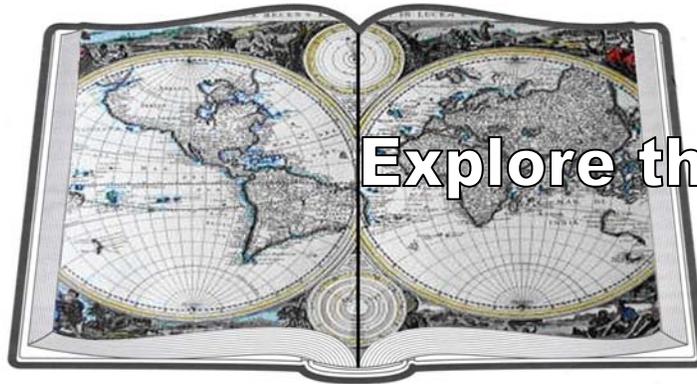


Friends of Comparative Literature



Explore the World

"I have always
imagined that Paradise
will be a kind of
library."
- Jorge Luis Borges

News from the Coordinator Michelle Bolduc

Comparative Literature continues to grow at UWM! We have recently welcomed the several new faculty to the program, including faculty who specialize in translation and in Arabic literature. Comparative Literature now has faculty representing a wide variety of literatures and cultures from all over the globe: the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia! And the faculty who specialize in translation offer Comparative Literature graduate students the opportunity to make the theories and practice of translation a formal part of their graduate studies, so that they are prepared both for the job market and for continued comparative research. You can read more about our new faculty on page three.



Select Spring Course Offerings

Comp Lit 231 Literature and Religion: Author Responsibility in the Nazi Era

This course will consider several authors of the Nazi Period and their response to the critical years 1918-1945. The authors predicted, recorded, signed over their talents to the coordinated Nazi propaganda machine or went into exile (inner or external). We will also consider the responsibility of the authors since the end of the Nuremberg Trials who have written about the Holocaust. Among the authors we will consider are Hugo Bettauer, Franz Kafka, Leon Feuchtwanger, Klaus Mann, Rolf Hochhuth, Elie Wiesel, Primo Levi and Joachim Fest.

Comp Lit 360 Seminar in Literature and Cultural Experience: Arabic Women's Literature

This course will explore Arabic women's literary production. We will focus primarily upon novels and short stories from the Arab East (Lebanon, Palestine, Syria and Iraq) and from Egypt. However, we will also look at some examples of short fiction and poetry from the Arab west (Algeria and Morocco). The course will explore narrative and other strategies that women writers use to represent female experience of gender ideologies, war, religion and family life. We will also explore women writers quest for identity in rapidly changing social, economic and political contexts. Throughout the course, we will make use of the texts to discuss the complex dynamic between Arab/Middle Eastern nationalisms and feminisms, and the ways in which women have been involved in these ideological movements.

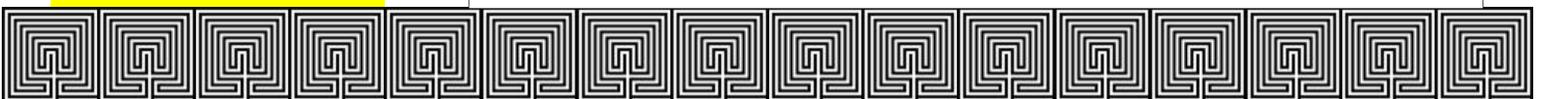
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Profile of an Alumni: Tony Brandl, Cartoonist, Class of 2006

How have your studies of Comparative Literature influenced you?



"I've been pursuing a career in cartooning, and the textual analysis and knowing how to translate ideas between cultures that I learned in Comparative Literature has really helped me, particularly in my cartooning: before, my cartoons were gags, containing some kind of antic; now, they are more symbolic, and they demand something of the reader. I understand now that it's not bad to assume a degree of learning, and that people need to be challenged in reading my cartoons. I see cartooning in broad terms: because I've been influenced by magical realism and 16th- and 17th-century novels, cartooning for me is more closely related to literature, especially meta-fiction, than film. I'm currently writing my first graphic novel, entitled *The Flying Shirt of Snectity Jones*, and am applying for grad school."

The 2006 Winners of the Roy Arthur Swanson Comparative Literature Scholarship

This Years Winners:

Jamie Bal, Lacy Krause, and Jared Xu

Jamie Bal writes: "Comparative Literature is such a great field. It really has broadened my understanding of different cultures, time periods and gender related issues. I am particularly interested in gender related topics and the changing role of women today. The RASCL scholarship has thankfully let me continue my Comparative Literature education at UWM and further my studies and understanding of issues that are facing women today."

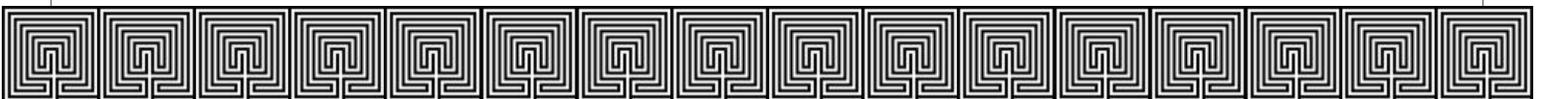


Lacy Krause, notes, "I am very honored to be a recipient of the RASCL scholarship. I thoroughly enjoy being a Comparative Literature student. It has given me the opportunity to explore numerous diverse cultures and forms of literature, and this scholarship has been a valuable source of financial support and encouragement in continuing my education."

And from Jared Xu, "My area of interest in Comparative Literature is 20th century Chinese and French literature and film, and transnational and cross-cultural encounters. First, the scholarship is an honor and indicates that my hard work is recognized. Second, the money helped me purchase more books in my research interest."

