

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE UCR ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

2017

ENGLISH

2018



Photo credit: Weishin Gui

It has been a great year. We welcomed fifteen new graduate students in the Fall. We also added three faculty, two of whom had been appointed in 2017 but were first taking residence, and another that came to us through the Latinx cluster search. They include: Armando Garcia in Latin American and Chicano/a Studies, Mark Minch in Native American Studies, and Fuson Wang in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British Studies, with an emphasis on Romanticism.

Armando Garcia received his Ph.D. in Hispanic Cultures from Cornell University in 2012. He has been employed at Pittsburgh University since then. He comes to us with teaching experience and an already rich publication list. His first book, *Impossible Indians: Decolonial Performance*, is currently under review at the University of Minnesota Press. This manuscript examines Mexican, U.S. Latinx, Native American, and Caribbean playwrights and performance artists who “turn back” to indigenous pre-colonial and colonial pasts in order to alter contemporary formations of race and freedom. A revised chapter of this manuscript appeared as an article in *Modern Drama*: “Freedom as Praxis: Migdalia Cruz’s *Fur* and the Emancipation of Caliban’s Woman” is a study of the Nuyorican play and its representation of cannibalism as a practice of freedom. This article is the first on Latina theatre published in *Modern Drama* since the journal was founded in 1958.



Mark Minch-de Leon emerged from the Indigenous Search and comes to us a one of several faculty appointed in this field. Dr. Minch-de Leon received his Ph.D. in the Rhetoric Department of the University of California, Berkeley in 2014. Since that time, he has been awarded the prestigious Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Native American Studies at Wesleyan University. He has also been awarded an equally prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at the Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, where he will finish revising his dissertation for publication. Dr. Minch-de Leon (Susanville Indian Rancheria) is a rising star in critical Native American Studies and rhetoric and his work would complement, strengthen and enlarge the growing and dynamic field of Native American and Indigenous Studies on campus generally and in the Department of English in particular. We are delighted to welcome Professor Minch-de Leon to UCR.



Fuson Wang emerged from the UCR-Huntington Library Search in the Departments of Art History, English, and History. He was one of two appointments in that search. These candidates will have two years’ fellowship at the Huntington as part of their first six years at UCR. Fuson Wang is an astonishing scholar of the longer eighteenth century and Romantic period. His work on the medical history of Romanticism is truly groundbreaking. His file includes several important publications from key venues like *Eighteenth-Century Contexts*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, and *European Romantic Review*. He is also well on his way to completing a book-length manuscript entitled *Romantic Disease Discourse: A Radical Literary history of Smallpox Inoculation*. We are delighted that Fuson Wang



will be joining our department and the College and that he will be representing us at the Huntington Library.

In addition, the department has made a new hire in Global Nineteenth Century British Studies for Fall 2018:

Padma Rangajaran received her Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley in 2006. Since that time, she has been as assistant professor at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Affiliate Faculty at Arizona State University. She has a number of impressive grants and fellowships, and her publication record is stellar. She has a single-authored book that was published at Fordham University Press in 2014. This book, *Imperial Babel: Translation, Exotocism, and the long Nineteenth Century*. This is an important book from a major university press. As Professor Rangajaran points out, to this date there is no other book-length study that focuses exclusively on translation and British imperialism in the nineteenth century. This book will have a great impact on nineteenth-century and postcolonial studies for some time to come. Even more exciting for the English Department is Professor Rangajaran’s new book project, *Thug Life: The British Empire and the Birth of Terrorism*, which sets out to resituate the origins on terrorism in a global and colonial context. This project promises to have far-reaching effect in nineteenth-century as well as post-colonial studies, and also to change the way we understand the after-effects of colonialism.



Faculty Retirements

This spring Professors Haggerty and Willis will retire. The two stars of British Literary Studies have been in the department since the early 1980s. Professor Haggerty’s work concerns male friendship in the 18th century, gothic fiction, and gay studies. He has been Chair of the Department twice—in the early 2000’s and for the last three years—and he has served on a number of important university committees. He was also a founding member of the interdisciplinary minor in LGBT Studies, which is now housed in the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Professor Willis is a scholar of Shakespeare and early modern drama whose work has focused especially on witchcraft and witch-hunting. She served as English Department Chair from 2009-2015 and has been Director of English 1ABC (the university’s campus-wide writing requirement) for many years, overseeing curriculum and TA training. Short bibliographies of both these scholars are included below.

