

A Message from the Chair

Welcome to the new academic year. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer. This year will be one of excitement for the department as we begin a search for a new chair to lead us into the future. Announcements for the position have already gone out and we expect to begin the screening process in October and initial interviews in December.

In the coming semesters we will be collaborating with John Jay Online to create templates for online versions of our general education courses (including the languages). Prof. Tim Frawley and I will begin working this semester on the creation of an online version of German 101. This is part of the overall goal of creating online options for general education courses, of which the languages are of course a key component. In addition, through the support of an OER grant, Prof. Frawley and I also agreed to take on the project of creating a zero cost text version of German 101. We are really enthusiastic about the college initiative to design courses such that all course materials are freely available online, and do not require students to purchase any books or textbooks. This initiative resonates not only with John Jay's justice mission, but with the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures' desire to provide access to education for all regardless of financial status. We will begin with German 101 as a "pilot experience." The result may serve as a model for future language textbooks.

Silvia Dapia

Dr. Enrique Chacón Lectures on Violence

As part of the "Language Matters" series, on March 16, Dr. Enrique Chacón presented his lecture "Violencia en ambos lados de la frontera México-EU. Afectividad extrema en la música de El Movimiento Alterado" [Violence on both sides of the Mexico-US border. Extreme affectivity in El Movimiento Alterado music]. In his lecture, which was presented in Spanish, he analyzed how "El Movimiento alterado" builds certain affectivity which propitiates the normalization of violence, and later on he engaged in a vibrant conversation—also in Spanish—with students and professors.



From left, Alonso Mirón, Prof. María Julia Rossi, Diana Mejía, Dr. Enrique Chacón, Melody Pérez, Carmelita Dominguez, Prof. Liliana Soto-Fernández, Nathan García, Melanie Dominguez, Daniela Padilla, Jaclyn Trentacosti, Yalitza Sánchez.

News

Welcome Prof. Eloisa Monteoliva

Born in Santander, Spain, Prof. Eloisa Monteoliva García received her university degree in Translation and Interpreting from the University of Granada in 2007 with a focus on legal and financial translation, as well as conference interpreting (Spanish/English). She is a sworn translator and interpreter for the Spanish/English combination, and she also studied German and French. In 2009, she completed her M(Res) in Translation and Interpreting from the same institution with a thesis on “Diagnostic Assessment in Public Service Interpreter Training Programmes.” In 2011 Prof. Monteoliva completed study for a MA degree in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language from the University of Cantabria's International Centre for Spanish Studies (CIESE) with her thesis on the “Development of Oral Interaction Strategies in Spanish as a Foreign Language.”

Leaving her native country, she journeyed to Scotland to work as a Language Assistant at Heriot-Watt University where she also earned a PhD in Languages (Interpreting) at the Centre for Translation and Interpreting Studies in 2017. Her dissertation drew on authentic interpreter-mediated police interviews and focused on the stand-by mode of interpreting in police interviews with Spanish-speaking suspects with partial English proficiency. As part of her research activity during that period, Prof. Monteoliva collaborated in the drafting of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' *Handbook on Interpreting in a Refugee Context*, and published an *Annotated Bibliography on Legal and Judiciary Interpreting*. The bibliography is addressed to both professionals and scholars in the field and was funded by the Society for



the Study of Translation and Interpreting (US).

While pursuing her education, Prof. Monteoliva received a number of scholarships and awards including First Prize in the Latin Translation Contest in Cantabria, Spain; a merit-based scholarship for four consecutive years from the Fundación Marcelino Botín to study the degree in Translation & Interpreting; a one-year scholarship from the Spanish Ministry of Education to complete her Masters of Research in Translation and Interpreting; a one-year scholarship from CIESE-Comillas to complete her Master's degree in Teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language; and a three-year scholarship from the Languages and Intercultural Studies Department at Heriot-Watt University to complete her PhD in Interpreting.

