



**ALUMNI/-AE
SPEAKER SERIES**



**ART AND ADVOCACY
IN THE AFTERMATH
OF CRISIS**



**ANDREA PAUW WINS
\$43,000 RESEARCH
AWARD**



**MESSAGE FROM
THE CHAIR**

SIP NEWS



Curricular Innovation for Social Good

Faculty in Spanish have partnered with UVA’s Equity Center to develop courses that bridge language instruction and community engagement. Students enrolled in a year-long sequence led by Esther Poveda Moreno, Senior Lecturer of Spanish, learn eight habits of mind, such as curiosity, persistence, and responsibility in “Writing for Justice and Social Change” (SPAN 3020), offered in the Fall, and they apply these skills in

**“We are thrilled to have Esther Poveda’s Spanish classes in the Civic and Community Engagement Program.”
BONNIE GORDON, UVA
EQUITY CENTER**

“Cultural Conversations -- *Sí se puede*” (SPAN 3030), held in the Spring. Outside of the classroom, they contribute 15-18 hours to organizations in immigration, public health, and education and complete two digital projects, learning “in mutual collaboration with community partners,” says Bonnie Gordon, Faculty Director of the Equity Center. Zachary Anderson, a second-year Linguistics major from Virginia Beach, enjoys the project-focused approach “because it lets me apply my Spanish skills in a new way.” Melly Anderson, a third-year student from Bluefield, VA, double majoring in Spanish and Psychology, is taking 3020 this semester. As part of her coursework, she spends a few hours each week with a Spanish-speaking woman who is studying for her driver’s license, dedicating herself to “something that affects my community, not my grades. I love it!” These enthusiastic responses should encourage further curricular innovation.

Art and Advocacy in the Aftermath of Crisis

Ours is a moment shaped by political, economic, and environmental crises that transcend national and linguistic borders. Two recent events invited world-renowned artists, activists, and scholars to reflect on the role of the arts in responding to natural and manmade disasters. On September 19, artists from the U.S. and the Caribbean exhibited and performed as part of “Coasts in Crisis: Art and Conversation after Recent Hurricanes,” convened by Charlotte Rogers, Assistant Professor of Spanish. Sutton Blanchard, a third-year student from Winston-Salem, NC, double majoring in Spanish and Commerce, found the event to be powerfully informative. He said, “The art, poems, and music were incredible, especially in the intimate setting, but I really had no idea about the hurricanes’ devastation outside of Puerto Rico and across the Caribbean. To hear their writing and to see their emotions in person was a really moving experience.”

On September 29, artists Juan M. Echavarría, Fernando Grisalez, and Gabriel Ossa kicked off “Art and Confrontation in the Americas,” co-organized by Mathilda Shephard, PhD student in Spanish, and Miguel Valladares-Llata, UVA Library. For the next three days, participants heard papers from scholars and community educators, toured an exhibit on the displaced Colombian community of Mampuján, studied in a master class with visiting artists, and screened *Bocas de Ceniza*, a short film

CHAIR’S WELCOME

Dear Friends of the Department,

As the new Chair of the Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, it is my duty and privilege to advocate for the importance of languages and literatures at Virginia.

A 2017 report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences concluded that building competency in languages other than English “is essential from virtually any point of view you can think of” –from economic growth and competitiveness to national defense, academic achievement, and meaningful participation in the global economy.

Thomas Jefferson noted that languages and literatures are crucial to the health of our Republic. A recent editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* agreed that students who can read and comprehend difficult works, engage with sophisticated ideas, and express themselves clearly are needed to contribute to a representative government. Our students do this every day—and they do it in Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese!

Thank you for your support of the Department. If you would like to contribute to our ongoing mission, please consider donating today. And, as always, if you are planning to be in Charlottesville this year, please drop us a line. We would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,
Sam Amago

that marks the effects of warfare through song. As Mathilda noted, “The Symposium gave scholars, artists and activists from across the Americas a space to reflect critically on the role of art in confronting social injustices, mobilizing dissent and prefiguring better worlds.” From violence and devastation emerge new forms of life-giving art and scholarship.



