

## Spring 2020 Newsletter

Dear alumni and friends,

I hope this finds you well during this very difficult time for so many of us.

At this time of year, we're typically in the midst of preparations for year-end events and activities to celebrate the achievements of our students, faculty and staff. In a short time, so much has changed due to the coronavirus situation affecting our world. Yet I'd be remiss if I did not share some of the great things that have happened in our Department. I hope you will see this as a positive, uplifting message of celebration at a time when we so greatly need to hear good news.

We wish you and your families well during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

**Daniela Flesler**

Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature



### **Prof. Paul Firbas wins Stony Brook Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship 2020-2021**

Paul Firbas's book and digital humanities project on "News Production and Networks in Colonial Lima (1620-1720): the Contreras Family print shop" was selected to receive one of the prestigious Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowships for the Spring 2021. During that semester, Firbas will be released from teaching and service commitments and fully devoted to his research and to writing and sharing his work on seminars, discussion groups and talks hosted at the Humanities Institute.

Firbas was born in Lima, Perú, received his PhD from Princeton University and joined Stony Brook University as Associate Professor in 2007. His main field of research is the textual culture of colonial Spanish America.



### **Sara Martínez Navarro receives 2020 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student**

Sara's selection for this prestigious award was based on her scholastic merit and contributions to the Stony Brook University community. This significant achievement acknowledges her important contribution to academic excellence at Stony Brook University. Congratulations Sara!

## New books by Profs. Joseph Pierce and Javier Uriarte

The Fall brought the joy of two new books to our Department.

**Professor Joseph Pierce** published his *Argentine Intimacies. Queer Kinship in an Age of Splendor, 1890–1910*. This is an outstanding work on the legacy of one of Argentina's foremost intellectual and elite families, the Bunges, through which Prof. Pierce is able to reveal the queerness at the heart of the modern family.

Joseph Pierce's book is available through the [SUNY Press website](#).

**Professor Javier Uriarte** published *The Desertmakers. Travel, War, and the State in Latin America*. The book delves into how the rhetoric of travel introduces different conceptualizations of space and time in scenarios of war during the last decades of the 19th century in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Javier Uriarte's book is available through [Routledge's website](#).