Prof. Monteoliva gained six years of teaching experience at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland, where she also served as a research assistant. This experience, she says, has provided her with an “opportunity to develop strategies and design activities and materials for specific purposes and skills at a variety of levels and student profiles. This has enabled me to develop the ability to analyze learning styles, observe particular student profiles, and cater for the needs of students from different backgrounds, while observing the curriculum requirements and the learning objectives of the individual courses and the program.” Further, her specialized training in teaching Spanish as a Foreign Language, her training and experience as an official DELE examiner, and her work with police and criminal justice agencies in Scotland will be valuable assets to her teaching at John Jay College.

Please join us in welcoming Prof. Monteoliva to the College.

News

Salif Zongo Awarded DAAD Scholarship



Congratulations to Salif Zongo who was awarded a prestigious DAAD scholarship!

The DAAD scholarship is an exchange program that allows students in the United States to go to one of the German public universities for a semester, all expenses paid. The requirements are a 3.5 GPA or above, a letter of recommendation from a professor, and a personal statement or study proposal.

A native of Burkina Faso, one of the French-speaking countries in West Africa, Salif arrived in the United States in 2013 and is currently enrolled in German with Prof. Waltraud Raninger as an undergraduate in the International Criminal Justice program at John Jay College. He grew up in a small village where many people exist on less than \$1 per day, but always longed for the opportunity to study and see the world. "I realized at an early age," he said, "that knowledge was a potent tool that can change people's lives. I realized beyond my possible dreams there was a world beyond the

little village where I came from with no electricity or plumbing. I am very delighted with the fine education I am fortunate to be receiving at John Jay College. ... I had studied German for four years in high school in my country. I achieved a very good academic record in my German studies. Because of my academic record, my village of Koudougou also chose me and supported me in my successful transfer from my hometown university to John Jay." Since his arrival, Salif has attained permanent residency status in the U.S. where he continues his interest in social justice. "My choice of John Jay is making it possible for me to realize my dreams. In this country and at this college I have enjoyed meeting people of all ethnicities and ideologies."

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. Aída Martínez-Gómez at amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu or 212-621-3755.

News

DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

HURRICANE RELIEF INITIATIVE

Tues., Sept. 26 – Tues., October 3

10:00 am – 4:00 pm



"The older I get, the more I'm conscious of ways very small things can make a change in the world. Tiny little things, but the world is made up of tiny matters, isn't it?"

—Sandra Cisneros

DROP-OFF SITE

7th floor, Department of Modern Languages & Literatures
New Building — 524 West 59th Street, New York, NY 10019

WHAT TO DONATE?

Canned food, hair nets, gloves, first aid kit, tools, summer clothing, towels, sheets, blankets, flashlights, candles, small portable radios, batteries, mosquito repellent, sunscreen lotions...

Once all donations are made and sent, we will prepare a public report for everyone to see.



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News

Student Interpreter Services Program Launched

The Student Interpreter Services Program has been formally launched!

After a successful pilot in 2016-2017, the Student Interpreter Services Program was formally launched in the summer of 2017 in collaboration with the Office of Student Transition Programs. This program provides translation and interpreting services for Spanish-speaking families of new John Jay students. Every year, eight Spanish Interpreting students provide simultaneous interpretation during Family Orientation Days and translate the newsletters to families (Bloodhound Bulletin), created by the Office for Student Affairs.

Under the supervision of Prof. Martínez-Gómez, students acquire invaluable hands-on experience in a comfortable and controlled environment, while at the same time they offer an invaluable service to Spanish-speaking families of incoming students. Our student interpreters for 2017-2018 are Nicole Abdallah, Omar Macías-Reyes, Brandon Martínez, Michelle Sención, and (in the picture, from left to right, after a day of work at Family Orientation this summer) Jennifer García, Vanessa Maldonado, Normary Alcivar, and Ismary Calderón.

Thank you all for your hard work!



Some of the students in the initial group of student interpreters are, from left, Jennifer García, Normary Alcivar, Vanessa Maldonado-Giordano, and Ismary Calderón.