Alumni/-ae Speaker Series

On October 18th, the Department and UVA’s Alumni Office hosted the first Alumni/-ae Speaker Series. This initiative, spearheaded by Professor of Italian Studies Deborah Parker, brings back to Grounds some of our best and brightest majors and minors to share their post-graduation accomplishments, career paths, and advantages of learning foreign languages with our current students. This year’s speakers, both graduates of the Italian Studies program, were Zachary Vogt, a language teacher in Richmond, and Jessica Botta, Director of Training and Culinary Development for Fabio Trabocchi’s restaurants in the DC area.

The Spanish Pacific: Rethinking the Borders of Empire

What did the Spanish empire look like in East Asia, and how might studying the Spanish Pacific change our view of the Golden Age? On September 27, Ricardo Padrón, Associate Professor of Spanish, invited experts on Spain, Asia, and the Americas to debate these questions in a symposium at UVA’s Institute for Global Humanities and Cultures. Catherine Addington, a fourth-year PhD candidate in Spanish from Arlington, VA, relished the chance to hear scholars from other fields address methodological questions that she has encountered. She said, “I came away from the symposium with tons of new sources and frameworks,” as well as “a much stronger sense of the value of my training as a scholar.”



Andrea Pauw Wins \$43,000 Research Award

Andrea Pauw, PhD candidate in Spanish, is one of 67 graduate students in the U.S., selected from a pool of 1,000 applicants, to receive a dissertation fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies. Nizer F. Hermes, Chair of the Department of Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures, called Andrea's dissertation, "Verses to Live By: Aljamiado Poetry in Mudejar and Morisco Communities," "an impressively interdisciplinary and richly researched project that addresses the unduly studied --indeed scholarly challenging-- Aljamiado poetry of the Mudejars/Moriscos in post-Reconquista Iberia (and North Africa)." Andrea extends her research on multiculturalism, religious tolerance, and poetry into the classroom. For Blair Smith, a third-year student from South Riding, VA, double majoring in Spanish and Political and Social Thought, this was an opportunity to learn "how to experience the beauty of poetry written in Spanish" and to "cultivate my love of art and language." After spending the year at the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid, Andrea will present her work at the Medieval Academy of America's annual meeting in Berkeley, CA, before defending her dissertation in April.

Eli Carter Wins LARR-Pitt Best Article Award

Brazilian telenovelas, exported to 130 countries, are the most recognizable media form in Latin America's largest country. Yet, as Eli Carter, Associate Professor of Portuguese, argues, these programs misrepresent Brazil's racial diversity: black and brown Brazilians make up 50.8% of the country, but only compose 10% of telenovela casts. For his analysis of Brazilian racial dynamics on the small screen, Carter's "Representing Blackness in Brazil's Changing Television Landscape: The Cases of *Mister Brau* and *O Grande Gonzalez*," won the 2019 award for the best article published in the *Latin American Research Review* in the previous year. When Mariana Brazao (CLAS 2019), a double major in Foreign Affairs and Latin American Studies from Sterling, VA, studied these issues with Professor Carter, she learned "to approach my own study of Brazil through a whole new multidisciplinary lens." Eli is now at work on his next book, a study of digital streaming services in Brazil.

Jack Brake Wins Marshall Award

In Fall 2019, recent graduate Jack Brake (CLAS 2018) became one of a handful of U.S. students to enroll in the University of Cambridge as a Marshall Scholar. After graduating with a double major in Politics and Spanish, including a DMP thesis on the architecture of religious tolerance in medieval Spain, Jack spent the past year at Tsinghua University in China. Selected as one of 48 students from a pool of more than 1,000 endorsed applicants, Jack is now beginning his PhD in International Studies. By focusing on how small states and their publics can deploy social psychological incentives, including prestige and status, to motivate large countries like the U.S. and China into taking positive action, Jack's dissertation research will provide policymakers with reliable data and concrete steps to improve global well-being. This ground-breaking, transdisciplinary project is one that, Jack says, "I never could have devised without my orientation to international history and the analysis of global cultures that I honed in Spanish classes at UVA."



