2016-2017 was a very good year for Comparative Literature. Our current and former students published essays, poetry, and fiction; won awards for poetry and prose fiction; received fellowships; and secured employment. We were particularly pleased to see Matthew Miller (Ph.D. August 2016) receive an offer of a tenure track position at the University of Maryland in Persian, a field in which positions rarely come open. This year’s work has overall positioned students nicely for the next phase: third-year Ph.D. student Janelle Neczypor, for example, heads to Morocco this summer supported by a Critical Language Scholarship to study Arabic, while Ena Selimovic, also a third-year Ph.D. student and likewise funded by a competitive fellowship, is looking forward to joining the Humanities Without Walls summer workshop in Chicago in July. Misael de la Rosa, a major in Comparative Literature, is preparing to take up a Mellon Mays Fellowship in the fall, while Louise DiMarco, a major in Comparative Arts, begins her research for her honors thesis this summer supported by a Bemis Research Scholarship. The program owes a debt of gratitude to all faculty and staff who have supported our students in their endeavors all year long and who have helped them do their best work. Thanks especially to Joe Loewenstein, DUS; Tili Boon Cuillé, Comparative Arts; Anca Parvulescu, Director of Graduate Studies; Gerhild Williams, Translation Certificate; Ignacio Infante, Study Abroad; and Rebecca O’Laughlin, Administrative Coordinator.

2017-2018 Matheson Lecture: Daniel Medin
Next year’s annual Matheson lecturer will be an alumnus of the Ph.D. program in English/Comparative Literature at Washington University. Daniel Medin (Ph.D. ’05). Daniel Medin is a faculty member at The American University of Paris. His research is principally concerned with modern fiction from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland, with an emphasis on the work and global reception of Franz Kafka. He also teaches classes on contemporary world literature; writing from Central Europe; the history and culture of Berlin, Vienna, and Prague; Flaubert and the birth of modernism; editorial practice; and small prose forms. He is associate director of the Center for Writers and Translators and one of the editors of its Cahiers Series (published jointly with Sylph Editions in London). He is also co-editor of Music & Literature, edits The White Review’s annual translation issue, and advises several journals and presses on contemporary international fiction. A judge for the Best Translated Book Award in 2014 and 2015, he served on the jury of the 2016 Man Booker International Prize.

Daniel Medin will be at Washington University for Matheson lecture events February 26-28, 2018. Details will be announced on the Comparative Literature website.

Congratulations to Erika Rodriguez, Dean’s Teaching Award Recipient
Erika Rodriguez, who just completed her fourth year as a Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature, won a Dean’s Award for Teaching Excellence for 2016-2017. She was acknowledged at a ceremony on April 25. She has taught Spanish language and literature, English Writing, and Comparative Literature. Student and faculty evaluations testify to her highly developed pedagogical intelligence, dedication to the teaching profession, openness to new methods and approaches, ability to think about the big picture, and continued growth as a teacher. Her teaching style has been described as “clear and compelling,” “thorough and original,” and her lessons as “well crafted and well paced.” In the words of a Writing I student, “Professor Rodriguez is awesome.”
Congratulations! Faculty news

Tili Boon Cuillé (French, Comparative Literature) has received a Classroom Innovation Grant for the purposes of reconceiving her Introduction to Comparative Arts course as a Freshman Seminar on transmediation to be offered in Spring, 2018, organized around regional performances and exhibits as far north as Chicago.

Erin McGlothlin (German) was recently awarded Honorable Mention for the James Phelan Award for the Best Essay in Narrative in 2016 for her essay, "Empathetic Identification and the Mind of the Holocaust Perpetrator."

Timothy Moore (Classics) has published an article entitled “Sophocles after Ferguson: Antigone in St. Louis, 2014” (Didaskalia 13.10): http://www.didaskalia.net/issues/13/10/.

Congratulations! Student news

Baba Badji (a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program’s track for international writers) was featured in an Ampersand article entitled “Poetry and Exile.” http://ampersand.wustl.edu/poetry-and-exile

Aaron Coleman (a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program’s track for international writers) won The Cincinnati Review's Schiff Award for Poetry for his poem entitled “Very Many Hands.” Additionally, Aaron had a reading of his chapbook, St. Trigger, at Left Bank Books.

Misael de la Rosa (a current Comparative Literature major) has been named a Mellon Mays Fellow for 2017-2018.

Louise DiMarco (a current Comparative Arts major) received a Bemis and Eisner Research Scholarship in order to pursue research in France that will support her honors thesis.

Deniz Gundogan Ibrisim (a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program) will publish a chapter in a book entitled Animals, Plants, and Landscapes: An Ecology of Turkish Literature and Film.

Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo (a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program's track for international writers) had his anthology Cuba in Splinters translated and published in German as a bilingual Spanish/German edition (the German title is La Cuba desconocida Unbekanntes Kuba). Additionally, Orlando published a short story entitled “Formas de no volver a casa” (Ways Not to Return Home) in Spanish in the digital magazine Iowa Literaria (found here: http://thestudio.uiowa.edu/iowa-literaria/?p=5747)

Ena Selimovic (a graduate student in Comparative Literature) published an interview with Bosnian-American author Aleksandar Hemon on The Balkanist.net and was linked to in the January 27 issue of The Ampersand: http://balkanist.net/the-accumulation-of-tragedy-leads-to-farce-an-interview-with-aleksandar-hemon/

Ali Taheri Araghi (a graduate student in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program’s track for international writers) won the Virginia Faulkner Award for Excellence in Writing by Prairie Schooner for his story “Snow,” which was published in the Fall 2016 issue.

Congratulations! Alumni/ae news

Molly Prothero ('15), who was a Comparative Literature and International & Area Studies major at Washington University, has been accepted to Harvard Law School and will attend starting this fall. She spent the past year working at a legal services non-profit in Washington, DC, and she plans on doing public interest work. She looks forward to exploring clinics while in law school to help decide what specific field of law to pursue.

*If you have news to share with the Comparative Literature community, please e-mail Rebecca O’Laughlin (rolaughlin@wustl.edu).

Graduate Student Representatives 2017-2018

CLAGS Co-Conveners and Peer Mentors: Thomas Scholz and Asher Gelzer-Govatos

Graduate Student Senate Representative: Lulu Wang

Graduate Council Representative: Nan Hu
Works-in-Progress

During the 2016-2017 academic year, graduate students were invited to present their work at three different Works-in-Progress events. This series was created to give students opportunities to present papers in front of faculty members and graduate students, often in preparation for conference presentations. The Works-in-Progress events during this year embodied the diverse span of languages and literary styles and interests associated with Comparative Literature. Presenters included:

**October 20, 2016** (faculty facilitator: **Anca Parvulescu**)
*Asher Gelzer-Govatos* (Comparative Literature) "Kierkegaard, Augustine, and the Catholic Tradition"
*Melody Yunzi Li* (Comparative Literature) “Longing and Resisting in Contemporary Sinophone Immigrant Writings”

**February 6, 2017** (faculty facilitator: **Robert Henke**)
*Heidi Grek* (German/Comparative Literature) “Epic Discussion in 18th-Century Germany”
*Jue Lu* (Chinese/Comparative Literature) “Writing on Photographic Self-Portraits for a 1915 Chinese Women’s Journal”

**April 21, 2017** (faculty facilitator: **Ignacio Infante**)
*Dorotea Lechkova* (Spanish/Comparative Literature) “Democracy Ablaze: Culture and Transition in Mexico and Central Eastern Europe”
*Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo* (Comparative Literature –track for international writers) “Cuba as a Dream of Diaspora”

The Works-in-Progress series will continue in 2017-2018. Graduate students interested in participating should contact Rebecca O’Laughlin.

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**Alumna Update: Sarah Plovnick (’15)**

Sarah Plovnick graduated from Washington University in 2015 with a double major in Comparative Arts and Music. She shares this update:

*This fall, I will begin a PhD program in ethnomusicology at UC Berkeley. I look forward to building on previous field work, including 10 months of research in the Dominican Republic through a Fulbright-mtvU scholarship. While there, I explored combinations of jazz and Afro-Dominican musics. As a graduate student, I plan to delve deeper into the numerous, varied styles of Afro-Dominican musics. I also hope to expand my research to include Southern Spain (where I studied abroad) and Spanish-speaking communities in the United States. I will continue to perform music on piano and French horn, which has always been an enjoyable way for me to connect with musicians in my community, wherever that may be."

*As a culmination of my research in the Dominican Republic, I organized a conference and a concert about Afro-Dominican jazz. Above, I performed at the event with a group of Afro-Dominican musicians.*

Read more about Sarah’s research in the Dominican Republic: [https://fulbright.mtvu.com/author/mtvusplovnick/]
Literature in the Making: A Reading

The “Literature in the Making” readings that take place at the end of each semester continue to explore translation, creative writing and global literature. The Literature in the Making seminar is taught by Professor Lynne Tatlock and Gass Fellow Matthias Göritz and attracts both graduate students in the international writers track and traditional Comparative Literature students. The spring semester reading took place on April 19th.

