

November 2024 Comparative Literature Newsletter



A Word from Professor Beate Allert, Director of Comparative Literature



We were able to accept four new graduate students into our MA and PhD programs into CMPL this fall semester 2024: Anurati Dutta, Rida Altaf, Diana Torres, and Xiaoyang Guo. (Their photographs and brief self-descriptions are already posted in our summer 2024 Newsletter). We are very excited about having them here; they were the top candidates from among 30 applications into CMPL last year and they are indeed very bright and not only academically promising but already very productive and a pleasure to work with. They have become wonderful members of our communities: the Comparative Literature Program, the School of Languages and Cultures, and the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University.

Departures: last year Shiyu Zhang completed her PhD and went back to China, got an excellent job, and Rajaa Moini completed her MA with us in CMPL at Purdue and went back to Pakistan, again as recipient of a fellowship. She was here on a Fulbright. Congratulations and best wishes.

Fellowships:

Currently Rida Altaf is on a Fulbright and Diana Torres has received one of the most prestigious College of Liberal Arts grants at Purdue.

All other graduate student in CMPL here are supporting their studies via Teaching Assistantships, some by teaching their own target language courses, or culture courses, such as the international food course, or they are teaching one of the the world literature courses for undergraduate students (CMPL 266 and CMPL 267) or assisting various colleagues in helping out with administering large lecture courses in Classics or other related disciplines in the School of Languages and Cultures or the College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University.

Rites of Passage: Marisa Bryans who has just completed her prelims, married, and is now named Marisa English. She is already circulating a draft of her dissertation prospectus for the defense to be scheduled with her four-faculty committee soon. Sarah Jaran has completed her prelims and is also working on her dissertation prospectus now. Congratulations and best wishes!!

Some of us had a zoom meeting with prospective graduate program applicants from many different parts of the world and we are hoping to be allowed by the upper administration at Purdue University to accept more new graduate students into our Comparative Literature MA and PhD programs. Applications for new incoming graduate students are due December 12 and decisions about incoming new graduate students will be made by mid-April.

We welcome new faculty affiliated with CMPL:

**Tithi Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of History & now also
Comparative Literature**

Robyn Bartlett, Associate Professor of English & Comparative Literature

Michael Johnston, Professor of English & Comparative Literature
Maren Linett, Professor of English & Comparative Literature; Founder and Coordinator, Critical Disability Studies; Associate Editor, *Modern Fiction Studies*.

Recent Events

Congratulations to Prof. Pedro Basso (Japanese and Comparative Literature) for a workshop sponsored by an ENGAGE GRANT he received for his current book project and moreover for organizing a gathering of international experts on the work of Izumi Kyōka, a foundational writer of fantasy and horror literature in Japan. The workshop he organized addressed intersections between Japanese and global fantasy literature and media. Participants were able to join the workshop from Boston and Tokyo. The workshop consisted of the following panels:

Thursday, September 12, 6:00 - 7:30 PM (SC G030)

Introducing Izumi Kyōka: Fantasy and Translation

Friday, September 13, 3:00 - 5:00 PM (WALC 3154)

Literature of the Fantastic in Japan: *Gensō Bungaku*

Saturday, September 14, 9:30 - 11:00 AM (SC 239)

World Fantasy: Literature of the Fantastic in a Global Context

It was a remarkable success, and we enjoyed this wonderful international learning experience!

Here are some more details:

School of Languages and Cultures Workshop

Izumi Kyōka and Literature of the Fantastic in Japan

Japan is one of the world's major producers of literature and media of the fantastic, including novels, manga, and anime. In Japan, modern fantasy and horror literature is often traced to the work of Izumi Kyōka, a foundational author of modern ghost stories and tales of the fantastic. In this workshop, we will explore the origins, currents, and intersections of fantasy literature and media from Japan and around the world.



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Stanley Coulter (SC) G080

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Stanley Coulter (SC) 239

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Pastries and coffee provided



Participants:

Charles Starb Jacoye, Tufts University

Susan Napier, Tufts University

Maki Tomiyaga, Aoyama Gakuin University

Pedro Bassoe, Purdue University

This workshop is supported by the

Engage Grant offered by

the College of Liberal Arts

for the completion of a

book manuscript.



School of Languages and Cultures Workshop

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This workshop features roundtables and presentations by scholars of Izumi Kyōka and fantasy literature in Japan. Support provided by the Engage Grant from the College of Liberal Arts for the completion of a book manuscript.



