

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year! I hope that everyone had time to relax and refresh a little over the summer.

The first full year of our new Spanish major went well in 2015-16 with enrollment higher than we expected for the initial year. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this a success.

To make sure that this continues we are planning a number of recruitment activities for this year, including discussion with other departments to encourage students to use their Spanish language skills and electives wisely to complete one of our career-oriented certificate programs or a double-majors with Spanish. Coupled with this will be the refinement of our assessment plan to make sure that we address any issues that might surface.

Our primary goal for this year is to explore the feasibility of developing an M.A. degree in translation and interpretation and, if the information we obtain appears positive, to begin creating a proposal. This is a very expanding field with excellent career prospects, but there are less than fifteen programs nationally preparing people for these opportunities.

Best wishes for a successful year!

Silvia Dapia

Interpreting at Family Orientation Days

Students and alumni of the BA in Spanish and the Certificate Programs in Legal Translation and Interpretation provided Spanish simultaneous interpreting services for Family Orientation Days throughout the summer. Prof. Aída Martínez-Gómez and the Office for Student Transition Programs worked with these young interpreters to make all presentations and activities available for the Spanish-speaking families of incoming freshmen at John Jay. The families learned about John Jay, became familiar with many of the resources it offers, reflected about how to support their children in this new stage of their lives, discussed their concerns with faculty, and went on a campus tour. Our interpreters were delighted to be there for them at such an important moment. They were Evelin Ramírez, Digna Chavez, Yaritma Cabral, and (in the picture below, from left to right) Ismary Calderón, Amarfelin Hernández, Yessica Siguencia, and Gladys Rosales. Thank you all for your hard work!



Buenos Aires, Argentina

Human Rights in Action through Literature & Film

Winter Session, January 2017



See the next page for details!

Buenos Aires, Argentina *Human Rights in Action through Literature & Film*

January 3-January 24, 2017*

*Dates subject to change

Program Director: Prof. Maria Julia Rossi, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures

Application Deadline: Friday, October 28, 2016

PROGRAM

Argentina's recent history ranges from dictatorship in the 1970s to different forms of democracy in the last thirty years. Social movements, cultural expressions and all sorts of political institutions are highly active today, reflecting this history and provide a unique opportunity for our students to approach human rights in action. Buenos Aires is an outstanding location to study how human rights were violated systematically, ignored, and finally restored.

Students from all majors are encouraged to apply. All students, however, must have intermediate proficiency in Spanish—be able to read, speak and understand Spanish.

ACADEMICS

Undergraduate Course:

Themes of Justice in Latin American Literature & Film (3 credits): How do post-authoritarian and post-dictatorial regimes deal with legacies of violence and human rights abuses? How do they address the demands for justice that arise after systematic mass atrocities? Should we remember or forget past atrocities? This course seeks to answer these questions as they apply to Latin American societies by exploring these themes in literature, film, various other texts, and elements of popular culture such as the construction of memorials and public spaces.

PRE-REQUISITES

- ⇒ Minimum 2.5 GPA
- ⇒ Sophomore standing
- ⇒ ENG 201 & SPA 202 or SPA 212, or permission from professor
- ⇒ All students must have intermediate proficiency in Spanish—be able to read, speak and understand Spanish

PROGRAM COST: \$2,155.00**

**Subject to change. Includes double occupancy homestay accommodations, most meals, international health insurance, excursions and transportation on-site associated with program. Does not include tuition, airfare, some meals, personal expenses & excursions, etc.

