

Spring 2022 Newsletter

Dear Alumni and Friends,

I hope this finds you and yours safe and well.

We hope you will enjoy reading about the latest news from our Department. We'd love to hear from you! Drop us a line to let us know how you are doing.

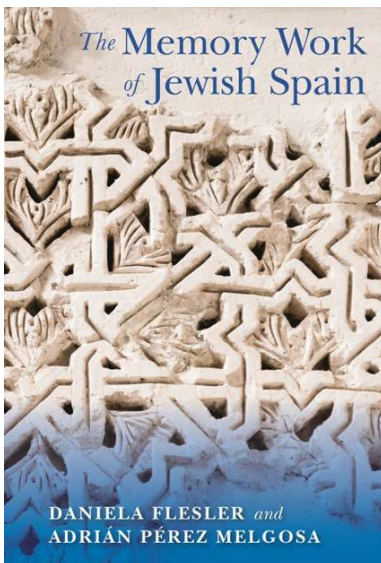
We wish you and your families well.

Sincerely,

Daniela Flesler

Associate Professor and Chair

Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature



Profs. Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez Melgosa Receive Book Award

Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez Melgosa received the 2021 National Jewish Book Award/ Sephardic Culture category for their book, *The Memory Work of Jewish Spain*. The award is sponsored by the Jewish Book Council. More [here!](#)





Prof. Joseph M. Pierce Receives SBU Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship and Award for Inclusive Teaching

Joseph will work on his project "Speculative Relations: Indigenous Worldmaking in the Hemispheric Americas" with support of the Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship during Fall 2022. The project explores how Indigenous artists engage in creative practices of resistance to colonial norms that harness worldmaking possibilities for future lives. Speculative Relations illuminates how the creative work of relating to human and more-than-human kin offers not just alternatives to colonialism, but methods of repair and healing for marginalized subjects.

In 2021, Joseph's teaching was recognized with Stony Brook's inaugural David L. Ferguson Award for Inclusive Teaching by the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). Read more about Joseph's work in the recent issue of [Stony Brook Magazine](#).

Prof. Kathleen Vernon Delivers Keynote Lecture



The keynote was delivered in May 2021 at the First International Conference on Cinema Stardom in Spain at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona, Spain, titled "Voces disonantes/desasossegantes: El estrellato transgresor de Emma Penella y Geraldine Chaplin/ Dissonant Voices: The Transgressive Stardom of Emma Penella and Geraldine Chaplin."

Prof. Lena Burgos-Lafuente Participates in Keynote Panel

Lena delivered the paper "El oído del enemigo o la Isla de la siquiatria" in the keynote panel "Islands: Beyond Peninsular Thinking," El Taller @KJCC, New York University, New York, NY, July 20, 2021.





PhD Candidate Natalia Polito Wins Presidential Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Natalia's dissertation, *"The Labyrinth of 'la mala vida': Popular Theater, Gender Performance, and Social Change in Argentina (1918-1934)"* studies plays that depict a history of change in class and gender roles on the margins of family and working class "respectability" in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the beginning of the 20th century.



Spotlight on Undergraduate Majors: Layla María

Layla Maria is a double major in Biology and Spanish pursuing a career as a physician. "I grew up in New York in a multicultural household, which sparked my interest in learning different languages and cultures. Going into the healthcare field, languages – especially Spanish – are an important part of medicine, which is why I decided to continue developing my Spanish-speaking skills with a major at Stony Brook. Moving forward, I hope to incorporate Spanish and the culture associated with it into the healthcare profession."

Layla completed her Undergraduate Honors thesis, *"The intersectionality between heritage language, culture and the development of one's identity"* in December 2021 with Lilia Ruiz-Debbe as advisor. She has recently been accepted into three medical schools.

A list of our undergraduate honors theses since 2008 can be seen [here](#).

Congratulations to our new PhDs!

Anay M. Rodríguez

"Memoria de la historia, historia de la memoria: literatura, testimonio y memoria cultural en la Cuba posrevolucionaria."

