

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Graduate Faculty

Updated: August 3, 2020

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Program Advisory Committee



**Ana Hedberg Olenina**  
CCL Graduate Advisor;  
Assistant Professor



**Nina Berman**  
SILC Director and Professor



**Christopher Johnson**  
Associate Professor

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty

### Classics & Middle Eastern

- **Souad T. Ali**, Associate Professor of Arabic literature and Middle Eastern/Islamic studies
- **Francoise Mirguet**, Associate Professor of Hebrew
- **Michael Tueller**, Professor of the Classics

### East & South East Asian

- **Sookja Cho**, Associate Professor of Korean and Comparative Literature
- **William Hedberg**, Assistant Professor of Japanese
- **Rob Tuck**, Assistant Professor of Japanese

### French & Italian

- **Frederic Canovas**, Associate Professor of French
- **Mark Cruse**, Associate Professor of French
- **Serena Ferrando**, Assistant Professor of Environmental Humanities and Italian
- **Isaac Joslin**, Assistant Professor of French
- **Julian Vitullo**, Associate Professor of Italian, Senior Sustainability Scholar

### German, Romanian, & Slavic

- **Nina Berman**, Professor; Director of SILC
- **Daniel Gilfillan**, Associate Professor of German
- **Ana Hedberg Olenina**, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Media Studies
- **Illeana Orlich**, President's Professor of Romanian, English, and Comparative Literature
- **Danko Sipka**, Professor of Slavic Languages and Applied Linguistics

### Spanish & Portuguese

- **Ligia Bezerra**, Assistant Professor of Portuguese
- **Juan Gil-Osle**, Professor of Spanish
- **Christopher Johnson**, Associate Professor of Spanish, German, and Comparative Literature
- **Cynthia Tompkins**, Professor of Spanish

PhD students are also welcome to study with SILC research faculty not listed above  
A full list of SILC faculty may be found at: <https://silc.asu.edu/about/people>

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Classics & Middle Eastern



**Souad T. Ali**, Associate Professor of Arabic literature and Middle Eastern/Islamic studies

Dr. Souad T. Ali is Head of Classics and Middle Eastern Studies and the Founding Chair of the ASU Council for Arabic and Islamic Studies. She is the author of *A Religion, Not A State: Ali 'Abd al-Raziq's Islamic Justification of Political Secularism* (University of Utah Press, 2009) and the editor of two collected volumes, *The Road to Two Sudans* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2014) and *Perspectives of Five Kuwaiti Women in Leadership Roles: Feminism, Islam and Politics* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019). Her other books in progress include *Subjugated Voices* (with Dr. Emily Silverman) and a major translation of Ali 'Abd al-Raziq. Dr. Ali also has published more than 25 scholarly articles.

### Research interests:

Middle Eastern Studies, Arabic Studies, Islamic Studies, Arabic Literature: Classical and Modern, Classical Islamic Texts; Women and Gender in Islam; Islam and Secularism, Sufism, Islamic Law, Islam and Democracy, Quranic and Hadith Studies; Feminist Movements in Egypt, the Middle East, and Africa.

### Graduate teaching:

Since joining ASU in 2004, Dr. Ali has mentored graduate students from multiple disciplines across ASU, including Women and Gender Studies, Justice and Social Inquiries, Religious Studies, ASU West Human Rights Program, History, and Political Science.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Classics & Middle Eastern



**Françoise Mirguet,**  
Associate Professor of  
Hebrew

Dr. Mirguet's research focuses on emotions and the history of the self in early Jewish literature, written in Hebrew and Greek. More broadly, she is interested in the interdisciplinary study of emotions, with a focus on approaches rooted in the humanities. She is the author of [\*An Early History of Compassion: Emotion and Imagination in Hellenistic Judaism\*](#) (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and [\*La représentation du divin dans les récits du Pentateuque\*](#) (Brill, 2009). Some of her latest peer-reviewed articles include [The Study of Emotions in Early Jewish Texts](#) and [What is an 'Emotion' in the Hebrew Bible? An Experience that Exceeds Most Contemporary Concepts](#).