News

Students Fighting for Language Justice: Internships in Translation and Interpreting

Students in the Spanish BA and Certificate Programs in Legal Translation and Interpreting are committed to provide language access to the Spanish-speaking community of New York City. Either at the New York State Unified Court System or in a variety of nonprofits, our students use their translation and interpreting skills to enable individuals with limited English proficiency to access different types of legal services.

At the NYS Unified Court System, eight students participated in an introductory 20-hour internship to familiarize themselves with the fundamentals of court interpreting in spring 2017. This semester, six students are participating in a 100-hour internship, where they will be performing as interpreters in the courts under the direct supervision of staff court interpreters. Nicole Abdallah, Noely González, Génesis Ledesma, Omar Macías-Reyes, Vanessa Maldonado-Giordano, and Brandon Martínez will be serving the Spanish-speaking communities of all boroughs in criminal, civil, and family court this fall.

Three nonprofits committed to protect immigrant communities have also partnered with John Jay to host translation and interpreting interns. Our students at The Door work with their legal team to support immigrant youth, particularly unaccompanied minors seeking legal relief. Claudia Dardón and Cindy Class interned at The Door last spring and Davivette Solís is interning there this fall. Evelyn Ávila (Guartán) is currently working with UnLocal to enable the provision of legal services for indigent and undocumented immigrants and to educate immigrant communities about their rights. Finally, Normary Alcivar has joined Immigration Equality, the leading LGBTQ immigrant rights organization in the country.

As translators and interpreters in all these organizations, these students fight for language justice in our communities every single day. Thank you!

Students interested in internships in translation and interpreting should contact Prof. Aída Martínez-Gómez at 212-621-3755 or amartinez-gomez@jjay.cuny.edu.

Normary Alcivar and Vanessa Maldonado-Giordano take a selfie during a short break between interpreting shifts, while Jennifer García and Ismary Calderón continue interpreting at the summer Family Orientation.



News



STUDENT INTERPRETERS CERTIFICATE CEREMONY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2017
4:30 PM TO 6:00 PM
MOOT COURT

**CU
NY**

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

**JOHN
JAY**
COLLEGE
OF
CRIMINAL
JUSTICE

News

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with Our “Hispanic Cinema Series”

Come and join us for a festival of Hispanic films! From October 17 to December 5, Prof. Silvia Dapía will be hosting a “Hispanic Cinema Series,” a cornucopia of movies accompanied by lively discussion. The films will be screened during community hours. Join us for this celebration of American diversity! For locations, keep an eye on the bulletin boards.

Tuesday, October 24: “La Nana” (The Maid, Sebastián Silva, Chile, 2009, 95 min.)

Tuesday, October 31: “Contracorriente” (Javier Fuentes-León, Perú, 2009, 110 min.)

Tuesday, November 7: “Bolivia” (Adrián Caetano, Argentina, 2001, 75 min.)

Tuesday, November 14: “Güeros” (Alonso Ruizpalacio, México, 2014, 106 min.).

Tuesday, November 28: “También la lluvia” (Even the Rain, Icíar Bollaín, España, 2010, 104 min.)

Tuesday, December 5: “Dólares de arena” (Laura Amelia Guzmán & Israel Cárdenas, Germany, 2015, 80 min.)



Kudos

Silvia G. Dapía presented a paper on “Transitional Historical Memory and the Chilean Dictatorship” at the Sixth World Congress on Polish Studies held at the Polska Akademia Umiejętności in Kraków, Poland, where she also chaired three sessions on the Polish-Argentine writer Witold Gombrowicz.



Domestic service, from alterity to selfhood in recent Argentine films” at the Latin American Studies Association Southern Cone Conference, in Montevideo, Uruguay in July, gave another invited presentation on “Queer Decorum: An Episode on Translation and Marginalized Sexualities,” as part of the intensive master's seminar “Intercultural dialogue” at Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic in September.

