CHAIR’S MESSAGE

It is my pleasure to share with you the recent news, accomplishments, and events in our Department. As you can see from what follows, both our faculty and graduate students have continued to produce innovative theoretical work in interdisciplinary humanities, keeping Buffalo an intellectually exciting place. Thanks to the support of the endowed Chairs in our department, we continue to bring eminent and inspiring speakers to our “Just Theory” lecture series, which is now anchored by the Fall Capen Seminar and the Spring Donato Seminar. In addition, our department has been hosting in recent years a number of international Visiting Scholars, who add to our vibrant intellectual community.

We have begun working on a redesigned departmental website, so check it in the fall for a new look and easier navigation. I hope that the new website and the newsletter will help us keep in touch with the alumni and friends of the department. Keep us posted about your activities and achievements.

I have also some sad news to share with you. We were all shocked by the recent and unexpected death of Ernesto Laclau, an internationally renowned political philosopher. Ernesto taught in our Department for several years and contributed a great deal to the intellectual excitement and scholarly achievements at UB. We will all miss him.

Krzysztof Ziarek

FACULTY NEWS

Sergey Dolgopolski’s *The Open Past: Subjectivity and Remembering in the Talmud* was published by Fordham University Press in December 2012. He also recently presented three papers: “Jews, in Theory” at the Duke University conference “Jews and the Ends of Theory” in May 2013, “Give or Take: Is there violence in the asking” at the “Asking and Receiving” conference in Buffalo in April 2014, and “Tosfoth Gornish: The Talmud as Political Thought” at the conference “Talmudic Transgressions” in Berkeley, CA in April 2014. He is also scheduled to present “Aggada, Halakha, Implication” at the International Conference of the Jewish Law Association in Antwerp, Belgium in July 2014.


He was also invited as a Guest Scholar in both June 2012 and June 2013 at the Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturwissenschaft Berlin, Germany, where he serves on the International Advisory Board.

Jorge Gracia curated an art exhibition titled “Painting Borges: Art Interpreting Literature,” which began in Buenos Aires in 2010 and has since traveled to eight art museums across the United States, including UB’s Anderson Galleries from September 2013-February 2014. He prepared an accompanying text (with the same title), published by SUNY Press in 2012. He also co-wrote with Ilan Stavans *Thirteen Ways of Looking at Latino Art*, which was published by Duke University Press in 2014.
At Buffalo, he organized the twelfth Capen Symposium, “Metaphysical Fundamentals: A Symposium” in October 2013. He has also given many lectures and papers, including in Germany and South Korea, and published several articles in various journals and books.

**David Johnson** published *Kant’s Dog: On Borges, Philosophy, and the Time of Translation* (SUNY Press, 2012). He also gave seminars at the Instituto de Humanidades, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile in both November-December 2011 and June 2013.

**Kalliopi Nikolopoulou**’s *Tragically Speaking: On the Use and Abuse Theory for Life* was published by the University of Nebraska Press in late 2012. It is a part of their Symplegma Studies in Contemporary Theory Series.


Her other recent publications include, among others, two articles “Time for Beginners: Natality, Biopolitics, and Political Theology,” co-authored with Rosalyn Diprose in *philoSOPHIA* (2014) and “Feminist Reflections on Vulnerability: Disrespect, Obligation, Action” in *SubStance* 42.3 (Fall 2013): 67-84.

**Krzysztof Ziarek** published *Language after Heidegger* with the Indiana University Press in 2013. In October 2013, he gave a keynote lecture at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy and in March 2013 a lecture and a seminar on Heidegger at the University of Tel Aviv. His most recent essay, “The Modern Privilege of Life,” has just appeared in *Research in Phenomenology* 44 (2014).

**GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS**

**Matthew Herzog** and **Yitian Zhai** organized the third Comparative Literature Graduate Conference, titled “Love of Wisdom vs. Wisdom of Love,” which was held in April 2014. The conference featured two keynote speakers, Tina Chanter of DePaul University and Curie Virag of the University of Toronto, as well as four panels of presentations.

At the 2014 American Comparative Literature Association Conference Annual Meeting, “Capitals,” at New York University, **Tyler Williams** organized a seminar titled “Detouring Tradition’s Capital,” where he also presented a paper, “Heirs, Faithfully Unfaithful.” This seminar also featured fellow PhD student **Juan Robaina**, who gave a paper titled “Spectral Traditions of the Global South” and MA alumnus Javier Burdman, who is now a student at Northwestern University. In other seminars at ACLA 2014, **Brian O’Neil** presented a paper titled “Ethico-Aesthetic Critique: Psychoanalysis, Marxism, and William Blake” and **Jana Schmidt** presented “Jewish Fictions, Nameless Treasures.”