Comparative Literature and Innovative Teaching

Michelle Bolduc was awarded a University of Wisconsin System Teaching Fellowship for 2006-2007. This award, designed to encourage innovative pedagogical methods, is being used to support her research on the way in which performance impacts student learning. In her course "Performing the Middle Ages!" Prof. Bolduc is studying whether the performance of medieval literary texts might allow modern readers a deeper, and perhaps more accurate, understanding of these old texts. Students read the medieval texts, and then must decide how to perform the texts based on textual clues and background information about theatre and drama in the Middle Ages. She also intends to determine whether the activity of performance affects the student's learning and classroom experience, and will share her research with colleagues.



Check us out on the
web!

<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/FICL/CompLit/index.html>

Comparative Literature Welcomes New Faculty

Beate Damm wrote her master's thesis (University of Giessen, Germany) on "E.M Forster's *A Passage to India* and its reception in India." In her dissertation (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee), she analyzed Carolyn Parkhurst's novel *The Dogs of Babel* and two of its translations as sites of metaphors of communication and translation. Beate has taught classes in stylistics, composition, translation and German language at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and the University of Wroclaw, Poland. She is currently translating Ruth Schwertfeger's essay-memoir *The Wee Wild One*, which is, among other things, a journey into the collective memory of Ireland, France and Germany, respectively.



Associate Professor **Susan Rascón** has taught at UWM since 1999, where she teaches interpreting courses as well as Spanish-to-English translation. She is a federally certified court interpreter and an ATA-certified translator both Spanish-to-English and English-to-Spanish. Professor Rascón has published 12 book-length translations, mainly of Central American literature. She has a J.D. from Marquette University Law School and is a member of the state bars of Arizona and Wisconsin. She interprets in federal and state courts throughout the state. She recently finished the translation of *El corrido de Dante* by Peruvian author Eduardo González Viaña for Arte Público Press.

Caroline Seymour-Jorn completed her B.A. in Modern Greek and Modern Standard Arabic from the Ohio State University in 1987. She completed her MA (1990) and PHD (1995) in Cultural Anthropology at the University of Chicago. She spent two years living in Egypt on USIA Fulbright and Fulbright Hayes Fellowships, studying Arabic and doing research for her dissertation on Egyptian women fiction writers. She is currently working on a manuscript on the short stories and novels of Egyptian women who began writing in the 1970s. This spring she will teach Comparative Literature 360, "Seminar in Literature and Cultural Experience: Arabic Women."



Faculty Notes

Michelle Bolduc's book, *The Medieval Poetics of Contraries*, a study of literary authority at the crossroads of the sacred and the secular, was published this fall by the University of Florida Press. Her article, "Fauvel's Wayward Wives," appeared in *Medievalia et Humanistica* 32 (2006): 43-62.

Fr. Michael Fountain was nominated for the Academic Staff Outstanding Teaching Award by his peers and students. He also gave a presentation, entitled "Children and War: The Nazi Catastrophe," at the Summerfield Open Doors Center in Milwaukee in November. He is currently teaching a class on children and war during the Holocaust.

Peter Paik's book manuscript, "From Utopia to Apocalypse: The Political Theologies of Science Fiction," was accepted for publication by the University of Minnesota Press. In November, he will give a paper titled "The Technologies of the Soul" at the MLA conference in Chicago.

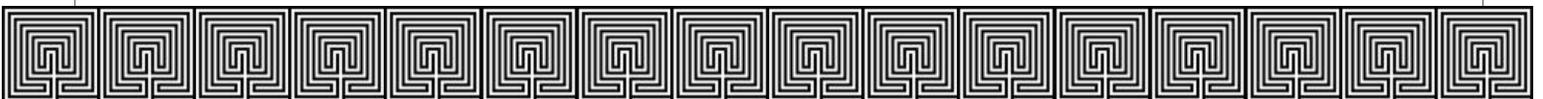
Robin Pickering-Iazzi's article, "Spatial Productions of Testimony, Witnessing, and Re-Membering in the Documentary *Diario di una siciliana ribelle*," appeared in the *Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 39.1 (Spring 2006): 100-110.

Kristin Pitt has been named a Fellow at the Center for 21st Century Studies for the 2006-2007 year, and is working on a book manuscript, entitled "Disappearing Citizens: Gender, Race, and Nation in the Americas." Her article, "National Conflict and Narrative Possibility in Faulkner and Garro," was published in *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 8.2, June 2006.

Rachel Skalitzky continues to advise students and to plan the Comparative Literature luncheon each semester with over-62 auditors, who continue to contribute generously to the RASCL scholarship fund and support the Comparative Literature program.

Roy Arthur Swanson's translation of Catullus 2 was used in the HBO Video, "Rome, the complete first season," in the ninth episode, "Utica" (2006). He has an article on Par Lagerkvist's "Barabbas" forthcoming in a Salem Press reference work, and his poem, "Ontic Hay," was accepted for inclusion in the International Poetry series.

Jian Xu published "Body, Earth, and Migration: The Poetics of Suffering in Zhang Wei's *September Fable*" in *Modern Language Quarterly: A Journal of Literary History* 67.2 (June 2006): 245-264.





Yes, I want to support UWM's Comparative Literature Program with my tax-deductible contribution.

My gift for the Roy Arthur Swanson Comparative Literature Scholarship Fund is:

- \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$

My gift for the Comparative Literature Program is:

- \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$

Enclosed is my check payable to: UWM Foundation.

Charge my gift to: MasterCard VISA

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For more information on giving to the Comparative Literature program, please contact:

Michelle Bolduc 414.229.4382 mbolduc@uwm.edu

Jennifer McKenzie-Flynn 414.229.6035 jmckenz@uwm.edu

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