Pedro Bassoe, Assistant Professor of Japanese and Comparative Literature, received a wonderful grant to invite a panel of international experts from Japan and elsewhere to talk about Izumi Kyōka (1873–1939) and the literature of the fantastic in Japan.

Chinese Studies Colloquium, Fall 2024
School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University

4:00p- 5:15 pm Monday, Oct 14, 2024
WALC2124

The Tourist Gazed Upon: Qing Travelers Abroad and the Case of Kang Youwei

Vingying Huang

Lecturer, Lafayette College

Abstract: The story of late Qing travelers' confrontation with foreigners' gaze is a familiar one: setting out to see, the Far West or a modernized Japan, they invariably came under the scrutiny of locals and often had to grapple with the problem of being gazed upon. Travelers' diaries, memorials, and conespitations document the confusion and anxiety brought on by conflicted identities in these encounters. When Kang Youwei (1858-1927), a leading figure in the 1890s reforms, was forced into exile and started his travels around the Globe, the power of the gaze was felt on many occasions. In this talk, I would like to use the examples of clothing and architecture to show that the gaze of foreigners had a significant shaping power on Kang Youwei's perception of China and was deeply implicated in Kang's national and cosmopolitan aspirations. How China was perceived on the international stage influenced Kang's proposal for a clothing reform and later objection to it, his assessment of Chinese houses, and his notions about China's material modernity and a world community. Looking back at China from abroad during his travels, Kang employed the gaze to provoke shame, a quality deemed not only crucial for bringing about reforms but also indispensable for maintaining integrity in the future world of great utility.



Vingying Huang holds a Ph.D. degree in Comparative Literature from Purdue University and is a lecturer of Chinese at Lafayette College. Her research interests encompass late Qing literature and culture, travel writing, classical tales, gender and sexuality, post-colonial studies, and science fiction. Her book project, *The Alien Eye: late Qing Representations of China through a Transnational Lens*, examines how Chinese writers and artists depicted China and the Chinese through the perspectives of foreigners. The study argues that this practice became a crucial strategy amongst the discourse of reform and revolution, invigorated by Qing intellectuals' contention for public influence.

Sponsored by the Chinese Program, School of Languages and Cultures

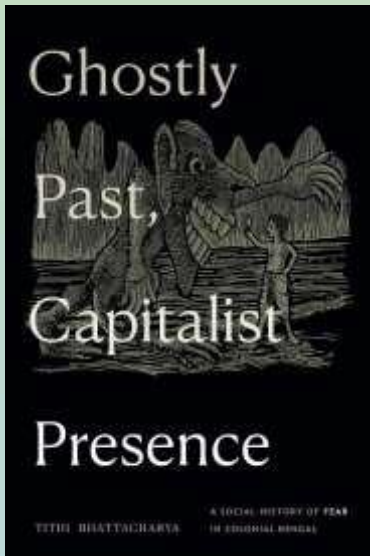
Together with the Asian Studies and Comparative Literature Programs, Purdue University

CMPL 2018 Alumna, Dr. Yingying Huang gave a guest lecture on October 14, co-sponsored by Asian Studies Program, Chinese Department in SLC, and our Comparative Literature Program. Dr Huang is currently a Lecturer at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. Her topic was "The Tourist Gazed Upon: Qing Travelers Abroad and the Case of Kang Youwei."



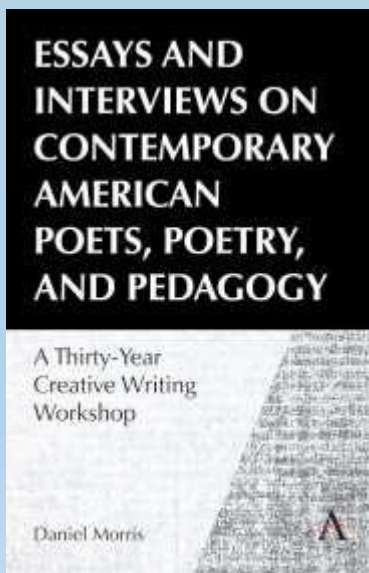
Here our wonderful CMPL Alumna Dr. Yingying Huang front left celebrating with us over dinner after her successful guest lecture.