**Jana Schmidt** also presented “Literature as Trompe L’Oeil” at the 2014 Yale Department of French Graduate Conference “Bad Literature” in February, “Concentrations of Affect – Philip Guston’s Piles” at Emory University’s “Traversals of Affect” Conference in March 2013, and “Memories without Images – Harun Farocki’s On Images of the World and the Inscription of War” at “Forgetting, Imagining – The Practices of Memory” at Fordham University in February 2013. She received a Marbach Stipend in the Summer of 2013.

**M.A. student Jonathan Davenport** has been accepted to Cornell University’s Department of Comparative Literature Ph.D. program and will begin attending in the Fall 2014.

**Donald Cross** will have two articles published in late 2014. ““the vigil of philosophy”: Derrida on Anachrony” will appear in volume 7.2 of Derrida Today and “What Is Nonstyle in What Is Philosophy?” in Deleuze and the Schizoanalysis of Literature, edited by Ian Buchanan, Tim Matts, and Aidan Tynan (Bloomsbury Academic, 2014). He will also present a paper titled “La question du style de Derrida” at the Colloque Derrida IMEC/ENS in France in October 2014.

**Dan Haumschild** will have a chapter titled “Treating the Diseased Body Politic: The Damage of ‘Repair’ in Post-Genocide Rwanda” published in the forthcoming Cultures of Repair (Goldsmiths, 2014).


Jim Kurt presented a paper titled “From Surrealism to Conceptual Writing: How to Think a Century of Procedural Poetry” at “1914/2014: Experimentalism Then and Now,” a conference of the Yale English Department 20/21 Colloquium and the American Literature Association’s Society for Contemporary Literature in March 2014. He has also had an article titled “The Beginning of Oulipo? An Attempt to Rediscover a Movement” accepted for publication by Textual Practice.

Aykun Özgen presented a paper entitled “Orhan Pamuk’s Snow as a ‘Political’ Novel” at “Literature, Politics, Aesthetics,” SUNY Binghamton’s Seventh Annual Comparative Literature Graduate Conference in March 2014. He also has been accepted to the thirty-ninth annual session of the Collegium Phaenomenologicum, “Law and Violence: Hegel, Arendt, Derrida,” in Umbria, Italy in July 2014.

VISITING SCHOLARS

The department hosted three visiting scholars in the Spring 2014 semester. Zhang Huiling is a Professor of Chinese Literature at Qinghai University in China who is researching comparative approaches to American and Tibetan literatures. Mauro Senatore is a CONYCIT Postdoctoral Fellow, who specializes in contemporary French thought and is currently working on Derrida. Du Yunyun serves as an Associate Professor at Yantai University in China and is working on questions of literature and feminism.

ALUMNI UPDATES

Myrto Drizou (PhD 2012) is currently Assistant Professor of English at Valdosta State University (Georgia).

Andrew Ascherl (PhD 2012) is serving as a Visiting Lecturer at the University Honors College at the University of New Mexico.

Lydia Kerr (PhD 2012) is an Assistant Professor of English at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah.

Megan MacDonald (PhD 2012) is currently an Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Koç University in Istanbul, Turkey. She was previously a Postdoctoral Researcher in French at University College Cork, Ireland.

Nicole Jowsey (PhD 2011) is currently an Adjunct Instructor of English at Bryant & Stratton College.

Shane Herron (PhD 2011) is an Assistant Professor of English at Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

Elyse Byrnes (MA 2013) is enrolled as a student in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

RECENT DEGREE CONFERRALS

PhD
June 2011 Shane Herron
September 2011 Nicole Jowsey
February 2012 Megan MacDonald
June 2012 Lydia Kerr
June 2012 Andrew Ascherl
September 2012 Myrto Drizou

theory@buffalo

theory@buffalo 16, “Plastique: Dynamics of Catherine Malabou,” was released in 2012. It was edited by Tyler Williams and Jarrod Abbott and features contributions from Arne De Boever, John Caputo, Lenora Hanson, Lisa Hollenbach, Adrian Johnston, Catherine Malabou, Carolyn Shread, Daniel W. Smith, and Ewa Plonowska Ziarek.

theory@buffalo 17, “The Word Flesh,” was released in 2013. It was edited by Jana V. Schmidt and features contributions from Kathleen Biddick, Levi Bryant, Jones Irwin, Karmen MacKendrick, Dorothea Olkowski, Jean-Luc Nancy, and Divya Victor.

theory@buffalo 18, “Marx and Nature,” is currently in production.