

APUNTES

DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN - MILWAUKEE

Portuguese Guest Speaker: Dr. Sandra Sousa

The Transformative Power of Role-Play in Language and Culture Classes

FREE WORKSHOP
ALL LANGUAGES

MARCH 9

Session 1	Session 2
1:00pm - 1:45pm	2:15pm - 3:00pm
CURTIN HALL - B 84	

Sponsored by: **CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**
Language Resource Center

teaching methods

Language Culture

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Sousa
University of Central Florida

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MILWAUKEE

On March 9, 2020, guest speaker **Dr. Sandra Sousa**, from the University of Central Florida, presented a workshop on “The Transformative Power of Role-Play in Language and Culture Class.”

Dr. Sousa discussed Mark Carnes’s’ *Minds on Fire. How Role-Immersion Games Transform College* as a path to improve the teaching of culture and language classes. Dr. Sousa’s presentation was based on her recent findings by implementing this pedagogical strategy to

“ Games based on role-play can have a significant impact on the way students

Between Market and Myth

The Spanish Artist Novel in the Post-Transition, 1992-2014

KATIE J. VATER

In its early transition to democracy following Franco’s death in 1975, Spain rapidly embraced neoliberal practices and policies, some of which directly impacted cultural production. In a few short years, the country commercialized its art and literary markets, investing in “cultural tourism” as a tool for economic growth and urban renewal. The artist novel began to proliferate for the first time in a century, but these novels—about artists and art historians—have received little critical attention beyond the descriptive. In *Between Market and Myth*, Vater studies select authors—Julio Llamazares, Angeles Casón, Clara Usón, Almudena Grandes, Nieves Herrero, Paloma Díaz-Mas, Lourdes Ortiz, and Enrique Vila-Matas—whose largely realist novels portray a clash between the myth of artistic freedom and artists’ willing recruitment or cooptation by market forces or political influence. Today, in an era of rising globalization, the artist novel proves ideal for examining authors’ ambivalent notions of creative practice when political patronage and private sector investment complicate belief in artistic autonomy.

KATIE J. VATER is an assistant professor of Spanish at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her published research centers on inter-art dialogues and ekphrasis, in addition to the artist novel and representations of cultural labor. Her current research examines neoliberalism’s relationship to literature in Spain, especially after the 2008 financial crisis.



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her language and culture classes. Also, Dr. Sousa showed how games based on role-play can have a significant impact on the way students learn and how it makes the classroom an engaging and mind-challenging environment for

every student, contributing to a group discussion of how learning can be a transformative experience for students and instructors alike.

[News from the Portuguese Program](#)

- **Professora Susana Antunes:** co-chaired two panels entitled “*Mujeres: la mirada creadora/Mulheres: o olhar criador,*” at the Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston, May 5-8.
- *O Canto do Mar 4* will be uploaded at the end of the semester on the Spanish and Portuguese Department website.
- “The Mondial Day of the Portuguese Language”, May 6: because of the impact caused by COVID 19 on the event, students’ Final Projects based on cultural aspects of the Lusophone World will be uploaded on the Spanish and Portuguese Department website.

[News from the Spanish Department](#)

Professor Katie Vater’s book, *Between Market and Myth*, is coming out in July 2020.

Also, Prof. Vater published an article in January: “The Neoliberal Dystopia of Sara Mesa’s *Cuatro por cuatro*.” In *Anales de la Literatura Española Contemporánea*. vol 45, no. 1, 2020.

[News from the Spanish Department](#)

Honorary Doctorate

Professor César Ferreira received an Honorary Doctorate (Honoris Causa) from the Universidad Ricardo Palma in Peru on January 31st, 2020 for his



scholarly “contributions to the study of Peruvian and Latin American Literature.”

Ferreira co-edited the volume *Narrar lo invisible: Aproximaciones al mundo literario de Sara Mesa*, published in Valencia, Spain by Albatros, and lectured on “Julio Ramón Ribeyro, 25 años después,” at the Casa de la Literatura Peruana in Lima in January 2020.

Other News:

In the Spring 2020 semester, **Professor Gabriel Rei-Doval** presented the paper “Language maintenance and shift in urban spaces in contemporary Galicia” at the Marquette University conference Urban Spaces, Creative Places: A Blueprint for the Humanities in the City on February 14-15, 2020.

Also, in collaboration with Professor Javier Rivas, he continues to prepare his textbook *Principios de lingüística hispánica*. This pedagogical project is being tested among UWM and CU Boulder students. Furthermore, Professor Rei-Doval has recently published, as part of his travelogue *Viages sen Lee*, the following articles: *Curación glottal en Cape Flattery* (GC, February 2 2020), *En todas partes* (GC, February 29 2020), and *O cemiterio privado dos Quileute* (GC, March 21 2020).



A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As I write this in April, I am deeply grateful for the monumental effort our faculty and staff have put into the online switch for course instruction. These are challenging times for all of us, and I hope everyone is finding the support they need.

This summer is the closing of my second year as Department Chair. One of my biggest satisfactions has been the strengthening of the Portuguese program, and I thank Prof. Susana Antunes for her dedication to the students in the Portuguese minor.

I would like to give a shout-out to several campus units that enrich the Department of Spanish and Portuguese teaching and research mission: the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS), the Language Resource Center (LRC), the Roberto Hernández Center (RHC), and the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Please visit their websites to find out more about their events and other opportunities. CETL offers an array of professional development trainings such as the one our Spanish Language Coordinator, Prof. Allison Libbey, and I took this past spring, titled Teaching for Multicultural Inclusion and Equity. I encourage our faculty members to be on the lookout for future offerings.

Unfortunately, we did not get to have a proper send-off in person for our graduating M.A. in Spanish students. To them, to the Spanish major, and Portuguese minor graduates of 2020, I wish you every success in your communities and career paths ahead. Please stay in touch with the Department. For those interested in donating to Spanish and Portuguese, please visit: <<https://uwm.edu/spanish-portuguese/give/>>.

“These are challenging times for all of us, and I hope everyone is finding the support they need.”

Nancy Bird-Soto

I hope all of you and your dear ones are staying safe. Again, thanks to everyone for their dedication during these trying times. I wish Prof. Kathy Wheatley the best as she returns to the Chair’s office in August.

Gracias/ Obrigada/ Thanks,

Nancy Bird-Soto
Chair



Vista desde la subida hacia el Faro de Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico
Photo courtesy of: Prof. Nancy Bird-Soto

M. Estrella Sotomayor
Newsletter Editor – Spring 2020