Recent Publications and Professional Accomplishments by CMPL affiliated faculty:



Tithi Bhattacharya, Associate Professor of History published the book: *Ghostly Past, Capitalist Presence: A Social History of Fear in Colonial Bengal* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2024). This book maps the role that Bengali ghosts and ghost stories played in constituting the modern Indian nation. She introduces readers to the multifarious habits and personalities of Bengal's traditional ghosts and investigates and mourns their eventual extermination. British colonization marked a

transition from the older, multifaith folk world of traditional ghosts to newer and more frightening specters revealing a new reordering of science and faith from the middle of the nineteenth century, cementing the authority of a rising upper-caste colonial elite who expelled the older ghosts in order to recast Hinduism as the conscience of the Indian nation.



Daniel Morris, Professor of English and Comparative Literature published the book *Essays and Interviews on Contemporary American Poets, Poetry, and Pedagogy: A Thirty-Year Creative Reading Workshop*. London: Anthem Press, 2024.

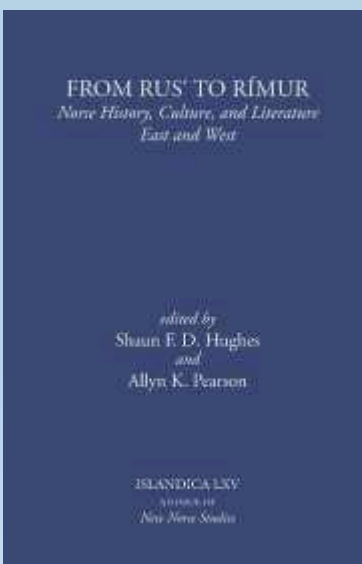
Merging autobiography and literary criticism, Daniel Morris illustrates in sixteen essays how he learned to attend to avant-garde contemporary American poets whose aesthetic contributions were not part of his education. Morris comments: "My new book combines memoir and literary criticism. I

try to tell the story of my development as a teacher and scholar in my

'30 year creative reading workshop' — that is, my thirty years as a literature professor at Purdue. In the new book, I organize previously uncollected pieces and introduce them to readers to illustrate my evolution as a thinker about poetry. I show how I have moved on from my training in Boston, where confessionalism was the coin of the realm, to an embrace of experimental modes that, coincidentally, flourish in the Midwest."



Emily Allen and Dino Franco Felluga, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, *Novel-Poetry: The Shape of the Real and the Problem of Form*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024. *Novel-Poetry* examines the verse-novel—a hybrid genre that emerged in the middle decades of Britain's nineteenth century—to make a larger claim about the nature of genre and formal structures for time, action, and identity that cross genres. The volume uncovers trajectories of literary influence that structure our approach to literature and affect how we shape our lives, lives which are often constrained by cause-and-effect and narrative-driven ways of approaching time and possibility.



Shaun Hughes and Allyn Pearson, *From Rus' to Rímur: Norse History, Culture and Literature East and West*, *Islandica 65* (Cornell University Press, 2024). This volume contains six essays by scholars from Russia, Germany, The United States, Great Britain, Hong Kong, and Sweden, and opens with an "Introduction" by Hughes and Pearson (1-14). Hughes also contributed the article: "A Never-Ending Story': History, Saga, and Secondary Creation" (85-127). Shaun Hughes also published "Herder and the Politics of Ossian," in *Johann Gottfried Herder und Bückeburg: "Was habe ich hier*

ausgerichtet? Wessen kann ich mich rühmen?" edited by Martin Keßler, *Christentum in der modernen Welt/Christianity in the Modern World 9* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2024), 245-282

Ahmed Idrissi Alami, Associate Professor of Arabic and Comparative Literature, has published: "Literacy, Hegemonic Mediation, and 'Spiritual' Liberation in Colonial Jamaica," *Atlantic Studies: Global Currents*. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1080/14788810.2024.2391171>; "Arab Wests: Maghrib, Europe and the Americas in the Modern Literary Imagination." *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Literature*. (2024) <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.013.1299>. Peer-reviewed book chapters: "Racialization and Ethnicity among Muslims in Jamaica," in *The Routledge Handbook of Islam and Race*, edited by Zain Abdullah. London: Routledge, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429058875>; "The Transatlantic Turn in Laila Lalami's Writing," in *The Routledge Handbook of the New African Diasporic Literature*, edited by Lokangaka Losambe and Tanure Ojaide. New York: Routledge; 2024. pp. 422-438.

