.

Welcome Back to Returning Students & A Big Welcome to Cohort of 2016



The Ph.D. in Comparative Studies welcomes another new cohort of students into the Cultures, Languages and Literatures (CLL) track. As of fall 2016, we have 41 students in the CLL track, 5 in the Public Intellectuals (PI) track, 4 in the Literatures, Literacies and Linguistics (LLL) track, and 2 in the Fine and Performing Arts (FPA) track. The program supports 25 of our current students with graduate teaching assistantships. The students teach courses in their host departments, gaining valuable experience in pedagogy and providing our programs with excellent instructors. We awarded two new Presidential Fellowships to incoming students: Mr. Lucas Wilson, from Vanderbilt University, joined us to work on trauma and memory in second generation Holocaust literature; Mr. Mitchel Baccinelli, of Florida Atlantic University, plans to study the Spanish and Italian influence on Argentine literature. The program had a productive year in 2015-16, graduating 8 students from three tracks of our program. We also continued the "Crossing Disciplines" colloquium, and our students organized and hosted the semi-annual CSSA Conference, "Crossings and Intersections." We are also proud of our student scholars who presented at national and international conferences and published articles in journals and other venues. Please visit our website for more details of our students' successes and our alumni news.

Michael J. Horswell, PhD
Director, PhD in Comparative Studies

Faculty Spotlight: Dr. Stephen Charbonneau

Dr. Stephen Charbonneau, Associate Director of the School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, published his first book-length study, entitled *Projecting Race: Postwar America, Civil Rights, and Documentary Film*, in the Spring of 2016 with Wallflower Press. Dr. Charbonneau has been teaching film and media studies, with a main emphasis in documentary film and theory, at FAU as an Associate Professor since Fall 2007, and he started his position as Associate Director in 2015. Dr. Charbonneau is currently teaching Film Appreciation, Documentary Film & Video, and a graduate course in Film Theory and Criticism.



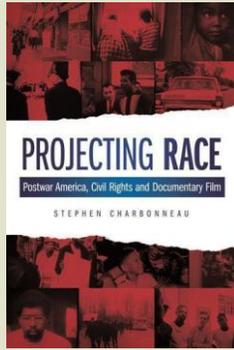
Projecting Race inspects documentary filmmaking in the postwar era, and pays particular attention to the way these documentaries deal with race. The project's theme grew out of Dr. Charbonneau's dissertation work at UCLA, and evolved into a much deeper exploration, leading him to visit 5-6 different archives and to conduct multiple in-person interviews. Through this in-depth study, Charbonneau sought to fully "understand what happened," as he pieced together scraps of film and bits of information to create a comprehensive, final product. What's especially fascinating about documentary films, Charbonneau identifies, is that they "don't have a fixed meaning," and are ultimately more participatory in nature. When it came to the topic of race, however, Charbonneau was able to identify a clear arc in the evolution of the genre, particularly when directors of non-



Golnaz Heidar Jamshidi holds a B.A. in English Literature and Language and an M.A. in English Literature from Lorestan University. Her Master's thesis probed cultural, economic and political aspects of Neocolonialism theory in a Nigerian modern play, "King Baabu," by a Nobel laureate, Wole Soyinka. Currently, she is pursuing her Ph.D. in Comparative Studies at Florida Atlantic University. Her research interests are Postcolonial Literature, Postcolonial Theories, Modern and Contemporary literature: 20th and 21st Century, African Literature, American literature, Indigenous Literature, Comparative Literature and Drama.



Fayeze Kloub has a B.A. in Media & Cultural Studies with minors in Sociology & English and an M.A. in Communication Studies from Florida Atlantic University. His area of expertise is in mass media, psychoanalytic film theory, audience analysis, and sociological perspectives. His experience as a teaching assistant and an editor for the SCMS newsletter as well as his graduate work in Communication Studies has motivated him to further pursue a Ph.D in Comparative Studies. His



white backgrounds began to take on larger roles in production.

A major draw for Dr. Charbonneau in his research is the participatory aspect of documentary cinema, and the way that it invites an interaction between the filmmaker and the subject in the film. Such participation, he emphasizes, helps in "getting rid that voice of god" often found in classic documentaries. In *Projecting Race*, Charbonneau emphasizes the aesthetic value of educational documentaries, and how their participatory nature helps to both intensify the viewer's experience and to create a more therapeutic environment. Charbonneau reviews films ranging from Sidney Meyers' *The Quiet One* (1948) to community development films made years later, including *The Farmersville Project* (1968) and *The Hartford Project* (1969).

