



Department of World  
Languages and Literatures

## Gazette

April 24, 2020

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### Note from Acting Chair

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We now have arrived at the end of the semester, and my term as Acting Chair is coming to an end. It certainly has been a memorable experience. Despite the challenges this semester, we have achieved some important things and made progress in many ways. We have made an important hire: in the fall, Dr. Brianna Butera (UW-Madison, Ph.D.) will join the Spanish/Portuguese Section as Assistant Professor of Linguistics. In addition, one instructor search in Spanish was approved and will be completed soon. Several faculty members received tenure and promotion; some other faculty members published major works and received awards and grants, and others created new exciting face to face or online courses. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, we could not go through with the program review this semester, but the self-study report is finished, and I would like to thank the committee members Dr. Denis Grélé, Dr. Heike Polster, and Dr. Ralph Albanese for their work. We also could not hold our annual Language Fair. Instead, we learned a whole lot about online teaching, and our department adjusted in an amazing way to remote instruction in the last weeks so we could help our students achieve their goals. The fact that this happened without any major issues is due to the amazing efforts of Dr. Errol O'Neill and Dr. Dora Berry, who prepared all faculty so well through workshops, handouts, and general advice. Thank you very much for all you have done this semester! I also would like to thank the language fair directors Josh Nave and Dr. Ben Sparks, who put so much energy into the preparation of the event. Personally, I have learned a great deal this semester and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served. It has been a semester that I and I am sure you also will never forget. The most important thing that became so clear during this time is the fact that great things only can be achieved through teamwork. My colleagues in the

department have proven that many times and I hope this cooperative spirit will continue. Therefore, my heartfelt thanks go out to everyone I had the pleasure to work with this semester. A special thank you belongs to our office managers Glynda Luttmann and Patricia Pinkney, who always stood at my side with their knowledge and support. I would also like to thank Dr. Will Thompson for his advice and help. We have a great Department Chair and we can look forward to his continued guidance during the challenging months ahead.

I wish you a good summer and I hope you and your families will stay healthy and safe.

Dr. Monika Nenon

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## Announcements

### Congratulations to:

**Melissa Rodríguez Analco** who received the 2020 Outstanding Senior Award of the Department of World Languages and Literatures. Melissa is a double major in World Languages and Literatures (concentration in Spanish) and Social Work.

**Dr. Robert Kelz** who received the MOCH Freeburg Faculty Fellowship in the Humanities for Spring 2021.

**Dr. Vania Barraza Toledo** who received a CAS Faculty Research Grant.

**Dr. Lan Zhan** who has been elected for the University Undergraduate Council as representative from the College of Arts & Sciences in the Humanities.

**Dr. Vania Barraza** whose book *El cine en Chile (2005-2015)* has been awarded the Harvey L. Johnson Publication Award 2020, granted by the [Southwest Council of Latin American Studies \(SCOLAS\)](#).

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## Faculty Accomplishments

**Shinobu Watanabe** and **Kaori Fujii** presented "How reading aloud affects students' self-perception as it relates to speaking Japanese" at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Teaching Japanese (SEATJ), Memphis, TN on February 22.

Asami Nakano and **Shinobu Watanabe** presented "Various possible uses of blogs in a Japanese classroom" at the annual conference of the Southeastern Association of Teaching Japanese (SEATJ), Memphis, TN on February 22.

**Dr. Vania Barraza** presented the paper "Género, cine y liminalidad: lo público y lo privado en la posdictadura chilena," at the 54<sup>th</sup> Southwest Council of Latin American Studies (SCOLAS) Conference. Albuquerque, NM (March).

**Dr. Vania Barraza's** book *El cine en Chile (2005-2015)* has been reviewed by Domnita Dumitrescu and Moisés Park. *Hispania*. 102.4 (2019): 613-14 and by Henri Blanc-Hoang in *Letras Hispanas*. 15 (2019): 141-42. <https://gato-docs.its.txstate.edu/jcr:f37a7416-b6ca-445f-b9e2-dfe98152fe15/2019-12-10>

**Dr. Robert Kelz's** article, "Las arcas de la musa: cómo la Buenos Aires de habla alemana financió sus guerras culturales," appeared in *Cuadernos DIHA* 5/6 (2019): 111-125.

**Dr. Melanie Conroy**, with Gregory Brown (Voltaire Foundation / University of Nevada, Las Vegas) and Jeff Loveland (University of Cincinnati), prepared a tribute to Frank Kafker (University of Cincinnati), a specialist on the Enlightenment and the Revolution who passed away on April 1, 2020. The tribute appeared on the Voltaire Foundation blog, in *French Historical Studies*, and on the H-France listserv: <https://voltairefoundation.wordpress.com/>

**Dr. Monika Nenon** served as review editor for the *Lessing Yearbook/Jahrbuch* and published the review section of the *Lessing Yearbook XLVI*. Göttingen: Wallstein Verlag (2019), pp.175-222). In this volume, her book review on Patricia Sensch, *Sophie von La Roches Briefe an Johann Friedrich Christian Petersen (1788-1806)*, Berlin: de Gruyter (2016) (pp. 187-189) appeared as well.

**Dr. Benjamin Sparks** presented his paper "Expropriation and Forced Migrations: The Displacement of Colonial Agricultural Laborers in Mohammed Dib's Algerian Trilogy" virtually at the 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Century French & Francophone Studies International Colloquium which was initially to be held March 26-28 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

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