Beate I. Allert, Professor of German and Comparative Literature, received a number of excellent reviews on her coedited book *Alexander von Humboldt: Perceiving the World*, ed. by Beate I. Allert, Christopher R. Clasen, Niall A. Peach and Ricardo Quintana-Vallejo (West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2023) in such journals as *European Romantic Review* 35 (March 2024): 165-166, where Todd Kontje comments: "This volume is a labor of love in two senses of the word: The authors express their appreciation for Alexander von Humboldt's multifaceted talents and liberal humanism to make him such an appealing figure today, and most of the contributions are joined by personal friendship and professional ties to Purdue University" (165). What stands out in this review further is the fact the John Purdue, the founder of Purdue University, was an avid reader of Alexander von Humboldt and that he was interested in environmentalism, climatology, science, literature, cultures, Indigenous Peoples, and the arts). One should add that we have in our Purdue University HSSE library a wonderful Special Collection of those

same volumes which were read by John Purdue. Prof. Katie Watson is the curator of the special Alexander von Archive materials in case you want to make an appointment with her to see these amazing ancient books!

Other reviews of the Alexander von Humboldt volume published by Purdue University Press include one in *Monatshefte* 116.4 (winter 2024):735-737 where Albert Wu states: "As this stimulating edited volume reveals, a continued engagement with his thought yields excellent results." Or "The intellectual range collected in this volume is impressive, a statement to Humboldt's ability to inspire responses from a variety from a diversity of contemporary disciplines - we find contributions from the fields of philosophy, history, mathematics, comparative literature and media studies" (735).

Beate Allert was elected as a board member of the society of the ICR (International Conference on Romanticism) for the next 5 years and chaired an ICR panel on August 16, 2024 in Washington DC (albeit she did it online via zoom due to a knee injury that prevented her from traveling there at that time).

Beate Allert has published two articles or book chapters this year: "Nemesis in Herder's Approach to Time and how to 'Enjoy the Ocean in a Nutshell'," in *Forms of Temporality and Historical Time in the Work of Johann Gottfried Herder*, edited by Liisa Steinby and Johannes Schmidt (New York: Routledge October 2024), pp. 134-145; "Wer kann die verschiedene Befriedigung verschiedener Sinne in verschiedenen Welten vergleichen"? Zur Auseinandersetzung mit Herder im Streit um Universalgeschichte, Epochenstil, und der abwegigen Idee, die Menschheit bilden" zu wollen," in *Johann Gottfried Herder und Bückeburg: "Was habe ich hier ausgerichtet? Wessen kann ich mich rühmen?"* edited by Martin Keßler, *Christentum in der modernen Welt/Christianity in the Modern World 9* (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2024), pp. 312-326.

Also, she published two book reviews this academic year, one titled "Alois Wierlacher, Hingabe und Verlagsstiftung. Lessings *Emilia Galotti* und Goethes *Iphigenie auf Tauris*" in *Lessing Yearbook 2023*, pp. 201-203

(published fall 2024) and Beate Allert, "Todd Kontje. *Georg Forster: German Cosmopolitan*. University Park, PA; Pennsylvania University Press" in *German Quarterly* 93.3 (2023): online.

Paula Leverage, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature published an Op-ed in *Time*: "It Wasn't This Year's Most Acclaimed Historical Film—But *Napoleon* Has Something to Teach" "Made by History," *Time*, March 8, 2024. <https://time.com/6837057/ridley-scott-napoleon-history/> and an article: "Theory of Mind and Lies in Marcel Carné's *Les Visiteurs du soir*," *French Review* 98:2 (December 2024): 15-31. She also gave the conference presentation: "Examining the Role of 'Textual Communities' in Healthcare," at "Creating Space 14: Re-Imagining Belonging and Kindness," Canada's Annual National Health Humanities Conference, Canadian Association for Health Humanities. Dalhousie University, May 3-5, 2024.

Thomas Broden, Emeritus Professor of French and Comparative Literature, held an invited six-hour seminar course: "Sémiotique narrative, sensible et tensive: l'analyse du récit à l'heure des tournants narratif et sensible" [Narrative, perceptual, and tensive semiotics: Analyzing stories in the era of narrative and perceptual turning points], at the "Semiotic Summer School," Galatasaray University, Istanbul, Turkey, 24-27 June 2024. He has also published in peer-reviewed scholarly journals: "Interview with Thomas F. Broden on Greimas' semiotics," *Revista Domínios de Linguagem*, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Estudos Linguísticos, Universidade Federal de Uberlândia, Brazil, (2024), 35 pp. <https://doi.org/10.14393/DLv18a2024-7>, <https://seer.ufu.br/index.php/dominiosdelinguagem/article/view/71087/38207>; "Archivos y memorias para una biografía intelectual de A. J. Greimas" [Archives and memories for an intellectual biography of A. J. Greimas], translated by Claudio Guerri, *deSignis* (Buenos Aires) 39 (July-Dec. 2023): 17-30, <http://dx.doi.org/10.35659/designis.i39p17-30>. *deSignis* is the journal of the Federación Latinoamericana de Semiótica (FELS, Latin American Federation of Semiotics). He gave an Invited lecture: "Modèles