From left: Literature in the Making participants Thomas Scholz; Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo; Rebecca Dehner-Armand Eshkiki; Deniz Gundogan Ibrisim and Katja Perat

Fall 2017 courses

L16 1540 Freshman Seminar: Literature and Politics (Steven Zwicker)
L16 1660 Literature Seminar for Freshmen: Friendship (Melanie Micir)
L16 1710 Literature Seminar for Freshmen: Literature, Spirituality and Religion (Abram Van Engen)
L16 201A Classical to Renaissance Literature: Text and Tradition (Timothy Moore; Philip Purchase)
L16 211 World Literature (Ignacio Infante)
L16 301C Greek Mythology (Cathy Keane)
L16 3040 Introduction to Digital Humanities (Anupam Basu)
L16 3050 Literary Modernities: Text and Tradition (Miriam Bailin; Stephanie Kirk)
L16 3552 Introduction to Literary Theory (Julia Walker; Margaret Guinn Batten)
L16 385 Paris and New York (Harriet Stone)
L16 420A Poetic Listening: Science Studies and Contemporary Poetry (Steven Meyer)
L16 4224 The 1904 St. Louis World's Fair: German and Austrian Art Exhibited (Mike Lützeler)
L16 4300 Data Manipulation for the Humanities (Doug Knox)
L16 435A Expressionism in the Arts (Henry Schvey)
L16 450C Topics in the Humanities: Frankenstein, Origins, and Afterlives (Amy Pawl; Corinna Treitel)
L16 4710 Topics in Japanese Culture: Reminiscences of Childhood and Youth (Marvin Marcus)
L16 493 The Unmaking and Remaking of Europe: The Literature and History of the Great War of 1914-1918 (Vincent Sherry)
L16 502 Introduction to Comparative Literature (Anca Parvulescu)
L16 512 Literature in the Making IV (Lynne Tatlock; Matthias Göritz)
L16 528 Transmission and Transgression: Representing the Holocaust (Erin McGlothlin)
L16 530 The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity (Matt Erlin)
L16 551 Methods of Literary Study: The Theory and Practice of Literary Translation (Gerhild Williams)
Focus: Summer Opportunities

The academic year has ended, but for many graduate students, summer presents educational adventures:

**Janelle Neczypor**, who just completed her 3rd year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program, received a scholarship from the United States Department of State and the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to study Arabic in Morocco this summer.

**Ena Selimovic** (right), who just completed her 3rd year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program, won a spot in a National Public Humanities Workshop called Humanities Without Walls, located in Chicago. This three-week workshop explores careers outside of those within traditional academia.

**Annelise Finegan Wasmoen**, who just completed her 5th year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program, was accepted to the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard University for a two week session of seminars, discussions, research and writing workshops, performances and lectures. The session that Annelise will attend is entitled “Research, Pedagogy, Activism.”

Three graduate students will engage in the Summer 2017 Mellon Dissertation seminars at Washington University: **Van Le** (who just completed her 2nd year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program), **Orlando Luis Pardo Lazo** (who just completed his 1st year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program’s track for international writers), and **Erika Rodriguez** (who just completed her 4th year in the Comparative Literature Ph.D. program) were all accepted to this summer program. These students receive stipends and participate in a seminar led by Professor Rebecca Messbarger (Romance Languages and Literatures) entitled “Enlightenment Bodies and Texts.” The Mellon Dissertation Seminars are intended for students across humanities department and focus particularly on the interdisciplinary character of current scholarship.
Just as, historically speaking, Comparative Literature arose from the emergence of nationalism (borders can’t be crossed if none exist) the field today cannot prosper without strong national literature departments. But for both students and faculty, Comparative Literature appeals to the pervasive desire to transcend the merely national point of view, to engage with great imaginative works of literature from different places and times. Mandating an intense immersion in at least one foreign language and literature, and with courses on literature in translation that seriously engage non-western literature as well as western texts, Comparative Literature provides to its students a serious, sustained understanding of cultures beyond their own, and helps them become better global citizens. Comparative Literature is well situated to study, as no single national literature department can, relationships between literary cultures as they involve influence, encounter, exchange, and translation.

Historically, Comparative Literature’s transnational orientation has made it the home for literary theory, which has transformed the study of literature since the 1960s. For the benefit of all literature majors at Washington University, Comparative Literature therefore offers courses on literary theory at both the undergraduate and graduate level. We also uniquely offer an interdisciplinary major in Comparative Arts, founded on an introductory core course, in which students explore relationships among literature and painting, sculpture, architecture, music, drama, and film.

For a list of faculty works, visit http://complit.artsci.wustl.edu/people/faculty-bookshelf