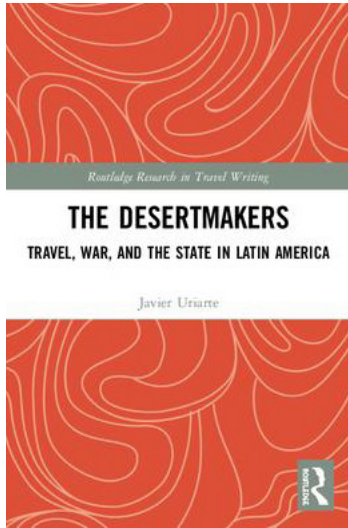


ARGENTINE INTIMACIES



QUEER KINSHIP IN AN AGE OF SPLENDOR, 1890–1910

Joseph M. Pierce



## Congratulations to our new PhDs!

**Agustina Bullrich**, "Más allá de las violencias machistas: las acciones feministas de Beth Moysés y Berna Reale"

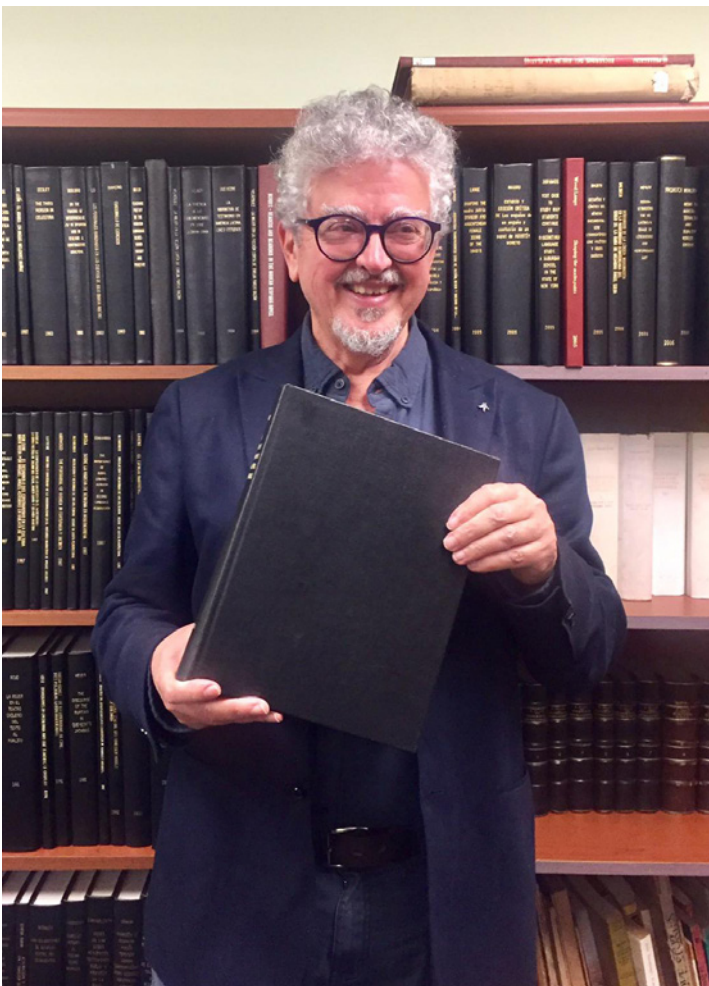
**Gabriel Rudas-Burgos**, "Narrativas inhumanas: Capitalismo extractivo, delirios animistas y representación textual en José Eustasio Rivera, José María Arguedas y Juan Cárdenas" (Dissertation defence pictured above, right)

**José (Benny) Chueca**, "The Baroque Gaze: The Survival of the Baroque and the Derangement of Modernity in Contemporary Peru" (Dissertation defence pictured above, left)

# HLL Alumni Lecture Series


Three HLL Alumni returned to Stony Brook this year to share with our students the trajectory of their academic research and current projects. **Dean Allbritton** (Colby College) presented a preview of his forthcoming book *Bad Blood: Visions of Hemophilia in the Spanish AIDS Crisis*. **Professor Juan Duchesne-Winter** (U of Pittsburgh) spoke about "Image, Body and Territory in Amazonian Literature." **Vicente Rubio-Pueyo** (Fordham U) shared his thoughts on municipalism and the role of academia within the realm of political participation.

Professor Duchesne in Javier Uriarte's graduate seminar.



**HLL Alumni Lecture Series:**  
**"THE WRITER, THE MADMAN, AND THE NATIVE: IMAGE, BODY, AND TERRITORY"**  
**Juan Duchesne-Winter**  
 THURSDAY OCTOBER 31  
 4 pm, Humanities 2036


the talk will be in Spanish



Juan Duchesne Winter (MA, King's College University of London; PhD, Stony Brook) is author of 12 books and numerous articles related to twentieth and twenty-first century Latin American literature in its cultural and political contexts. His recent research and publications focus on indigenous literatures and Amazonian thinking, as well as West Indian-Creole-Caribbean expressions in Spanish-dominant contexts. Recent books include: *Plant Theory in Amazonian Literature* (2019), *Invitación al baile del maldito. Música, pensamiento y territorio en el Amazonas* (2017), *Caribe, Caribe: cosmopolitas literarias* (2015). He is a Professor at the University of Pittsburgh and directs the Revista Iberoamericana and its book series.

Language professor Rita Miral, Assistant, Colby College, Editor, Colby Press Co-sponsored by Alumni Office, IACS

**HLL Alumni Lecture Series:**  
**Dean Allbritton**




Dean Allbritton (MA, Syracuse University; PhD, Stony Brook) is Associate Professor and Chair of Spanish at Colby College. His work analyzes representations of illness and health in contemporary Spanish culture and media as focalizing points for larger discourses of national and societal health. More broadly, he has interests in the fields of illness and disability studies, film theory, Spanish film, and cultural studies. He is currently working on a book manuscript, *Feeling Sick: The Early Years of AIDS in Spain*, which examines the cultural history of the early years of AIDS in Spain (1981-1987) as it has been told through television and print media, ephemeral products of visual culture, fiction film, and the so-called risk groups that lived through the epidemic.