pour l'interprétation et la création des récits en mots et en images: A. J. Greimas, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Northrop Frye, Blake Snyder, etc." [Models for the interpretation of verbal and visual stories: A. J. Greimas, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Northrop Frye, Blake Snyder, et al.], Université de Toulon, France, 24 October 2024.

Hongjian Wang Route, Associate Professor of Chinese and Comparative Literature published the article: "The Uneasy Entanglement with the Socialist Legacy: Remapping the Avant-Garde Theatre in Post-Socialist Culture," *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture* 35.2 (December 2024): 344-378.

Recent Accomplishments by current graduate students



Andrew Kroninger, Graduate student for the PhD in Comparative Literature, received the Graduate Student Excellence in Research (GSEIR) award from CLA in the summer and used a portion of those funds to conduct research for his dissertation at the German Literature Archive (DLA) in Marbach am Neckar, Germany.

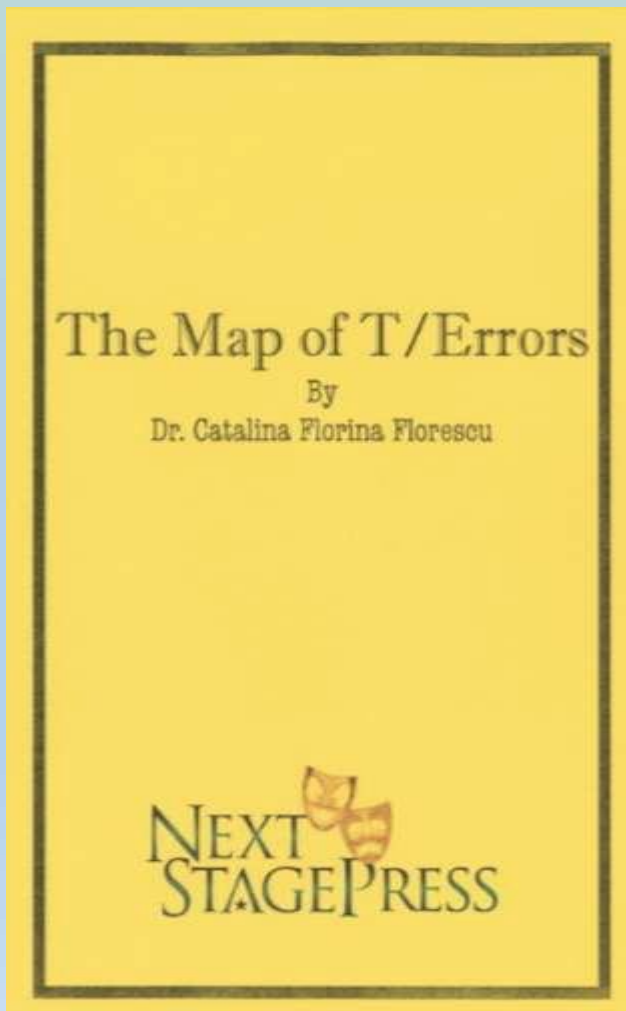
There, he worked with handwritten documents from Hermann Hesse and Stefan Zweig as well as rare first editions of their works. In addition, with the remaining funding from the award, he will be spending two weeks in Austria in November and December of this year, conducting further research at the Stefan Zweig Zentrum and the Literature Archive Salzburg.



Diana Torres, first year PhD program CMPL student published "La herida física de Mackandal como fragmentación en El reino de este mundo de Alejo Carpentier," *Spanish and Portuguese Review* 9 (2024): 59-72. [https://spanishandportuguesereview.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/](https://spanishandportuguesereview.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/torres-arias.pdf)

[torres-arias.pdf](https://spanishandportuguesereview.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/torres-arias.pdf); "Diario de una mano humana." *Cuerpario* (Guayaquil, Ecuador: Universidad de las Artes, 2023), 27-54.