George Haggerty grew up in Albany, NY and went to College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA for his B.A. He attended UC Berkeley for his M.A. and Ph.D., which he received in 1979. After a short time teaching ESL in Barcelona, George joined the English Department at UCR in 1981.

Deborah Willis is from Evanston, IL, outside Chicago. After a brief sojourn at the University of Wisconsin - Madison and California Institute of the Arts, she received her B.A., M.A. and Ph.D (1986) from UC Berkeley. She joined the faculty of the English Department at UCR in 1988.

Mundos Alternos

Opens to Record Numbers, a Critical Success

After four years of research and planning, the much anticipated exhibition, "Mundos Alternos: Art and Science Fiction in the Americas" opened on September 30, 2017 at ARTSblock, UC-Riverside's visual and performing arts complex in downtown Riverside. Sponsored by the Getty Foundation's Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA initiative, "Mundos Alternos" examined the science fiction impulse and speculative aesthetics from six Latin American nations and ten U.S. cities. Co-curated by Robb Hernández and ARTSblock curators, Tyler Stallings and Joanna Szupinska-Myers, the show expanded the terms of Los Angeles/Latin America (or LA/LA) by bringing established and emergent artists little seen in Southern California from Cuba, El Salvador, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Tejas Borderlands. The result was a visual meditation of "being alien" at a time when immigrant futures faced uncertainty under a fractious political system. "Mundos Alternos" staged a transnational and potentially, transplanetary look at borders and citizen-subjectivities beyond Earthly and gravity bound understandings of the Americas. Works like Salvadoran artist Beatriz Cortez's interactive sculpture "Memory Insertion Capsule," (2017) ADAL's "Coconauts from Space" (2016) and LA Vatocosmico's day-glo intergalactic garments (2016) introduced viewers to mutable technologies, alternative histories of space exploration, and iridescent light fields.

The opening drew over 600 attendees, a record number for ARTSblock. Replete with a reception and entertainment, the night was punctuated by a special performance by Ruben Ortiz Torres' "Alien Toy," a shape shifting low-rider camouflaged behind the façade of a border patrol truck. Other programs included a two-night engagement with Guillermo Gomez-Peña and his ensemble, La Pocha Nostra in "Ex-Machina 3.0." Cuban artist Carmelita Tropicana staged a post-human meditation on Latina feminist futurism in "Hybrid Alternos" and artists' Cortez and Rafa Esparza led a talk with indigenous horticulturist Edgar Esquit about their indigenous space garden installation, "Nomad-13." Sherryl Vint, director of UCR's Speculative Fiction and Cultures of Science Program, curated a film program on Latin American science fiction cinema. ARTSblock education program trained throngs of student docents to give tours ranging from K-12 school groups to Spanish-speaking attendees. Moreover, Hernández's Fall 2017 undergraduate seminar, "Latinx Futurism," gave students unprecedented access to the show allowing them to reimagine new visual-aural constellations. They presented their proposals to ARTSblock staff. Overall, "Mundos Alternos" benefited from a bevy of positive press in the *New York Times*, *Terremoto*, *Artillery*, and Madrid's news program, *Programa Metrópolis*. A review in *Artforum* called it, "one of the most thoughtful and engrossing exhibitions to come out of PST: LA/LA." Plans are currently underway to travel the show extending its reach through 2019.



Jennifer Doyle tastes the food of the Gods in Guillermo Gomez-Peña's "Ex-Machina 3.0" at the Culver Center of the Arts. English Ph.D. student Rudi Kraeher pictured center. Image courtesy of Jennifer Doyle.



Co-curator Robb Hernández with Chico MacMurtrie's "Inflatable Bodies: Organic Arches" (2014/2017). Image courtesy of Nikolay Maslov.