Dr. Charbonneau is also a fellow for the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative. He is currently working on an anthology collection with FAU professor Chris Robé on media activism, and he is also interested in the legacy of cinema in new media and how participatory media is evolving outside of cinema.

Student Spotlight: Cora Bresciano

Cora Bresciano is starting her second year as a PhD student in the Cultures, Languages and Literatures track of the Ph.D in Comparative Studies Program. Her non-profit organization, Blue Planet, was approved for a grant in May 2016 and the organization has been rapidly expanding ever since. Blue Planet's work focuses on classrooms exchanging ideas and writing collaboratively across international borders. Cora started Blue Planet shortly after receiving her MFA from FAU in 2007, in order to bring her teaching and writing skills to classrooms around the world. Blue Planet works with many graduates and students of the FAU MA and MFA program, and she is constantly drawing from her experience as an MFA and from her current courses as a PhD student to enhance her organization's work.



Cora's research interests include national cultural narratives and their construction, particularly who constructs these narratives and who is left out. By studying literature and global studies, she hopes that her work will enable her to "write the missing people back into the story." One approach to this is through her "pet project," at Blue Planet, entitled "Hometown Stories," which she hopes to bring back this year. Based on a workshop she led a few years ago, "Hometown Stories" has students write down memories of their home town, and these stories are embedded in an online, interactive map. She looks forward to taking this project to other countries for week-long writing sessions.

Cora entered the PhD program looking to improve her work with Blue Planet by learning about non-traditional avenues of approaching storytelling and constructing narratives. She loves the interdisciplinarity of the Comparative Studies program, and the way her coursework has pushed her outside of her comfort zone--sometimes even outside the arts. She is therefore able to engage with world history from different viewpoints, which is crucial for her work. Such varied and global approaches are especially beneficial for children, she says, who are so open to dissolving boundaries between "us" and "them." She says she hopes to reach them "before the prejudices get ingrained."

Cora is currently working toward her next publication and looks forward to participating in the Spring 2017 semester's CSSA symposium. And as for Blue Planet, it seems the sky's the limit. Thanks to their recently acquired grant, the organization has been rapidly expanding, and Cora is looking forward to teaching more workshops overseas. "I'm not a believer in Holy Grail thinking," Cora notes, "but we knew [this grant] would change everything and it did."

Master's thesis researches how surveillance cinema places viewers in the camera's point-of-view in order to reflect on their understanding of contemporary surveillance in America from the 1990's to the 2010's. Fayeze aims to expand this study further beyond film by using its analysis on cinematography to examine how broadcast journalism and viral video footage offer viewers a similar understanding of contemporary society.



Damara Martin is a first year PhD student. She is primarily obsessed with anthropological linguistics, and how culture shapes the concepts of folklore and literary realism and idealism, specifically concerning racial structures in America. She is attempting to discern these structures in non-canonical works of fiction, poetry, and lyric essay.



James Martin is the Associate Dean of English at Broward College's Central Campus. Born in Boston, he has a Master's in English Education from Boston College and a Bachelor's in Humanities from Harvard University Extension. His interests range from linguistics to philosophy to lyric poetry. He is pictured at

Alumni News

Peter Cava

Since graduating in 2015, Peter Cava took the position of Visiting Lecturer in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Georgia State University. Peter's most recent publication, "Cisgender and Cissexual," appears in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*. In September, Peter presented "The Post-Post-Gender Cyborg Woman's Transnormative Nationalism" at *Trans*Studies: An International Transdisciplinary Conference on Gender, Embodiment, and Sexuality* at the University of Arizona in Tucson.



Inbal Mazar

Inbal Mazar became Assistant Professor of Spanish at Drake University where she serves on the Humanities Board and as a mentor for the Crew Scholars program. In March of 2016, she presented a paper at the *Eastern Sociological Society* meeting in Boston. She also designed a community engagement course in Spanish for Healthcare and designed new courses on Maya history and culture, US Latino/a literature and Latin American Legends.

Trudy Mercadal

Trudy Mercadal has been appointed head of the Master Program in Latin American Cultural Studies at the international research institute, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) in Central America. She is also a professional reference writer who has contributed articles on political history and social sciences to many academic book series, such as the *Encyclopedia of Stem Cell Research*, *The Sage Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*, *The Encyclopedia of Hip Hop Literature*, and others.

