



SIP IN THE COMMUNITY

In **Esther Poveda Moreno**'s new sequence of classes SPAN 3020 "Writing for Social Justice and Change" and 3030 "Sí se puede: Community Engagement in Spanish Speaking Charlottesville" her students (above) aim to think critically about the world, both in their role at the University and as members of the Charlottesville community. Both courses count towards the completion of a major or minor in Latin American Studies.

Lauren Prince, one of her students in this course sequence, recently published two essays she wrote in *The Virginia Review of Politics*, a student-run online journal, and started a "Spanish pod" for this publication. Inspired by *This American Life* and supported by WTJU, "Podcasts y Comunidad" is a series of podcasts in Spanish on the community agents students worked with during their last academic year.

TEACHING AND COVID-19

Both in Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, Professor of Italian Studies **Deborah Parker** was among the few UVA faculty who opted to continue teaching in person. She explains her reasons in an essay published in *Inside Higher Education*. <https://www.insidehighered.com>



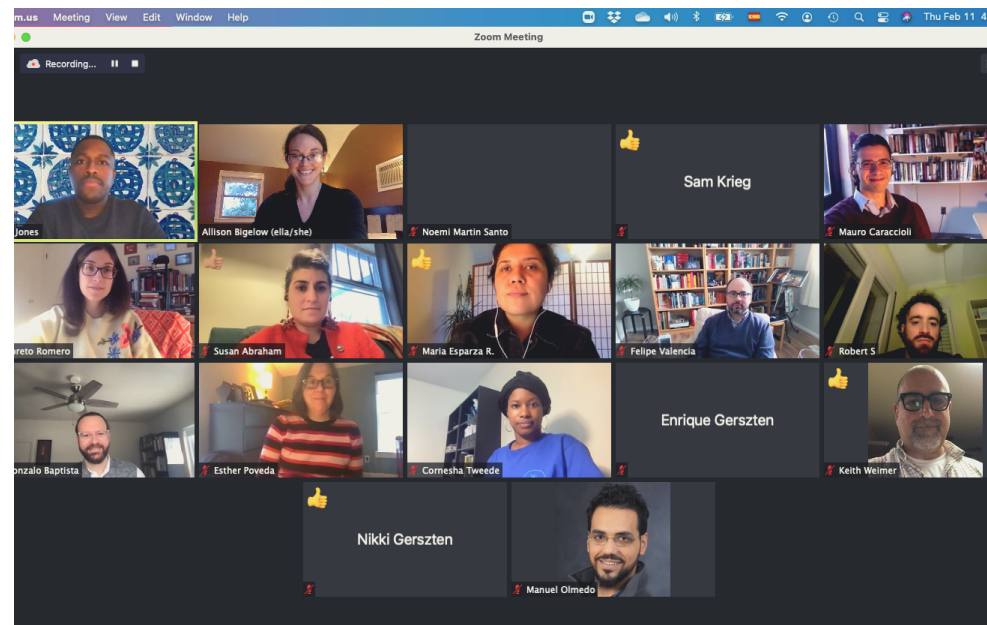


THE MAYAN TEXT *POPOL WUJ* WAS CENTRAL TO VARIOUS INITIATIVES THIS SPRING

PhD student **Winnie Pérez Martínez** and Associate Professor **Allison Bigelow** are part of the team who has been working on the Multepal Project, a collaboration between students and faculty in SIP, UVA's School of Data Science and Maya scholars at the Universidad Rafael Landívar (Guatemala), and the Universidad del Oriente (México). This Spring 2021, this working group received a \$ 15,000 grant from the Center of Global Inquiry and Innovation to support two new Mayan-language digital editions of the *Popol Wuj* - arguably of the “most important Indigenous book of the Americas” (Abreu Gómez 2010: 7) - to promote language acquisition among Maya youth.

Thanks to the efforts of Prof. Bigelow, SIP was one of five departments selected by the Vice Provost for Global Affairs across UVA for a new, pilot initiative called "Global Mentor." Funding from this program allowed SIP to bring (virtually) **Ajpub' Pablo García Ixmatá**, a Maya Tz'utujil scholar whose research on medical knowledge in the *Popol Wuj* is part of a broader program of language revitalization and cultural activism in the Guatemalan highlands and diasporic K'iche' communities in the US.

