

Department of Comparative Literature Newsletter

No. 4, Spring 2012



Record number of Comp Lit PhDs hooded in Saturday's graduation ceremony

On June 9th at UCI's Graduate Hooding Ceremony the Bren Events Center stage hosted eight of sixteen brilliant young Comparative Literature scholars who have completed their PhD studies this spring, or will be finishing this summer. The department congratulates **Anna Cavness, Vuslat Demirkoparan** (pictured at right), **Maryam El-Shall, Anna Guercio, Olivia Gunn, Emma Heaney, Victoria Hsieh, Erin Huang, Nasser Mufti, Duy Nguyen, Bernard Richter, Annette Rubado, Matthew Schilleman, Jonathan Tanner, Kyle Wanberg,** and **Timothy Wong** on the completion of their doctoral studies in Comparative Literature. In the face of a daunting job market, an impressive number of our new graduates have secured jobs. **Nasser Mufti** will begin as an Assistant Professor in the

Department of English at the University of Illinois, Chicago. **Kyle Wanberg** will join the faculty of the Liberal Studies program at New York University as a Master Teacher. **Maryam El-Shall** will become Assistant Professor of English at Jamestown Community College. **Vuslat Demirkoparan** continues as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Peace Studies, Chapman University, and **Emma Heaney**, as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Critical Theory and Social Justice, Occidental College. **Anna Cavness** joins the faculty of Soka University as adjunct teacher of French. **Olivia Gunn** has accepted a position as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages and Literatures at

Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington.

Awards

The department is delighted to announce an impressive number of awards to continuing PhD students: **Eddie Pinuelas** received a President's Dissertation Year

(continued on next page)



Features –

- A great year for conferences
- Exciting new undergraduate major tracks, Aldrich award
- Comp Lit faculty scholarly highlights
- Staff news

Fellowship and the Howard Babb Memorial Fellowship. **Sharareh Frouzesh** has been awarded a Hayman Dissertation Fellowship by the UC Interdisciplinary Psychoanalytic Consortium, a Thomas T. and Elizabeth C. Tierney Humanities Scholarship, and a Graduate Dean's Dissertation Fellowship. **Parisa Vaziri** will be attending the Cornell School for Criticism and Theory at Cornell this summer on fellowship and will teach next year at the program in Nanterre, France, through a teaching exchange. **Timothy Wong** received the K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award. **Alexander Jabbari** received the Humanities Dean's Gateway Award in Persian Studies. The following students received summer language study and summer dissertation fellowship awards: **Halah Darwezeh, Brandon Granier, Victoria Hsieh, and Abraham Romney**. **Ghada Mourad** has been invited to participate in a renowned translation summer residency in Lagrasse, France. She also received a Humanities Graduate Summer Language Fellowship in support of her travel. Congratulations to all!

Undergrad news

Pichaya "Peach" Kositsawat, Comparative Literature and Political Science double major, is the recipient of the 2012 Dan and Jean Aldrich award. The \$2,500 award is named in honor of UCI's founding chancellor and recognizes the outstanding junior on campus on the basis of merit, academic excellence, leadership, and contributions to campus, and community service. Way to go, Peach!

We congratulate our senior Comp Lit majors completing their degrees in 2012: **Patrick Boyd, Trang Bui, Jerome Dent, Earl Foust, Ifigenia Gonis, Joseph Hong, Preston Hoppers, Olivia Hulett, Chris Hull,**



Comp Lit grads and undergrads celebrate a successful year

Conferences

Comp Lit graduate students helped shape the field by conceptualizing, organizing, and participating in several conferences this year.

- Conference in honor of **Etienne Balibar**, February 16, 2012. Organized by **Nasser Mufti**, with **Sharareh Frouzesh, Philip Grant, C.J. Gordon, Annette Rubado, Ameeth Vijay, Tim Wong, and Robert Wood**.
- Impasse: Graduate Conference, March 2, 2012. Organized by **Sarah Kessler and Ryanson Ku**
- Critical Theory at the Present Time: Critical Theory Emphasis Undergraduate Conference, May 3, 2012. Organized by **Tim Wong**
- Comp Lit grads also played a role in the Early Cultures conference (**C.J. Gordon**) and the First Annual Southern California Rhetoric-Composition Research Symposium (**Abraham Romney**)

(above: Enjoying pizza at Gina's at the Comp Lit End-of-the-Year Party: **Vuslat Demirkoparan, Kelly Navahom, Jamie Rogers, Connie Huang, Nasser Mufti, Tetsuro Namba**)

Critical Theory at the Present Time

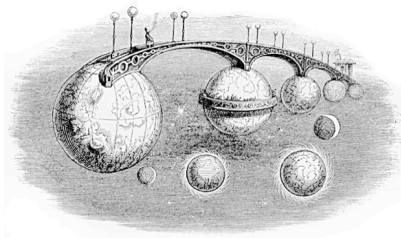


Staff news

We said farewell to **Karin von Renthe-Fink**, who retired in March, and hello to **Liz Sanchez** and **Geneva Rangel**. Welcome! Many thanks to **Mary Underwood**, MSO, **Bindya Baliga**, Grad Program Coordinator, and **Barbara Caldwell**, Senior Editor, for all their smart and hard work this year.

