

CWL Newsletter

Spring 2019 | Issue 2



Grad students at the CWL happy hour!

In Appreciation of Lilya, CWL Chair '14-'19

"The graduate students of CWL appreciate all of Lilya's hard work, support, and encouragement as department head. She helped many of us from the very start of our graduate careers, answering our many questions as we were still deciding which school to attend. She was enthusiastic in supporting many of our individual projects, as we tried to find our own paths within Comparative Literature. If we came perplexed or anxious to her office, she both reassured us and paved a way forward. For those of us nearing completion, her support has often been crucial. Thanks to Lilya, navigating the complexities and challenges of graduate school was a whole lot easier. Thank you, Lilya!"



"Through Lilya Kaganovsky's thoughtful leadership of the Program in Comparative and World Literature, the department has blossomed: undergraduate enrollments are up in most courses, minors and majors have increased (also due to the wonderful Jen Bliss's outreach), we attract excellent graduate students who win highly competitive fellowships (also due to Eric Calderwood, DGS extraordinaire), the faculty have been awarded a stunning number of prizes and granted national and international distinction." Read full faculty statement [here](#).

Suggested Courses for Fall '19

CWL 114 | Global Consciousness and Literature

CWL 189 | Literatures of Asia & Africa

CWL 201 | Comparative Lit Studies

CWL 205 | Islam & West Through Lit

CWL 209 | Jewish-American & US Minority Literature

CWL 221 | Jewish Storytelling

CWL 241 | Early Masterpieces of Western Culture

CWL 275 | Masterpieces of East Asian Literature

CWL 454 | Topics in Israeli Lit & Culture

CWL 501 | Theory of Literature

CWL 551 | Literary Movements

CWL 581 | Freud & Hitchcock

CWL 581 | Novel, Postcolonialism and Literature

Lilya Kaganovsky has been in the CWL department since 2001. She is a professor of Slavic, Comparative Literature, and Cinema & Media Studies.

Accomplishments in CWL

Faculty

Eric Calderwood

- Honorable Mention for the MLA William Riley Parker Prize for his article "Franco's Hajj: Moroccan Pilgrims, Spanish Fascism, and the Unexpected Journeys of Modern Arabic Literature," which appeared in the October 2017 issue of PMLA

Stephanie Hilger

- Along with Medical Research Humanities Cluster, Hilger was awarded \$100,000 for "The Art of Medicine: A Public Square on Health and Medicine for the Illinois System" from the Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and Humanities

Lilya Kaganovsky

- Appointed as a Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar "in recognition of outstanding achievements in research and leadership role on campus" (2019-2022)
- Received an Associate appointment to the Center for Advanced Study for Fall 2019
- Co-edited volume, *Arctic Cinemas and the Documentary Ethos*, eds. Lilya Kaganovsky, Scott MacKenzie, and Anna Stenport (Indiana University Press, 2019)

Rini Mehta

- Awarded \$150,000.00 in support of her project, "Global Film History from the Edges: Engineering a Comparative Public Humanities," as part of the Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and Humanities

Students

Claire Baytas and Meagan Smith

- Awarded funding by CWL, through the support of the Graduate College and LAS, to attend the annual Institute for World Literature: <https://iwl.fas.harvard.edu/>. This year, the Institute will meet from July 1-25 (2019) at Harvard

JiHyea Hwang

- Accepted to the Travel Grant Program of the Harvard-Yenching Library for the 2018-2019 academic year

Ethan Madarieta

- Granted a 2018/19 "Lecturer" appointment in the Carter G. Woodson Department of African and African American Studies at the University of Virginia. His courses include "What is Performance? Theorizing Black and Latinx Performance" and "Afro-Latinx Literature: Race, Genealogy, and the Decolonial Imagination". Ethan is also the faculty advisor for the Afro-Latinx Student Organization and co-organizer of the "Race and Latinidades" teach-in and forum series.

Alexandra van Doren

- Alexandra van Doren was accepted into University of Michigan Law School. She will be attending the school in Fall 2019.



JiHyea Hwang's students of CWL 190: National Theaters of Asia & Africa (left); Ragini Chakraborty presents on *The Namesake* for NEA's Big Read Program at the Urbana Free Library (right)

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Books to Prisoners**

<http://books2prisoners.org/>

An Urbana, Illinois based project providing books to Illinois inmates at no cost by mail as well as through two county jail libraries which we operate. We are a community-powered volunteer organization with a number of easy ways for you to get involved. No experience is required and whether you have an hour a month or would like to volunteer more often, you are invited to work with us.

- **Three Spinners Inc.**

Join Welcoming Teams to serve our immigrant and refugee community. If you are interested in applying to work with one of our resettled families, contact Jordan McGuire (jordan@threespinners.org) or Alex van Doren (alex@threespinners.org)!



Noah Taxis and Leah Raimondi prepare for class in the shared CWL TA office.