Jeffrey Nall

Jeffrey Nall is presently a Master Instructor of Philosophy at Indian River State College in Fort Pierce, Florida. During the 2014-2015 academic year he taught philosophy as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Central Florida. Dr. Nall has recently developed and begun teaching an online version of "Introduction to Sexuality and Gender Studies" for Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. He also created and taught sections of "Men and Masculinity" for the program. In addition to contributing academic works to journals and edited collections such as *Essential Breakthroughs: Conversations About Men, Mothers, and Mothering*, Nall has written for popular current event publications including *Truth Out* and *Toward Freedom*. He has also given invited public lectures on topics including applied ethics, social change, feminism, and men and masculinity as part of FAU's Lifelong Learning program, University of Miami's Women's Leadership Symposium, and Unitarian Universalist fellowships throughout the state of Florida. He can be reached at <http://www.jeffreynall.com/> and via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DrJeffreyNall>.

Shereen Siddiqui

Shereen Siddiqui has recently accepted a full-time Assistant Professorship position at Santiago Canyon College in the Women's Studies department.

Student News

Kira Apple

Kira Apple is now the editorial assistant to Dr. William L. Leap for the *Journal of Language and Sexuality*, a peer-reviewed journal in publication since 2012. Kira Apple's article "'How Many Marvels Were Still to Come': Genre, Interactivity, and Player Investment in Inkle's 80 Days" has been selected for inclusion in the "Small Screen Fiction" issue of *Paradoxa*, slated for publication in 2017.

Skye Cervone

Skye Cervone's article, "(Re)Evaluating the Animality of Man and the Animality of Animals in Walter Miller's A Canticle for Leibowitz and Kurt Vonnegut's The Sirens of Titan" was published in *Animalia: An Anthrozoology Journal*. This study explores the ways in which science fiction texts can reshape human and animal identities through their unique position to interrogate the human/animal boundary. She also presented two conference papers and was an invited participant in a conference roundtable discussion. Her paper, "A Southern Fantasy Novel: Genre and Mode in Eudora Welty's The Robber Bridegroom" presented at the biannual



Elizabeth Bishop's house in Key West.

Jason O'Connor

has a BA in Judaic Studies and Political Science from Florida Atlantic University, an MA in Near East and Judaic Studies from Brandeis University and an MA in Holocaust and Genocide Studies from Gratz College. His interests include post-Holocaust memory and commemoration in Eastern Europe and Post-Communism Polish Jewish relations.



Viviana Pezzullo

has a Bachelor's degree in Humanities and a Master's degree in Philology from the University of Naples. She spent a semester at the Ecole normale supérieure de Lyon and her research focused on the influence of Honoré Balzac on Henry James' works. Her main areas of interest are foreign literatures and her article about Gabriel García Márquez has been published (*Le attese, ad est dell'equatore*, 2016). She is a Graduate Teaching Assistant of French at Florida Atlantic University.



Melissa Santiago

is a mother, teacher, and author who holds both an M.A. and B.A. in English Literature. Puerto Rican

Society for Southern Literature Conference in Boston, MA, focused on the ability of fantasy theory to reclassify the novel's genre and the implications of that classification for both southern and fantasy studies. Her paper, "Forget Baudrillard! Pohl and Kornbluth Predicted that Almost Twenty Years Earlier: Social Theory, Science Fiction, and Academic Hierarchies," presented at the annual *International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts* (ICFA) in Orlando, FL argued the scholarly rejection of *The Space Merchants* and the scholarly acceptance of theories of neoliberal consumerism is indicative of the academy's unwillingness to interpret wonder as a legitimate strategy for seeing truth, signaling of a devaluation of the arts in favor of a more scientific approach. As the panel's expert on animal studies, she discussed the ways in which animal studies can aid in our understanding of magical creatures during "Fantastic Beats and Where to Read Them: Engaging the Animals in Fantasy" at ICFA.

Prior to finishing her term as the *International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts* (IAFA) Student Caucus Representative in July, Skye was appointed as their Public Information Officer, an Executive Board position. Skye also successfully advanced to candidacy and has a review of *Jurassic World* forthcoming in *Science Fiction Film and Television*.

Daniel Creed

Daniel Creed's blog entry, "Human Exceptionalism and Exceptional Humans" appeared on the MacMillan community blog *Bedford Bits*. The blog explored pedagogical concerns regarding a particularly difficult reading in the *Elements* reader from Bedford/ St. Martin's press. In the short write-up, Dan explores Francis Fukuyama's ideas of genetic manipulation and discusses how these ideas relate to the idea of human exceptionalism as apparent in both fiction and non-fiction narratives. He was also asked to provide a summary write-up of the *International Conference on Fantastic in the Arts for Science Fiction Studies*, which is available in the July 2016 edition of the journal. This write-up covered the conference themes, major developments in the study of the fantastic from the conference, and projected the future of genre scholarship based on ideas presented at this year's conference.