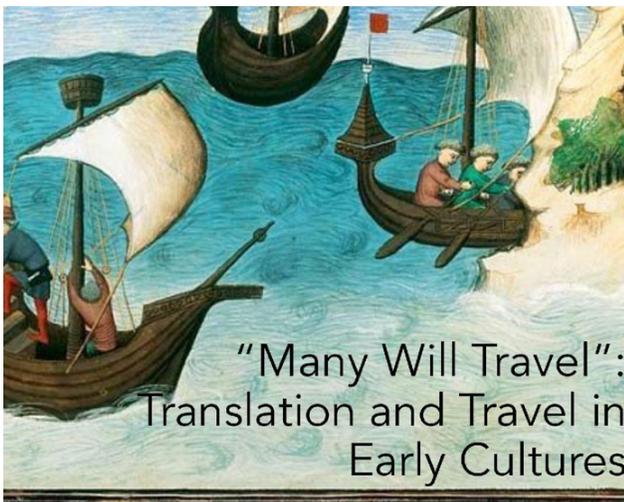


In-Situ installation photograph of LA Vatocosmico's cosmic fashions in the "Alien Skins" gallery. Image courtesy of Robb Hernández.

Faculty Achievements

Jennifer Doyle has worked with the performance artist Ron Athey for nearly as long as she has worked at UC Riverside. (The artist is the subject of a chapter in her 2013 book *Hold It Against Me*.) She has been eager to see the artist's most recent vision realized. *Gifts of the Spirit: Prophecy, Automatism and Discernment* grows from Athey's exploration of the entangled roots of experimental writing techniques and spiritualism and draws from his own experiences with Pentecostal ritual and belief. This collaboration between Athey and composer Sean Griffin is a hybrid work — it is visual, operatic and environmental. It is also large in scale, involving nearly thirty musicians and performers. In 2017, Athey and Doyle (who is this performance's curator), working with VOLUME, an experimental arts organization, won a grant from the Mike Kelley Foundation to support the development and production of *Gifts of the Spirit*. Doyle and Athey have both curated events for the Broad Museum — this history led to that institution's partnership with VOLUME and the presentation of major new work by Athey. Mackenzie Gregg, a PhD student working at the crossroads of nineteenth-century studies and queer studies, performed in this work. Through 2016-2017, Athey and Doyle ran an informal reading group centered on *The Book of Revelation*. UCR graduate students and faculty joined these meetings periodically — the development of this work is part of an emerging exploration on our campus of queer approaches to religion (led by Holstein Family and Community Chair in Religious Studies Melissa Wilcox). *Gifts of the Spirit* was performed at St. Vibiana, the (now deconsecrated) Catholic cathedral in downtown Los Angeles

John Ganim was a keynote speaker at UCI's Medieval Conference.



UCI Early Cultures
Graduate Conference

October 13-14, 2017
HG 1010

Keynote Speakers:

Cynthia Brown, Distinguished
Professor of French, UC Santa
Barbara

John Ganim, Distinguished
Professor of English, UCI

Weihsin Gui tells us: In 2017 I had two open-access publications online that the general public can read:

1. "Short Story Collections and Crowded Selves: Madeleine Thien's *Simple Recipes* and Jeremy Tiang's *It Never Rains On National Day*" <https://singaporeunbound.org/blog/2017/5/16/rsa980st4e193hkt54yj3iwit7wweg>
2. "Contemporary Literature From Singapore" <http://literature.oxfordre.com/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-189?rskey=pMRole&result=9>