Earlier on, in September 2020, Gerszten Family Visiting Professor **Ralph Bauer** delivered a lecture entitled “The Matter of the Popol Vuh: Death, Transformation, and Survival in Early (Latin) American Indian Literatures.”

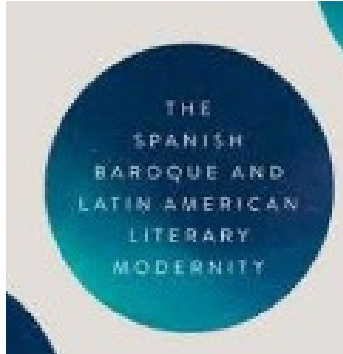


2021 Gerszten Family Visiting Professor **Nick Jones** (top left in the screenshot) led a seminar and gave a lecture entitled "**Cervantine Blackness.**" He argued for a more nuanced critical reckoning with the historical, literary, and cultural legacies of anti-Blackness within the Iberian peninsula and the global reaches of the Spanish empire.

Selected Events & Major Publications



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



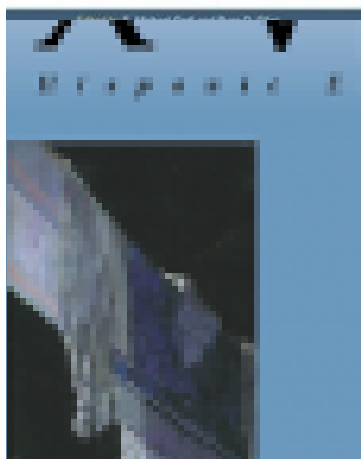
Crystal Chemris,
The Spanish Baroque and Latin American Literary Modernity: Writing in Constellation. Tamesis Press, 2021



E. Michael Gerli and Ryan D. Giles,
The Routledge Hispanic Studies Companion to Medieval Iberia. Unity in Diversity. Routledge, 2021



<https://www.routledge.com/The-Routledge-Hispanic-Studies-Companion-to-Medieval-Iberia-Unity-in-Diversity/Gerli-Giles/p/book/9781138629325>



David Gies, Ed.
Dieciocho. Spring 2021
<https://dieciocho.uvacreate.virginia.edu/44.1/>

Fernando Operé,
En el nombre del padre. De la España de Franco a la América de Trump. (2021)

Fernando Valverde,
America. Copper Canyon Press, 2021

ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND NOTEWORTHY MISCELLANEOUS

- On March 8th, invited speaker and Prof. of Italian Studies [Adalgisa Giorgio](#) (University of Bath, UK) gave a lecture entitled "Reading Elena Ferrante's Novels With the Grain: The View of a Female Academic From Southern Italy." Almost 70 people attended.
- [Allison Bigelow's](#) article, "Transatlantic Quechuañol: Reading Race Through Colonial Translations," PMLA 134.2 (2019) has been recognized by the colonial section of LASA as the best journal article of the year in colonial Latin American studies by an advanced scholar.
- Among the several events linked to celebrating the 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri's death, [Deborah Parker](#) gave an interview with the Italian Network on the study and teaching of Dante in the USA. You can read it here: <http://www.italiannetwork.it/news.aspx?ln=it&id=65150>
- [Michael Gerli](#) has been invited by the Academy of Arts and Sciences of the Russian Federation to give one of three plenary addresses at the upcoming International Congress "Historian and Power, Historian in Power" (Moscow, 20-23 September), dedicated to the study of the political and cultural heritage of Alfonso X, el Sabio, King of Castile and Leon (1252-1284). The Academy has also asked him to be an honorary member of the Program Committee. His plenary will be titled "Inquietudes imperiales: Alfonso X, la ética del poder, y El Libro de Alexandre."
- [Anne Garland Mahler](#) gave an interview to *Vogue* Japan in which she discusses what the definition of Global South means to her. You can read it here: <https://annegarlandmahler.com/vogue-japan-may-2021-global-south-with-dr-anne-garland-mahler/>
- On April 2nd, Italian-Ghanaian film director and activist [Fred Kuwornu](#) spoke about "Black Lives Matter in Italy and the Legacy of Colonialism." This event was organized by [Stella Mattioli](#) thanks to a Diversity and Inclusion Grant.