January 2017 Costs

IN-STATE	OUT-OF-STATE
Total Program Cost: \$2,155**	Total Program Cost: \$2,155**
Tuition: \$275/credit \$825/3 credits	Tuition: \$560/credit \$1680/3 credits
Airfare (estimate): \$1,250-\$1,350	Airfare (estimate): \$1,250-\$1,350
Meals (estimate): \$320-\$420	Meals (estimate): \$320-\$420
Textbooks (estimate): \$50	Textbooks (estimate): \$50
Personal Expenses (estimate): \$200-\$300	Personal Expenses (estimate): \$200-\$300
Total (estimate): \$4,800-\$5,100	Total (estimate): \$5,655-\$5,955

Please note: all non-CUNY students, please contact OISP for more information

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Ken Yanes, Dep. Director
Emily Ahmetaj, Coordinator

212-484-1390, studyabroad@jjay.cuny.edu

- ⇒ All CUNY students must meet with their study abroad advisor to be sure the proper e-Permit registration process is followed.
- ⇒ Students are encouraged to consult the Financial Aid Office.
- ⇒ Scholarship opportunities can be found at <http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/scholarships>, and on www.studyabroadfunding.org.
- ⇒ Students are encouraged to apply early, due to limited space.
- ⇒ Information in this brochure is subject to change, including **program cost(s), *dates, itinerary, etc.



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News

Spanish Class Visits the MOMA



Prof. Marlenys Villamar and her Spanish 101 summer course went to Museum of Modern Art on June 30 to discuss the work of painters such as Frida Kahlo and Salvador Dalí. They also took the opportunity to explore the work of other painters such as Ives Tanguy, whose form of surrealism they compared with Dalí, and to view the work of non-Hispanic artists

such as Jackson Pollock.

Flanking Ives Tanguy's "The Furniture of Time" (1939) are, from the left, Jennifer D. Tuz, Allyson B Golden, Marisa A Sevenski, Coleen Corpuz, Prof. Villamar, Arian Monkhouse, Ejaz Ahmed, Abdoul Karim Barry, Brandon D Budhram, and Raymond Alarcón

Want to Increase Your Career Opportunities?

Adding a credential in interpretation and/or translation is a wonderful way for students in various majors to enhance their employment possibilities. The U.S. Department of Labor projects a 42 percent employment growth rate in these fields as opposed to the general growth rate of 14 percent. Students completing this option will be prepared to take the State and Federal legal interpreter certification exams, the American Translators Association (ATA) certification test, and be well-prepared for a career providing high quality interpretation.

Students interested in more information on the programs should contact the coordinator, Prof. Aida Martínez-Gómez Gómez at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-621-3755.

News

Department Co-Organizes Annual Symposium of the New York Circle of Translators

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures was glad to co-organize and host the 2nd Annual Symposium of the New York Circle of Translators at John Jay College on June 8th. The event, which was entitled "Professionalization in Translation and Interpreting", brought together over 200 language professionals, researchers, agency staff, policymakers, and administrators for a full day of rich and engaging discussions on working conditions, training, and certification aimed at raising professional standards and achieving professional recognition. The morning plenary session included a presentation on the future of the profession by a member of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, and a roundtable with renowned figures in the field, who addressed different aspects relating to translation and interpreting in international organizations, healthcare institutions, and the publishing industry. The three concurrent afternoon panels focused on



translation, legal interpreting, and medical interpreting. The speakers included researchers, trainers, community organizers, representatives of associations, and practicing language professionals. The event was co-sponsored by the International Medical Interpreters Association and the Association of Language Interpreters of Greater New York.

Faculty Attend Workshop on Online Learning



Department faculty attended a workshop on online learning funded by Dr. Anne Lopes, Assoc. Provost for Strategic

Initiatives and Dean of Graduate Studies, and presented by Prof. Patrizia Magni. Designed to acquaint faculty with the latest in instructional technology, the hands-on experience featured resources that can be used for developing online courses, with hybrid course offerings, or in many cases to supplement classroom courses as well. The session was well-attended by both full time and adjunct faculty who appreciated the opportunity to learn new ways of presenting material to their students.