In addition to his publications, Dan presented two conference papers, was an invited participant in a conference panel session, and has been accepted to present a paper at this year's *South Atlantic Modern Language Association* conference. His paper, "Secondary Worlds, Tertiary Spaces: Escaping the Colonial dialectic through mythopoesis in southern literature" was presented at the biannual *Society for the Study of Southern Literature* conference in Boston, MA, and focused on how authors utilize mythopoesis to replace "non-fiction" narratives that had silenced them throughout history. The paper posits the idea that by creating a new, inclusive history, post-colonial authors produce a fictional history that provides a better mimesis of reality than colonial narratives. His paper, "The Talking Animals are a Problem: Narrative hegemony, epistemology, and wonder in Charles Finney's *The Circus of Dr. Lao* and *The Unholy City*" discussed the idea that Finney's work has been generally ignored by scholars within genre because his first novel was seen as a "comical work of chinoiserie," and when his second novel elevated its prose style and vocabulary, it was ignored by genre critics of his moment because it no longer reproduced genre conventions for its time. Lastly, Daniel's paper "Utopian Souths: Fantasy and the escape from dystopia" has been accepted for presentation at the *SAMLA* conference in November, 2016.

Daniel Creed was also elected as the next Division Head for Fantasy by the *International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts* and will begin his term following next year's conference in March, 2017. As division head, he will be responsible for all programming that falls under the fantasy division at the conference from 2018-2020.

Lastly, Daniel Creed was awarded one of the Dorothy F. Schmidt Summer Research Fellowships for the Summer of 2016, and he would like to thank the advisory board for both the award and the opportunity to utilize the summer to prepare his dissertation prospectus, make revisions and resubmit three papers for publication, and concentrate on reading in preparation of his dissertation.

Marianna De Tollis

Marianna de Tollis published "A Woman, A History, A Movie: Ida Dalsler's Tragic Resistance From History To Film" in *Rivista Luci e Ombre* (Numero 1, Anno IV) and her essay, "El laberinto del fauno: fantasía y cristología en el personaje de Ofelia" will be published in *Teatro* (volume 31) this Fall.

Marianna was also awarded the Patricia M. Courtenay Fellowship for 2015-2016 and an Arts and Letters Advisory Board Graduate Student Grant for 2016.

Stephanie Flint

Stephanie spent the summer at Cornell's *School of Criticism and Theory*, where she participated in a six-week seminar headed by Renata Salecl on the topic of "The Right to Ignorance: Psychoanalysis and Secrets in Times of Surveillance" alongside weekly mini

by descent, her graduate work thus far has centered on how written discourse is used to shape identity in genres ranging from Shakespearean Drama, to Colonial American Literature, to Caribbean and Latin American Studies. Her areas of interest include American Literature, U.S. Multi-Ethnic Literature, Postcolonial and Feminist Studies. Her published works include a personal essay entitled "Swim Like a Fish," which was printed in *Chicken Soup for the Latino Soul* (2007) after the birth of her first daughter. She currently teaches American, British, and World Literatures at a private college preparatory school in Plantation, Florida.



Lucas Wilson

holds a BA in English, summa cum laude, as well as an MA in English from McMaster University. He went on to Vanderbilt University to complete his MTS with a Certificate in Jewish Studies and received The Academic Achievement Award for graduating with First Honors in his program. He then taught for a year as an adjunct professor at Lipscomb University, teaching both literature and composition. Lucas came to FAU to study under the supervision of Dr. Alan Berger and work on a dissertation that explores representations of domestic space and the transmission of trauma and memory in second generation Holocaust witness literature. He has received several scholarships and awards for his work in Holocaust studies, including an Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellowship, the Zaglembier Society Scholarship awarded by The Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, a Charleston Research

seminars and lectures led by distinguished scholars and theorists.

Stephanie, together with Kira Apple, organized and facilitated the Comparative Studies Student Association conference for Spring of 2016 (entitled *Crossings and Intersections*) at which she presented "Which Creature from the Black Lagoon?: Marilyn Monroe, Monstrosity, and The Seven Year Itch." She also presented "M. Night Shyamalan's The Visit and the Invasion of the Abnormal Mind" at the SW PCA/ACA conference, and "Is Crimson Peak a Feminist Film? Feminine Representation in Hollywood Horror" at ICFA. She will be presenting "The Devastating Death of Meep (and Other Changes): Differing Reception & Characterization in American Horror Story's 'Freak Show' & Browning's Freaks" at the MA PCA/ACA conference in November.