María Julia Rossi gave an invited lecture titled “Colección Tramoya. Charla: De las tablas al papel” [Tramoya Collection. Lecture: From Stage to Paper] at MACRO, the Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Rosario [Museum of Contemporary Art, Rosario, Argentina], for which she was awarded a OAR Enhanced Travel Grant in July. She presented her paper “China carnalera.”



Liliana Soto-Fernández made a presentation on “La sexualidad como respuesta a la opresión” at the 2017 Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese in Chicago on July, 8. At the same conference she chaired a panel on “Las

mujeres ante la tiranía.” She also published a book translation of Circe Lolo's *Las caracolas, los payasos y el asombro del mar* [Seashells, Clowns and the Astonishment of the Sea] (Miami: Alexandria Publishing House, 2017).

Language Matters

Speaker Series



JOHN JAY

**October 4th
1:40-2:55 p.m.
Room NB1.114**

Multilingualism and the law: Protecting the rights of non-English speakers in law enforcement and the courts

Dr. María Jesús Blasco Mayor

What happens when somebody with limited English proficiency enters the legal system? How do they communicate with law enforcement or court officers? What happens if they can't communicate well?

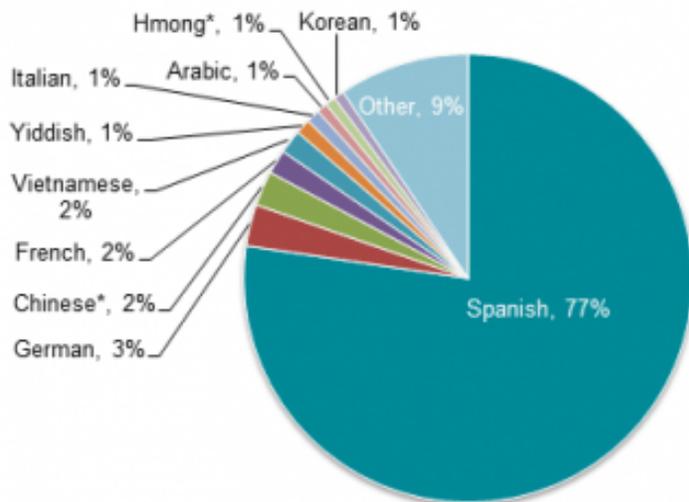
In this talk, Prof. Blasco Mayor will discuss examples of the terrible consequences of poor communication, from coerced confessions to wrongful convictions. She will share recommendations for law enforcement, court personnel, and language professionals on how to work together to protect the rights of non-English speakers.

Dr. María Jesús Blasco Mayor is Deputy Dean of Translation and Interpreting at the Universitat Jaume I (Spain). An expert in legal interpreting, she has published numerous articles in the fields of court and police interpreting and interpreting quality, among others.

**Dpt. of Modern Languages and Literatures
In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month**

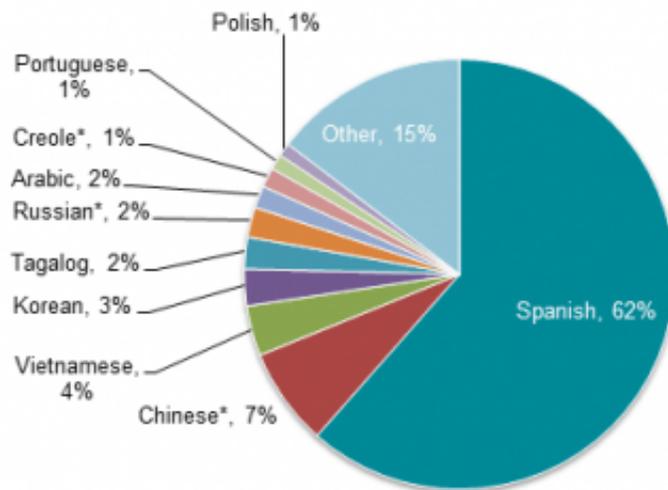
CUNY The City University of New York

News



The pie chart to the left reflects the major non-English languages spoken in the United States by people born in the U.S.

The pie chart to the right reflects the major non-English languages spoken in the United States by people born outside of the U.S.



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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