**Bad Blood**  
 VISIONS OF HEMOPHILIA IN THE SPANISH AIDS CRISIS  
**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 6**  
 1-2:20 pm, Humanities 2036

**Alumni Speaker Series**  
 CENTER FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION  
**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 7**  
 12:30 pm, Old Computer Science, Suite 2401

Co-sponsored by CIE, WGSS, HISB, Alumni Office

**HLL Alumni Lecture Series:**  
**Vicente Rubio-Pueyo**

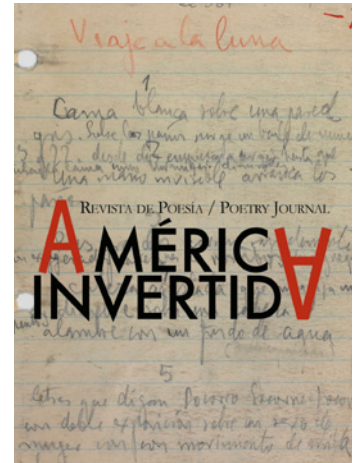


Adjunct instructor at Fordham University's Modern Languages Department. Currently working on a book manuscript on Political Culture, State and Social Movements in Contemporary Spain (1978-2008). Has written frequently about both Spanish and US politics for media outlets on both sides of the Atlantic. He has collaborated with Urban Democracy Lab, Left Forum, Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, NYC and Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung, NYC, among other academic and political spaces. Occupies, Making Worlds, and Nocturnal Grammar/Compass Systems, NYC, Freedom Camp, North America and Miami Municipal Observatory.

**BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: WRITING AND RESEARCHING WITH OTHERS IN PRECARIOUS TIMES**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4TH**  
 1-2:20 pm, Humanities 2036  
 Brown Bag Event

Sponsored by the Graduate Student Organization



## América Invertida Nr. 5 published by HLL graduate students

The poetry journal *América Invertida*, published by HLL graduate students, just launched its 5th issue in March. The issue includes texts by Spanish philosopher María Zambrano and poets such as Mexican Carmen Boullosa, Chilean Diego Alegría, and Guatemalan Wingston González translated by Urayoán Noel. The cover image is the manuscript of the only movie script written by Federico García Lorca, “Viaje a la luna”.

America Invertida also organized several events this semester: “Cómo leer poesía,” a series of poetry readings workshops at Word Up Community Bookstore in New York City, and “Pido la palabra,” a poetry reading series at Stony Brook.

Pictured above: Graduate students María Medin Doce, Isabel Murcia Estrada (co-editor), Sara Martínez Navarro (co-editor), Matias Hermosilla and Micaela Paredes Baraza (NYU, co-editor) at our end of semester party and presentation of the fourth volume of *América Invertida*, December 2019.



## Conference:

### “Water, Infrastructure, and the Americas” November 14-15, 2019

This conference addressed water infrastructure as a matter of political struggle in multiple manners, modes, and media across the various political landscapes of the Americas. How are water infrastructures contested in politics and represented in culture? Panelists addressed the questions from many angles: dam construction and its consequences, riparian rights, drinking water contamination, sea-level rise and global warming, literary representations of water and more. This event was made possible by support from the Faculty in the Arts, Humanities and lettered Social Sciences Fund, the Departments of English and Hispanic Languages and Literature Department, the Latin American and Caribbean Center, and HISB.



## **International Symposium :** **“Visual Culture and Textuality in Colonial Spanish America (16th-18th century)”** **March 5-6, 2020**

This event explored the complex intersection between textual and visual artifacts in Spanish American colonial territories between 1520 and 1720, with some comparisons to Anglo America. It brought to Stony Brook an international team of scholars to present their research on a diversity of objects and discourses produced and consumed in different spaces and contexts in colonial Latin America. This symposium forms part of an interdisciplinary research project led by Prof. Paul Firbas in the [Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature](#) at Stony Brook University, with the support of the following Stony Brook University Professors: [Brooke Larson](#) (History), [Karen Lloyd](#) (Art), [Andrew Newman](#) (English), [Joseph Pierce](#) (HLL/Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center), [Adrián Pérez Melgosa](#) (HLL/director of Humanities Institute) and [Daniela Flesler](#) (HLL chair). The symposium was made possible by an award from the Faculty in the Arts, Humanities and lettered Social Sciences at Stony Brook University ([FAHSS](#)) and the co-sponsorship of the [Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature](#), the [Department of History](#), the [Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center](#), the [Humanities Institute](#), and the [Stony Brook University Libraries](#). Learn more about the symposium [here](#).