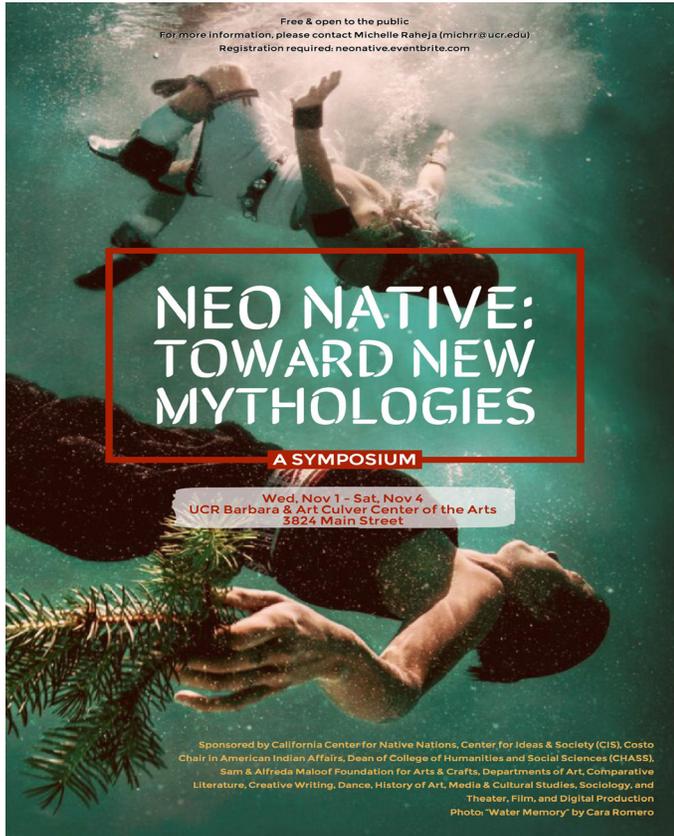
Weihsin is also participating in a series of three events focused on Southeast Asia at the New York Modern Language Association convention in January 2018. Details can be found on his MLA page at: <https://weihsingui.mla.hcommons.org/2017/10/01/southeast-asia-focused-events-mla-2018/>

George Haggerty gave a keynote talk at the Yale Center for British Art in celebration of Horace Walpole's 300th anniversary. The talk, "The Many Lives of Horace Walpole," was well-received there and in the department, where he gave it as a trial run. In March, Cambridge University Press published Professor Haggerty's latest book, *Queer Friendship: Male Intimacy in the English Literary Tradition*.

Robb Hernández co-edited a 160-page exhibition catalogue to accompany the *Mundos Alternos* show. The exhibition received critical attention from the *New York Times*, *Artforum*, and *Artforum*. (See the feature on the previous page.) Hernández was featured in the news magazine *Programa Metrópolis* in Madrid and gave public lectures at Dartmouth College and Carnegie Mellon University. He spearheaded public programming for the show leading over 15 tours to curators, journalists, scholars, artists and students from across the Americas including celebrity art collector, Cheech Marin. He has also been collaborating with the Riverside Art Museum to establish the Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art, Culture and Industry in downtown Riverside. Hernández is the recipient of the Tyson Scholar Fellowship at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas where he is working on his next book project based on his curatorial research, *Alien Skins: Cosmic Performances of Transplanetary Latinidad*.

Michelle Raheja served a third term as Director of the California Center for Native Nations this year. In November, she co-organized the *Neo Native: Toward New Methodologies* with Gerald Clarke, Allison Hedge Coke, and Jason Weems at the Culver Center in downtown Riverside. This three-day event was a groundbreaking symposium featuring talks and performances by over twenty five contemporary Native American artists and art scholars from Canada and the U.S. It was created in collaboration with the Sam and Alfreda Maloof Center exhibition of new work by contemporary Native American artists. Additionally, this academic year she delivered a keynote talk on Indigenous cartography at the Historical Atlas of the Americas Seminar on Native Peoples at the Instituto Panamericano de Geografía e Historia IPGH in Santiago, Chile; a keynote talk at the University of Kansas's Film and Media Studies Graduate Symposium; and an invited lecture at the University of Regina, Canada's Film Studies Department. She served on the Local Host Committee at this

year's Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference in Los Angeles, where she chaired two panels and presented from her work-in-progress on Indigenous representations of cannibalism. She also published an essay on Indigenous science fiction in *Sources and Methods in Indigenous Studies* (co-edited by Chris Anderson and Jean O'Brien); co-edited *In the Balance: Indigeneity, Performance, and Globalization* (with Helen Gilbert and Dani Phillipson), and published "Imagining Indigenous Digital Futures: An Afterword" in a special issue of *Studies in American Indian Literatures* dedicated to Indigenous feminist new media.



Traise Yamamoto, "An Uncommon Spirit." Introduction for new edition of Yoshiko Uchida, *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2016.

Graduate Student News

The 2018 DYP Recipients were **Miranda Butler** and **Addison Palacios**.