News

Department Sponsors Symposium in Paris, France

Prof. María Julia Rossi organized an international symposium, sponsored by John Jay College and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, in Paris on June 10. Titled “Los de abajo y los de arriba: Servientes en la ficción (Downstairs, Upstairs Servants in Fiction Paris), it was held at the Laboratoire d'Etudes Romanes at the Université Paris 8. Scholars from several nations met to discuss the representation of servants in literature, the visual arts, and cinema, and in Latin American productions in particular, seeking to broaden perspectives and foster ongoing research on the topic.

Domestic service is an established topic in literary, visual and cinematographic traditions. Often socially obscured, domestic service acquires renewed visibility when the reader, spectator or observer approaches these fictions from a different perspective. The presence of servants in diverse literary and cultural expressions offers new identities to their corresponding fictional characters. At the same time, this proliferation multiplies the ways of shaping them, regarding both social identities and individual subjectivities.

Having these domestic servants as crucial figures in numerous texts raises many questions such as: What role does domestic service have within the boundaries of fiction, beyond its referential evocation? Are they mere indexes of a reality that transcends them? Do they bear some capacity of agency of their own? How could that agency be described? Are they characters whose complexities make them indivisible parts of the plots they belong to? Do they operate as symptoms of class anxieties? What readings can be proposed considering gender, ethnic and racial implications of these depictions? What do these depictions reveal of the relationship between servants and masters? How are subjectivities and interests of these subaltern presences explored? What symbolic val-



The poster features a black and white illustration of a hand holding a tray with a teapot and cups. Text on the poster includes: 'UNIVERSITÉ PARIS 8', 'JOHN JAY COLLEGE', 'THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK', 'THÉÂTRE DE L'ÉCHANGE', 'Simposio internacional', 'Journée d'études internationale', '10 de junio de 2016 / 10 juin 2016, 9h30 - 19h00', 'Reception to follow, sponsored by Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College, City University of New York', 'Los de abajo y los de arriba / En bas, en haut', 'Servientes en la ficción / Servants dans la fiction', 'Conférence / Conférence', '9h30. Jules Falquet (Université Paris Diderot) Del trabajo doméstico al servicio doméstico: las lógicas del « des-amalgamaje conjugal »', 'Presentación / Présentations', 'Gisèle Amaya Dal Bó / Paul Baudry / Marianne Bernoud / Andrea Cabezas Vargas Enrique Chacón / Alice de Charentonay / Cécile Kovachazy / Lisa Rodrigues Suarez Amy Romanowski / María Julia Rossi / Victoria Sacco Piffer / Vincent Salié', 'Conférence / Conférence', '17h30. Martine Gantrel (Smith College) Entre patois et coups de sonnette: une approche «sonore» de la Françoise de Proust', 'Lectures dramatisées / Lectures théâtralisées', '19h00. Théâtre de l'Echange: "Les confidentes" sur le Journal d'une femme de chambre d'Octave Mirbeau. La lecture aura lieu également à l'Espace Deleuze, à la Salle des Thèses.', 'EDIFICIO / BÂTIMENT A, ESPACE DELEUZE, SALLE DES CONSEILS', '2 rue de la Liberté, 93 526 Saint-Denis Cedex', 'Métro ligne 13 - Saint-Denis Université', and contact information: 'Contacto / Contact: sirvientesdeloscon@gmail.com'.



Prof. Rossi reading her paper at the Paris Symposium.

ues do they hold? The symposium presented new, original research and interpretations on these topics.

News

What Are the Most Spoken Languages in the U.S.?

If you asked someone to name the second most widely spoken language in the United States the person would most likely say "Spanish," and would be correct. It is the second most widely spoken language in virtually every state -- except for French in Vermont and Maine and Tagalog in Alaska -- but what is the third language after English and Spanish? The extent and diversity of people in the United States speaking languages other than English may be a surprise to many observers.

The third most widely spoken language varies tremendously across the fifty states. In Michigan and Tennessee it is Arabic. In Virginia and Georgia it is Korean. In Illinois and Connecticut Polish ranks third. Would you have guessed that Vietnamese ranked third in six states? And what about Hmong, Tagalog, Navajo, Yupik or Ilocano?