Advisor: Prof. Lena Burgos-Lafuente



Ennis Addison

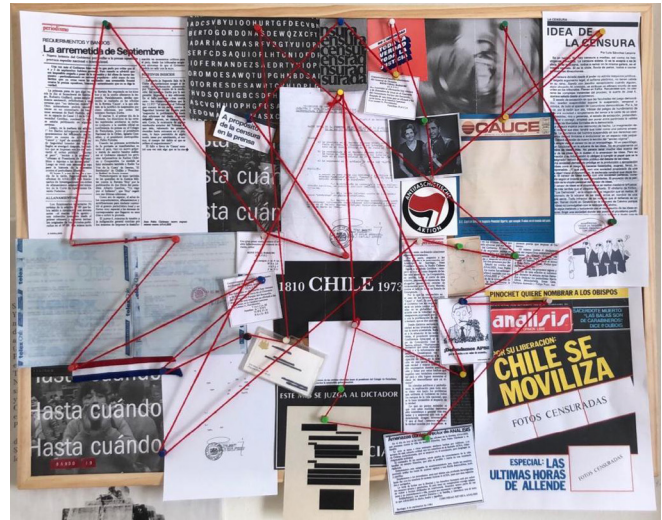
"From Harlem to Havana and Back Again: Ruin, the Performative Politics of Survival, and the Ambivalent, State-Sponsored Detective in Chester Himes' Harlem Domestic and Leonardo Padura's Cuatro estaciones."

Advisors: Prof. Kathleen Vernon and Prof. Lena Burgos-Lafuente



PhD Student Samuel Espíndola Curates Exhibition in Chile

Samuel Espindola co-curated, along with Vania Montgomery, the art exhibition *Censura: El silencio puede ser un plan rigurosamente ejecutado* (Censorship: Silence can be a plan rigorously executed) at the Museo de la Memoria in Santiago de Chile about the topic of censorship, showing historical cases such as Pinochet regime's 1984 prohibition to print images of any kind, events related to the 2019 uprising, and racial and sexual discrimination in contemporary Chilean society. During the exhibition there was a public conversation with Ángeles Donoso (BMCC CUNY) and Sergio Rojas (Universidad de Chile) View the [video](#). Read more [here](#).



Prof. Javier Uriarte Publishes a co-edited Special Issue on "La guerra y sus relatos: conflicto, modernización y producción cultural en América Latina" in the peer-reviewed journal *A Contracorriente*



The interdisciplinary dossier, in which scholars working in Latin America and the US study works of literature, photography, journalism, images, and various kinds of reports, questions common ways of representing war while reading it in the context of discourses of modernization in the region (from the last decades of the 19th century to the first decades of the 20th). There is also an important emphasis on the transformations the press underwent in those years and the ways in which those changes (in circulation, formatting, readership, etc) modified the narrative, reportage, and understanding of war. Finally, the authors of the dossier explore the representation of bodies, territorialities, and gender in different war narratives. Find the dossier [here](#).

Recent PhD Graduate Javier Gastón-Greenberg Wins CLACS NYU Fellowship

Javier Gaston-Greenberg began working on *El libro de Cristal/The Crystal Book*, a collaborative comic book developed with Cuban creators, as his project for the College of Arts and Science's Giuliano Fellowship, which he received in 2021. Javier is currently developing the comic book series as a new fellow with the CLACS NYU Fellowship. He is using the comics along with a language and intercultural storytelling curriculum in different school settings during the 2021-22 school year.



Hero Genesis: Comics as a Language and Intercultural Storytelling Methodology

¡Bienvenido! Welcome!

El libro de Cristal is a collaborative comic project made between Cuban and Cuban-American archivists, historians and creators. It emerged out of a dissertation project called *Hero Genesis and Crisis: Comic Books and Identity Formation in Revolutionary Cuba*. This project has been generously supported by the Giuliano Fellowship at Stony Brook University. This is the first of five numbers in the *El libro de Cristal* story arc.

For more information on Hero Genesis contact:
Javier Gastón-Greenberg at jgastongreenberg@gmail.com



Recent PhD Graduate Benny Chueca Exhibits His Drawings



José (Benny) Chueca, who received his doctorate in our Department in 2020, and Chris Young Garcia presented this past October 27, 2021, their "Urgent Paintings," an art exhibit in New York City that explored the isolation experience during the pandemic. The exhibit was curated by Cecilia Jurado. Benny, originally from Lima, Peru, studied studio art at the Catholic University of Peru and worked as a journalist in leading media in Lima. He completed a master degree in creative writing at NYU before coming to Stony Brook for his PhD, in which he did research on the baroque aesthetics of late 20th century Peru (more on his [dissertation](#)). He is a Spanish faculty, a freelance journalist and an artist living in NYC.