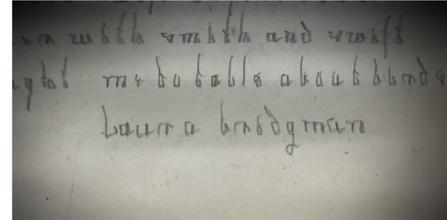
Gift to enhance the Marshall Van Deusen Fund

The English Department was thrilled to receive a generous gift from the 1992 UCR graduate, **Brent Bradley**. This gift has allowed us to reopen the Marshall Van Deusen Fund and offer an annual prize for accomplishment in the English major. The prize will be awarded to a graduating senior at the annual department party.

Miranda Butler gave the 2018 Barricelli Award Lecture (see flyer below).

The Department of Comparative Literature and Languages
2018 Barricelli Award Lecture

Writing without Seeing & Speaking without Hearing:
Laura Bridgman's Impact on Nineteenth-Century Literature and Science



Miranda Butler
Doctoral Candidate in English

In the 1830s, Laura Bridgman – a child at the Massachusetts Institute for the Blind in Boston – became the first deafblind student to learn reading and writing in English. She was visited by nineteenth-century figures ranging from Charles Lyell to Charles Dickens, as journalists in both America and Britain reported each new step in her education to eagerly awaiting readers. This talk examines Bridgman's mastery of "squarehand" stencils to write in her daily journals, her and her blind classmates' skills in reading Boston Line Print, and her use of unique vocal expressions as names for her friends, to place Bridgman at the nexus of a mid-nineteenth century epistemological shift: her education proved to both literary and scientific researchers that writing and reading are not dependent on sight, and that language and speaking are not dependent on hearing.

Wednesday, May 23, 1:10 to 2:30 PM
HMNS 2414 (Comparative Literature Conference Room)

Robyn Johnson published her essay "In the Past the Devil Has Won: Analysis of Seishi Kishimoto's Satan and Savior in *O-Parts Hunter*" in the *International Journal of Comic Art (IJOCA)* 19:2 (2017): 124-147. John A. Lent edits that journal.

Sarah Lozier, is an Assistant Professor of English and Digital Media Studies at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina.

Hannah Manshel has been awarded a \$1,000 grant from the UC Humanities Research Institute to do research on a project entitled "The Freedom of a Broken Law: Antinomianism and Abolition in American Literature." This is a competitive grant awarded through UCHRI's Graduate Student Dissertation Support Program.

Anne Sullivan has co-edited a special issue of *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century*, which is now available to read here: <https://19.bbk.ac.uk/>. The issue, "Technologies of Fire in 19th-Century British Culture," is co-edited with Kate Flint, and contains essays by notable Victorianists such as Isobel Armstrong and Nicholas Daly, as well as Anne's own contribution, "Animating Flames: Recovering Fire-Gazing as a Moving-Image Technology." This essay is drawn from her excellent dissertation on the same topic. The special issue makes a creative intervention in historical media studies, material culture, and popular and literary culture; it is a very fine achievement.

Ryan Sullivan became a tenure track assistant professor of English at Mt San Jacinto College in San Jacinto.



Photo credit: Weishin Gui

Thank You to Our Friends

On behalf of the English Department, I would like to thank all of our "Friends" for their generous donations.

We especially appreciate those of you who provide annual gifts. As a consequence of your support, this year we were able to give "Friends of the UCR English Department Graduate Student Publication Awards" to several of our most promising graduate students. These awards are a great incentive for our students to publish their work in a variety of distinguished journals and edited volumes. The wide spectrum of topics reflects the intellectual diversity of our students and of our amazing faculty. On account of your continued giving, we are in the process of designing other ways to financially support our students and faculty. I would like to thank the members of the Committee on the "Friends" Newsletter: Heidi Brayman, Jennifer Doyle and Carole-Anne Tyler. A special shout-out goes to Christy Gray, on the English Department staff, who worked to produce such a wonderful online version of the Newsletter. Our photographs have been provided by Jennifer Doyle, John Ganim, Weishin Gui, Robb Hernández, Nikolay Maslov and Cara Romero (courtesy of the Maloof Foundation).

Thanks to everyone!

George Haggerty
Distinguished Professor and Chair

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