The map below may surprise you in the languages that come in third in each state. How many different languages can you identify? How many do you know?



Kudos

[Silvia G. Dapía](#) delivered the invited keynote speech, "New Forms of Subjectivity in Gombrowicz's 'Fatherless Society,'" at the Witold Gombrowicz Conference sponsored by the Jesuit University Ignatianum in Kraków, Poland, in June. Later that month she participated in a graduate student workshop on the Polish diaspora held at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. In July she delivered a paper on "La 'tríada paterna' en la obra de Witold Gombrowicz [The 'Paternal Triad' in Gombrowicz's Work]," at the XLI International Conference of Latin American Literature, Friedrich Schiller Universität, Jena, Germany (July 19-22) and an invited paper on "¿Serendipias o azar en *Trans-Atlantyk* de Gombrowicz?" [Serendipity or Chance in Gombrowicz's *Trans-Atlantyk*] (July 25-30) at the Serendipias: Migración como Oportunidad" [Serendipity: Migration as Opportunity] conference at the University of Cologne, Germany. She also was awarded a John Jay College Discover, Design and Develop (D3) Faculty Fellowship on the best practices for teaching online courses.



itage Learners and Child Language Brokers." She also attended the 8th International Critical Link conference at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she organized and co-chaired the panel "Voluntary and Non-professional Interpreting

Within the Framework of Critical Link International: Reconciling Research and Practice in the Pursuit of Professionalization" and presented the paper "Training the Interpreters of Tomorrow: Former Child Language Brokers in the Interpreting Classroom."

[María Julia Rossi](#) organized the international symposium "Los de abajo y los de arriba. Sirvientes en la ficción" ["Downstairs, Upstairs. Servants in Fiction"], in Paris, France, for which she received an Enhanced Travel Funding Award and a Conference Reception Support Award from the Office for the Advancement of Research. She presented the paper "Las amenazas de una dinastía espuria. Los sirvientes de Manuel Mujica Lainez" [The Threats of a Spurious Dynasty. Servants by M. M. L.] and published her article "Silvina Ocampo and Translation" in *Beyond Fantasy. New Readings of Silvina Ocampo* edited by Patricia Klingenberg and Fernanda Zullo (Tamesis Books). She has also been accepted into the Online Digital Teaching Seminar sponsored by The Teaching and Learning Center.



[Lamees Fadl](#) participated in a workshop on creating teaching materials for Arabic heritage learners. The workshop was offered by the National Heritage Language Resource Center at UCLA. Based on this, she created a project for use with heritage students.

[Aida Martínez-Gómez](#) co-organized the 2nd Annual Symposium of the New York Circle of Translators, entitled "Professionalization in Translation and Interpreting" and hosted at John Jay College. At the symposium, she presented the paper "Interpreter Training for Her-



[Liliana Soto-Fernández](#) served as session chair and presented a paper on "Eduardo Lolo y la literatura infantil" at the 98th Annual Conference of the American

(Continued on next page.)

News

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Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Miami, Florida in July. She also translated the book *El pueblo de las tres lunas* (The Village of the Three Moons) by Circe Lolo (Alexandria Library Publishing House).

Marlenys Villamar participated in a professional workshop held at the Cervantes Institute in New York City on July 5. The topic was "The role of Literature in a Spanish Language Class."



Participating in the spring commencement were, from left, Professors Liliana Soto-Fernández, Aída Martínez-Gómez, and María Julia Rossi.

The department graduated its first Spanish majors last year! The major includes two tracks, one preparing students for careers in Translation/ Interpretation and the other exploring the literature and culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

The advisor for the first is Prof. Aída Martínez-Gómez and for the latter Prof. María Julia Rossi.



Interested in Modern Languages?

Information about our programs, courses, faculty and students, frequently asked questions, as well as previous issues of our informative newsletter, can be found on our website at:

<http://www.jjay.cuny.edu/department-modern-languages-and-literatures>.

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