Recent Accomplishments by our Alumni



Alumna Dr. Catalina Florina Florescu's most recent/forthcoming publications include: an invited op-ed "Whose Earth Is It Anyway?" (<https://consequenceforum.substack.com/p/whose-earth-is-it-anyway>), a hybrid, multimedia narrative, "Birth of a Tank" (<https://egophobia.ro/?p=15399>), a short play, "The Glass Blowers" (Impost, volume 18, <https://www.eapsu.org/Impost>) and a forthcoming stand-alone political play, *Map of T/Errors* (<https://www.nextstagepress.com/coming-soon/>). The play will have its world premiere next spring in Chicago during the International Voices Project hosted by Instituto Cervantes.

Featured Affiliate Faculty:

DAWN F STINCHCOMB, Associate Professor of Spanish and Latin American Literature in the School of Languages and Cultures and affiliated faculty in the Comparative Literature Program, specializes in Afro-Latin American literature and culture. Her research focuses on the topics of gender, racial, and cultural identity within the concept of national identity in Cuba. In addition to her current literary project, a monograph titled: *Urgent Words, Compulsory Silences: Black Activism, the Black Cuban Press, and the Cost of Cuban Citizenship*, which brings to light the impact of the 19th-century Black Cuban press and the unfinished business of the independence period—to bring equality and equity to Black Cuban citizens, Prof. Stinchcomb has developed a pedagogy for teaching literature in the World Language classroom called the la nemotécnica D.I.E.+ C [or the D.I.E.+C. Strategy]. This pedagogical project will result in, among other impactful publications, an antiracist teaching anthology for undergraduate Hispanic literature courses, *A toda voz: enseñando literatura hispana en contexto* (contracted with Routledge Press), that will include representations of linguistic, geographic, ethnic, religious, gender, and sexuality diversity. Her most recent publications and presentations concern equitable and inclusive teaching practices in the World Literature classroom, for example, "Teaching Afro-Hispanic Literature in the Undergraduate Introductory Literature Course: A Pedagogy for Antiracist Teaching," *Hispania* 107.2-3 (June-September 2024): 273-288. In this article she addresses the failure of the ideology of multiculturalism to affect significant change in the discipline of teaching languages and literatures that have remained loyal to the ideal of canonical literature and promotes the intentionality of antiracist teaching philosophy while providing clear steps for actualizing a more inclusive curriculum. Since 2021, she has been participating in panels for the practice of teaching at annual conferences of the largest teaching organizations in the United States to proselytize about the need for a specific pedagogy for

teaching literature to improve critical thinking skills, develop intercultural competence, and to raise social consciousness in the language classroom. At both the 2023 convention of the Association of the Council for Teaching Foreign Languages and at the 2024 conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, Prof. Stinchcomb has discussed and modeled the pedagogy that she has developed to endorse the use of critically responsive teaching strategies in the literature classroom.

Professor Cara Kinnally is the Director of Graduate Studies in the School of Languages and Cultures and this fall 2024 semester teaching her "Borderlands" seminar cross-listed with CMPL, a wonderful course with several of our graduates participating. **Professor Jen William** teaches currently the mandatory cross-listed CMPL "Functions and Methods" seminar. Several of the affiliated faculty are teaching CMPL 590s Individual Study courses geared towards the specific research interests of our graduate students.

Professor William, Head of the School of Languages and Cultures to which our Comparative Literature program happily belongs, reports:

Teaching Assignments for TAs in Comp Lit as scheduled for Spring 2025:

Anurati Dutta: LC 28100: Introduction to World Food Cultures (TAing with Dr. Nuur Hamad-Zahonero);

Marisa Bryans English: SIS / gender studies course (instructor of record);

Xiaoyang Guo: Chinese language (instructor of record, supervised / mentored by Prof. Li Wei)

Sarah Jaran: CLCS 23300 - Comparative Mythology, large-lecture Classics course (TA assisting Prof. Charles Campbell)

Gwénaél Jouin: CMPL 26700: World Lit II (instructor of record)

Andrew Kroninger: GER 33000: German Cinema (TAing with Prof. Allert)

Ching-Jen Sun: CLCS 38000: Alexander the Great and Hellenistic World., large-lecture Classics course (TA assisting TBA)

On fellowship, not teaching: Rida Altaf and Diana Torres.



*Thank you everyone for your interest and support.
Wishing you a wonderful end to this fall 2024 semester,
a great upcoming holiday season, and the best for 2025!*



School of Languages and Cultures