Selected Events & Publications



H. Rosi Song,
Gerzsten Family Visiting Professor



Fernando Valverde and Fernando Operé,
Poesía en UVA/Poetry at UVA

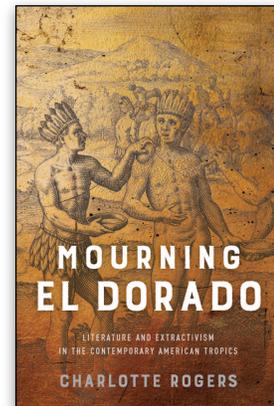
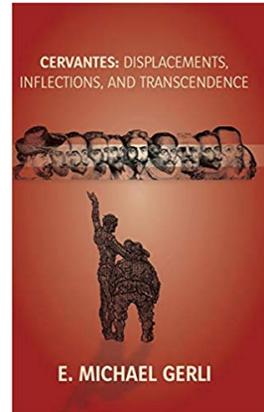


Anne-Garland Mahler,
Transcontinental Acts of Solidarity



E. Michael Gerli, *Cervantes: Displacements, Inflections, and Transcendence* (Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, 2019)

Charlotte Rogers, *Mourning El Dorado: Literature and Extractivism in the Contemporary American Tropics* (University of Virginia Press, 2019)



New Courses in Italian and Spanish

ITTR 3559/WGS 3559, “Italy on Screen: Sex, Gender, and Racial Identity in a Glocal Context” (Francesca Calamita)

ITTR/WGS 3680, “Foodscapes in Women’s Writing, Culture and Society” (UVA in Siena)

SPAN 4510, “Hispanic Transatlantic Poetry” (Fernando Valverde)

SPAN 4520, “Contemporary Peruvian Culture” (Jorge Secada, Department of Philosophy)

SIP FILM FEST

Visual Narratives of Diversity, Displacement, and Inclusion from the Mediterranean and Latin America

The third annual SIP Film Festival took place on Sept. 26-29 on Grounds and in downtown Charlottesville, sponsored by the College of Arts & Sciences, UVA Arts Fund, UVA Library, Latin American Studies Program, Department of Women, Gender & Sexuality, and Institute of World Languages. This year's screenings encompassed a variety of countries and latitudes, and brought to the forefront cross-cultural points of view of the human experience. At a time of renewed uncertainty for underrepresented groups like racial and ethnic minorities, migrants, the poor, and victims of violence, the SIP Film Fest continued giving voice to female filmmakers and movies whose plots and protagonists question the status quo with their perspectives, stories, and behaviors.

The festival was organized by SIP professors Lilian Feitosa, David Flórez-Murillo, Esperanza Górriz Jarque, Hiromi Kaneda, Alicia López-Operé, Esther Poveda Moreno, Paula Sprague, Matthew Street, and Zaida Villanueva García.

Forty Years of Spanish Theater at UVA

From February 6-9, 2020, we will celebrate forty years of the UVA Spanish Theater Group under the direction of Professor Fernando Operé.

Please join us in Culbreth Theater for a unique staging of *Fractales*, by award-winning playwright Alejandro Ricaño (Xalapa, Veracruz, México, 1983). *Fractales* tells the story of Ana, an actress who dreams of starring in a film by Alejandro González Iñárritu but is never cast — until she learns to explore her past.

How to Support Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

There are many ways to support our work. We are always looking for alumni volunteers to:

- Speak with current students about your career path
- Mentor an undergraduate or graduate student
- Present your research or creative work
- Tell us how you'd like to get involved

If you'd like to make a donation, please visit <http://spanitalport.as.virginia.edu> and click "Make a Gift" on our homepage. Checks can be sent to: Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese, PO Box 400777, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 22904 (c/o Samuel Amago, Department Chair). Your donation will support curricular efforts, scholarships for students to intern or study abroad, graduate student research, and a range of scholarly and artistic events.