Stephanie has been working on a committee and assisting Dr. Jane Caputi for her upcoming exhibit *Political Sideshow 2016*, and her research on party platforms is on display in this Fall's exhibit. In addition, her chapter entitled "The Depiction and Reception of Monstrosity in Tod Browning's *Freaks*" has been accepted for publication in *Monster Media in their Historical Contexts* (edited by Verena Bernardi and Frank Jacob).

Vincenza Ladevaia

Vincenza Ladevaia attended the *Northeast Modern Language Association Conference* in Hartford (CT) on March 17 and presented two papers: "Erri De Luca" (which focused on the relation between the Italian writer and the world of cinema) and "Il Doppio, Doppelgänger, Double Identity" (which focused on the work of the Italian Director Bernardo Bertolucci). She also published an article in *Rivista Luci e Ombre* entitled "Dov'è la libertà? Roberto Rossellini e il fantasma della Shoah," which analyzes the relation between Roberto Rossellini's film "Dov'è La Libertà" and the Holocaust in Italian Society. She also analyzed a previously unknown document which she found in the "Archivio Del Cinema di Roma."

Additionally, Vincenza visited Turkey over the summer, where she started to do research on the relation between Italy and Turkey from the viewpoint of film production.

Dyanne Martin

Dyanne Martin's paper on the semiotics of racial passing in Roth's *The Human Stain* has been accepted for publication in *The Philip Roth Studies* journal.

Luke Wilson

Luke Wilson attended the *Seminar on Archival and Historical Research* at The Center for Jewish History this summer in New York, NY to learn about how to implement a variety of tools for accessing information and incorporating archival research into scholarship on second generation Holocaust witness testimony. He also participated in the *Auschwitz Jewish Center Fellows Program*, traveling to Poland for a three-week, in situ study of the Holocaust.

Luke received a Charleston Research Fellowship at the College of Charleston's Pearlstine/Lipov Center for Southern Jewish Culture to study Southern second generation Holocaust witness video archives this upcoming spring/summer and was accepted to the *South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Annual Conference* to present his paper "Of Gossip and Gaze: The Shift from Symbolic to Social Exclusion as 'Seen' through a Post-Holocaust Aesthetic in Flannery O'Connor's 'The Displaced Person'" and his original short story "Let the Curtains Fall" this fall in Dallas, TX, for which he received the *South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference Travel Grant* to present his work. Additionally, Luke was accepted to the *Annual Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA) Convention* to present his paper "'Yet there's no place for us, my dear': Jewish-German Placelessness and the State of Exception in W.H. Auden's 'Refugee Blues'."

Comparative Studies Student Association News & Updates

We would first like to thank everyone who participated in last year's CSSA Conference: *Crossings & Intersections*. The conference was a great success! We are already looking forward to our Spring 2017 CSSA symposium. The symposium will focus on Humanities and Social Justice, and will coincide With Angela Davis' visit in Spring of



CSSA Conference Spring 2016

Fellowship, and an Imagination Grant to study the emerging video archive of second generation Holocaust witnesses. Beyond second generation Holocaust literature, Lucas' research interests include Jewish American modernisms, Holocaust literature, oral history, and Canadian literature.

About This Issue:

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

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

Visit us at our Ph.D. in Comparative Studies Website at <http://www.fau.edu/comparativestudies/>

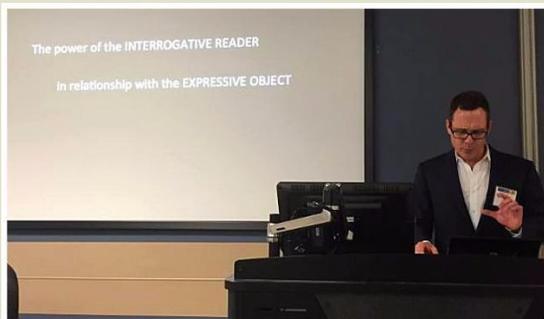
2017. The CFP is out and proposals are due by November 30, 2016. We welcome your submissions!

We are still on the hunt for a secretary, so please let us know if you are interested in a great experience with your peers and the Comparative Studies program (and not to mention a great addition to your CV). We should be holding another CSSA meeting soon, so please keep an eye out for the email. In the meantime, enjoy some photos from last semester's conference, and please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments, etc. at sflint2015@fau.edu. Or, if you have symposium-related questions: faucssaconference@gmail.com.

Stephanie Flint
President
Comparative Studies Student Association



Vice President Kira Apple at registration



Dr. Michael Sell delivers his keynote



Panelists engage in thoughtful round-table discussion



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