ITALIAN AWARDS

LOLA PELLICCIA prize in Italian Studies (upper-level): [Jenna Benzing](#) & [Mary Margaret Chalk](#)

GIULIANO PRIZE - given to a fourth-year graduating student on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence in Italian language study and contribution to the growth and nurturing of Italian at the University: [Adelaide Brooks](#) & [Heather Snowden](#)

SPANISH AWARDS

GIULIANO PRIZE - given to a 4th year graduating student on the basis of demonstrated academic excellence in Spanish language study and contribution to the growth and nurturing of Spanish at the University: [Zachary Zamoff](#).

V. LOUISE GARTH SCHOLARSHIP - given to a current 3rd year student from Virginia who has demonstrated outstanding academic performance, and has contributed to the life and well-being of the Spanish program: [still TBD](#)

The Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese's fourth annual **SIP FilmFest** will take place during the week of April 18-25. This year's virtual festival theme is “**Enough with...! Stories of Resistance.**” Issues of inequality, sexism, and migration will be explored as represented in four films in Spanish, one in Portuguese, one in Italian, and one in Japanese.

You can access the website with all the details here:

<https://pragda.com/sfc-event/university-of-virginia/>

·Username: SIPFILMFEST21

·Passcode: ENOUGHWITH

The movies will be available to watch between April 18-25.

There will be Q&A sessions per language with some of the filmmakers and experts in the fields the movies deal with. These sessions will be accessible **Thursday April 22 to Sunday April 25** at 6.00pm via this Zoom link: [https://virginia.zoom.us/j/99574414780?](https://virginia.zoom.us/j/99574414780?pwd=dIFsSnQyNjJlYmIxMk43K1JNdW5jUT09)

[pwd=dIFsSnQyNjJlYmIxMk43K1JNdW5jUT09](https://virginia.zoom.us/j/99574414780?pwd=dIFsSnQyNjJlYmIxMk43K1JNdW5jUT09)

All films are free and open to the general public. Streaming is in original languages with English subtitles.

The SIP Film Club series was made possible with the support of Pragda, SPAIN arts & culture, and the Secretary of State for Culture of Spain; an Arts & Sciences, Diversity and Inclusion Grant; UVA Parents Fund, and UVA Institute of World Languages.

- Based upon their academic achievement and the depth of their studies, the following students have been elected to **Phi Beta Kappa** this Spring 2021. Congratulations!

ITALIAN

Adelaide Brooks

SPANISH

Kierra Goddu

Kelly Teresa Rohe

Alicia Yueyin Zheng

Elizabeth Jane Shelton

Shivani Priya Lakshman

Gabrielle Grob

- On Saturday April 24, 2021, in collaboration with the Center for Liberal Arts, SIP's **Gustavo Pellon**, **Ricardo Padron** and **Fernando Valverde**, with **Kit Decker** of PVCC are conducting (online) the free annual workshop for K12 teachers of Spanish. This is one of SIP's major community outreach programs and is offered thanks to a grant from the Longview Foundation for Education in World Affairs & International Understanding. This year's topic is **"Concepts of the Global in the Literatures of the Spanish-speaking World."** The workshop examines different concepts of the global in the context of the literatures of the Spanish-speaking world. High school teachers who wish to find out "What is important—what is gained and lost—by thinking of author in Latin America and Spain as "global?" or "How should theories of the global influence Spanish instruction today?" may visit the website below to register.

<https://cla.virginia.edu/program/concepts-global-literatures-spanish-speaking-world>



Assistant Professor Cole Rizki, SIP's newest TT faculty member, has recently released a special issue of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* entitled **"Trans Studies en las Américas"** (Vol. 6.2) which features translations by several of our graduate students. Contributors to this issue offer a hemispheric perspective on trans and travesti issues to the Anglophone academy, expand transgender studies to engage geopolitical connections, and bring interdisciplinary approaches to topics ranging from policy to cultural production. This issue is an unprecedented English-language collection by Latin American and Latinx scholars on trans and travesti issues. You can access it here: <https://www.tsqnow.online/trans-en-las-americas-más-info>

How to Support Spanish, Italian & 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 444, 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.