Top image: Benny Chueca and Esther Trtuzman; bottom image: one of Benny's drawings at the "Urgent Painting" exhibit.

HLL and LACS Celebrate Día de los Muertos and Calaveritas Contest 2021!



Inclusive Language Symposium Organized by PhD Students and LACS

“Poéticas y políticas del lenguaje inclusivo,” organized by HLL PhD students and LACS featured Sofía Checchi (Linguista, UBA) Sasa Testa (militante trans, CONICET UBA-IIGG) Analú Laferal (Artistx feminista y profesora de la U. de Antioquia)

PhD student Valentina Pucci curated and presented a film series on contemporary cinema from the Tucumán region with Q&A with film directors. Sponsored by LACS.

Talk by Visiting Scholar Héctor Andrés Rojas



On November 10, Visiting Scholar from Chile Héctor Andrés Rojas presented his excellent work-in-progress on fictions and desires of Santiago de Chile's urban planning.

Prof. John Blanco: A Talk about Colonial Empire in the Philippines



On September 15, 2021, Prof. Aurélie Vialette and LACS invited John Blanco (UC San Diego) to Aurélie's graduate seminar. His talk was titled "Frontier Constitutions. Colonial Empire in the Nineteenth-Century Philippines."

Talk on Teaching in Prison



On November 10, 2021, Prof. Aurélie Vialette and LACS invited Carlos Ivan Calaff (formerly incarcerated and Columbia U) and Mia Ruyter (Columbia U) to talk to students about their teaching program for inmates at Rikers Island.

Congratulations to our research fellows!

Alberto Sánchez Medina, one of LACS Graduate Student Summer Research Fellows 2021!

Paulo Soares, recipient of the HLL Winter 2022 Research Award!

HLL and LACS Latin America Today



A conversation on South America's current political panorama: Colombia, Chile, Perú

Erna Von Der Walde (Universidad Javeriana/Instituto Caro y Cuervo, Colombia), Andrés Estefane (Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago, Chile) and Cecilia Méndez (UC Santa Barbara). Organized and moderated by Prof. Paul Firbas.

Co-sponsored by Hispanic Languages & Literature, LACS and the Department of History.

Undergraduate Students Meet with Princeton University Librarians

On November 10th, our undergraduate Spanish class for heritage speakers had a bilingual virtual conversation with Princeton University Librarians Fernando Acosta and Gabrielle Winkler on the Latin American Ephemera Collection. The conversation, organized by Prof. Paul Firbas, took place in our Latin American and Caribbean Study Center seminar and art gallery. During the presentation, the two librarians explained the content of the ephemera collection and the available digital resources for the study of Latin America pamphlets (1960-2020), including health brochures, political posters and educational projects in rural areas. Sponsored by LACS.



2020 Visual Culture and Textuality Symposium Published



A page section with woodcut from Pedro Cieza de León's *Chronicle of Peru*, published in Seville in 1553, studied in the journal.

The 2021 issue of the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona's open-access, peer-review journal, [Nuevas de Indias](#), includes a monographic section coordinated by Prof. Paul Firbas on the "Textuality and Visual Culture of the Colonial Period." This publication presents the research behind the symposium on "Visual Culture and Textuality in Colonial Spanish America" held at Stony Brook in March 2020, just days before the pandemic forced a closure of university campuses worldwide. The introductory essay, by [Paul Firbas](#), discusses ideas on media history and material culture in colonial settings. The journal also includes an article by our colleague [Prof. Fernando Loffredo](#) on two French 16th century wooden reliefs that represent indigenous people working on the extraction and trade of Brazilian wood. ([More information](#))

Spanish in Healthcare



In February 2022, Prof. Elena Davidiak and the SBU Center for Digital Humanities published a digital collection of interview videos aimed at promoting cultural sensitivity in healthcare. The interview project was funded by a SB Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (FAHSS) grant awarded to Prof. Davidiak in 2021. The digital archive can be found [here](#).

We Appreciate Your Support

We are grateful for the generous giving of so many of our alumni and friends! We depend on this support to build and improve our research and teaching opportunities through scholarships, graduate fellowships, and other experiential opportunities for our students. If you are interested in learning more about how you can [support](#) our students and Departmental initiatives, please feel free to contact [Hodan Hassan](#), Assistant Dean for Advancement, at 631.632.4055.