Anna Kwon, Desiree Landry, Lindsay Lee, Bridgette Logan, Kelly Novahom, Morgan Slade, and Michael Um.

Several Comp Lit scholars contributed to the Undergraduate Conference in Critical Theory: **Earl Foust, Connie Huang, Joe Hong, Kelly Novahom, and Morgan Slade.** Three seniors presented papers at the Undergraduate Research Symposium on May 19th: • **Earl Foust** (mentor, Adriana Johnson), “Placeholders: The Native in the Philippine Nationalist Imaginary” • **Joseph Hong** (mentor, Ackbar Abbas), “A Joke and Nothing More: Voice, Writing, and Kundera’s Comedy of Failed Finitude” • **Kelly Navahom** (mentor, Alexander Gelley), “‘Glasgow’s Miles Better’: Phantasmagorical Constructions of the Post Industrial City.” Congratulations to all!



New World Literature track created for Comparative Literature majors

Students majoring in Comp Lit may now choose from three tracks: World Literature, Comparative Literature and Critical Theory, and Cultural Studies. For more information: <http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/hum/hum.8.htm#gen0>



Comp Lit Students Respond to Budget Crisis: Putting Theory into Practice

Both graduate and undergraduate students paid close attention to budget issues on the state, UC system, and campus level this year. They traveled to Regents meetings, convened in action groups across departments and schools, and interviewed faculty and administrators, seeking to understand and respond to the complexities of the problems. They circulated position statements and petitions, and demonstrated in creative, civil, and informative ways. We laud their public spirit and active citizenship.

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Publications

Postmodern Culture
Edited by Eyal Amiran

PMC is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal specializing in contemporary literature, theory, and culture. Published three times a year by Johns Hopkins University Journals, *PMC* is available through Johns Hopkins University's Muse project at <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/pmc>.

PMC was the first scholarly peer-reviewed electronic publication in the humanities.

Published this year: Volume 21, Issues 1, 2, and 3

The Exhibit

Editor-in-chief, Connie Huang

An undergraduate journal of student narrative and theory. Published in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012.

Faculty highlights

- Ackbar Abbas and David Goldberg, organizers, Seminar in Experimental Critical Theory, Beirut, Lebanon. Summer 2012.
- Dina Al-Kassim, Academic and Research Collaboration: UCI's Critical Theory Institute and the Humanities Institute of Pusan National University, Busan, Korea
- Alexander Gelley (Emeritus), *Walter Benjamin's Later Writings: The Arcades Project, Commodity Culture, Historiography*. National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar for College Teachers, 2011.
- Susan C. Jarratt, "Thersites in Egypt." Keynote address. American Society for the History of Rhetoric. Biennial Conference. Philadelphia, May 2012.
- Adriana Campos Johnson, "Land." Presentation for the *Encyclopedia of Iberian Postcolonialities: A Metahistory of the Practices* I. Madrid, February, 2012.
- Jane O. Newman, *Benjamin's Library. Modernity, Nation, and the Baroque*. Cornell UP, 2011. Featured in a Signale Author Forum: <http://blogs.cornell.edu/signale2011newman/about-author-forum/>
- Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o. *Globalectics. Theory and Politics of Knowing*. The Wellek Library Lectures. New York: Columbia UP, 2012.
- Margot Norris (Emerita). *Virgin and Veteran Readings of 'Ulysses.'* Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- Nasrin Rahimieh. Collaborative launch of the Tehran Asthma Files within the Oral History of Iranian Scientists, Engineers, and Medical Professionals project. Samuel Jordan Center for Persian Studies.
- Annette Schlichter (co-convener Nina Eidsheim) HRI Group – "Vocal Matters: Technologies of Self and the Materiality of Voice," Fall 2012.
- Gabriele Schwab, Chinese translation of *Literature, Power, Subjectivity*. Critical Theory Series. Trans. Jiajun Tao. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences Publishing House, 2011.
- Rei Terada, 2012 Faculty, School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University.