Upcoming Events on Campus

"Breaking the Silence: Mad Creative" at Spurlock Museum, January-May 2019. A breaking and making mosaic project led by Susan Parenti, School of Designing a Society. Coordinated by Mad Creative, it was one of a series of events looking at bombardments of trauma news about sexual violence and other triggering topics around gender and power. Last fall, CWL grad Meagan Smith was event organizer of the effort on our campus. <https://www.spurlock.illinois.edu/exhibits/profiles/foc-mad-creative.html>

"New Perspectives on Cultural Contact and Exchange" (Colloquium)

March 29-31, 2019 (Friday afternoon to Sunday morning)

Levis Faculty Center, 919 W Illinois St, Urbana, IL 61801

<http://ttdce.herokuapp.com/>

"Scholarly Publishing Workshop" with Professor Ronald Schleifer, University of Oklahoma (English)

March 29, 1pm-2:30pm

Levis Faculty Center, Room 422

http://ttdce.herokuapp.com/scholarly_writing_workshop

Alexandra van Doren's dissertation defense: "where foots knocks against/the unburied bones of kin': Topographies of Memory and Amnesia in Poland and Spain"

April 30, 10am, FLB 2090B

2nd Annual Graduate Symposium in Memory Studies

The second annual Graduate Symposium in Memory Studies, held on March 8th, was a great success! This is a graduate-student led project organized by the Initiative in Holocaust, Genocide, Memory Studies to foster dialogue at UIUC about memory studies broadly conceived. We were thrilled that our keynote speaker was Nafissa Thompson-Spires (Creative Writing and HGMS). Nafissa is the author of *The Heads of Colored People*, which has been widely reviewed (including in the *New York Times*) and featured on *Late Night with Seth Meyers*. Many graduate students from Comparative and World Literatures were among the speakers and CWL faculty were among the organizers and respondents. We plan to hold the 3rd annual conference in Spring 2020!



Attendees at the symposium



Nafissa Thompson-Spires, keynote speaker



Faculty responding to panelists



Ragini Chakraborty (CWL)



Ethan Madarieta (CWL)



Lizy Mostowski (CWL)



Dr. Lilya Kaganovsky responds to panelists Esti Ezkerra Vegas (CWL), Naomi Taub (English), Dilara Caliskan (Anthro.), and Helen Makhdomian (English)



Meagan Smith (CWL)

INTERVIEW WITH FIRST-EVER FRESHMAN COMP LIT MAJOR AT UIUC

On a cloudy day in wintry Urbana, we sat down with Paul Heald, Corman Research Professor of law here at UIUC since 2011. Paul was the first student to start as a freshman in the newly-established undergraduate program of Comparative Literature on this campus. (The graduate program was already well-established.) He received both his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in this field, focusing on 17th and 20th century French and German literatures. After spending some time teaching English in Madrid and at Florida A&M University, he



attended the University of Chicago Law School. Paul specializes in copyright, law and economics, and intellectual property law. After a clerkship for the judge of "Selma" fame in Alabama, he served for 20 years as professor of law at the University of Georgia, teaching courses including "Law and Literature." His numerous publications include academic books as well as novels. One recent article is entitled *Testing Tarnishment in Trademark and Copyright Law: The Effect of Pornographic Versions of Protected Marks and Works*. Paul also published a trilogy of novels, the Clarkeston Chronicles, which are loosely based on his time in Georgia. The third book, *Courting Death*, he explains, involves the story of a law clerk reading Euripides' *Medea* while judging an infanticide case.

For Paul, literature and law, in the broadest sense, go hand in hand: "you are what you read," he states, explaining that literature informs our moral sense and that legal problems are frequently also ethical problems, and that reading literature that confronts ethical dilemmas better enables readers to make ethical decisions. This connection between literature and law began for Paul as an undergrad here at UIUC. He cites one memorable course in particular, taught by Dr. Michael Palencia-Roth. It centered upon the Don Juan myth, as imagined by authors including Tirso de Molina, Mozart, and Kierkegaard.

Finally, we asked Paul what he would say to our current CWL majors. He highlighted the value of time spent reading and speaking foreign languages, a skill which can easily transfer to diverse fields such as business and law. Beyond that, Paul credits CWL with forcing us out of constraining boxes, permitting instead a focus on "big ideas" cross-culturally. Paul's recommended reads for those interested in law and literature include Herman Melville's *Billy Budd* and Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*, and his own *Literature and Legal Problem-Solving: Law and Literature as Ethical Discourse*.

The CWL Newsletter was created by graduate students Eva Kuras and Mary Casey, with help from Jihyea Hwang, Stephanie Stoeckl, and Professor Lilya Kaganovsky.

Submissions, feedback, or corrections may be sent to marysc2@illinois.edu or evakuras@illinois.edu.
To those who contributed or submitted to this issue, thank you!