### **Research interests:**

Early Jewish Literature; History of Emotions; History of the Self; Compassion and Empathy.

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Humanities-based approaches to emotions; history of emotions; emotions and identities; cross-cultural study of emotions; history of the self; history of gender; biblical studies; early Jewish literature and culture.

In collaboration with Dr. Ebru Türker (SILC, Assoc Professor of Korean Linguistics), Dr. Mirguet has developed an interdisciplinary course on emotions, SLC 598 *Emotions Across Languages, Cultures, and History*. Dr. Mirguet also teaches HEB 598 *Judaism and Christianity in the Making*.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Classics & Middle Eastern



**Michael Tueller**, Professor of the Classics

Dr. Tueller studies ancient Greek poetry, especially of the Hellenistic period. His book, *Look Who's Talking: Innovations in Voice and Identity in Hellenistic Epigram*, traced the conventions by which ancient readers made sense of very short poems, and the ways these conventions were manipulated by the more innovative poets of the years after Alexander the Great. He is now at work on a revision of the *Greek Anthology* for Harvard University Press's Loeb Classical Library.

Professor Tueller has also been developing a digital tool that can analyze ancient poetic meter. Currently in the testing stages, its highlight is a search engine that allows the user to find metrical patterns from a database of more than 200,000 lines of ancient Greek and Latin poetry.

### **Research interests:**

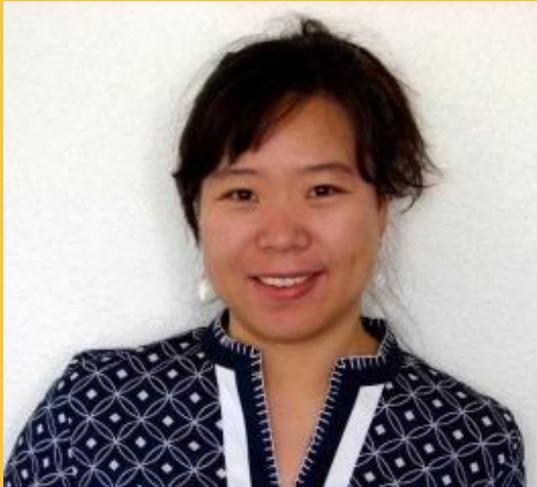
Greek poetry, the Hellenistic period; Digital Humanities

**Areas of graduate mentoring:** Greek and Latin poetry; Digital Humanities; Classical Tradition.

Dr. Tueller's graduate courses include SLC/GRK 598 *Tragedy and Comedy in the Greek Polis*; SLC/GRK/LAT 598 *The Classical Tradition*; CDH 580 *Methods in the Digital Humanities*; and CDH 593 *Digital Humanities Applied Project*

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: East & South East Asian



**Sookja Cho**, Associate Professor of Korean and Comparative Literature

Dr. Cho's research into Korean and Chinese literature and culture ranges from representations of women and gender to oral storytelling and performance to Sino-Korean and East-West exchange. By presenting Korea and its literature and culture within the tangled history of Chinese and East Asian literature and the context of comparative and world literature, Dr. Cho strives to increase its scholarly visibility.

Dr. Cho is the author of *Transforming Gender and Emotion: The Butterfly Lovers Stories in China and Korea* (University of Michigan Press, 2018) and *The Tale of Cho Ung: A Classic of Vengeance, Loyalty, and Romance* (Columbia University Press, 2018). Her articles have appeared in the *Journal of Korean Studies*, the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, and the *Journal of Asian Studies*.

### **Research interests:**

Premodern Korean and Chinese literature and culture; literary relations in East Asia considered in the context of comparative and world literature.

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Dr. Cho's teaches KOR/SLC 598 *Premodern Korean Literature and Cultural Exchange* and plans to offer *Silk Road Narratives* and *Gender and Emotion in East Asia*.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: East & South East Asian



**William Hedberg,**  
Assistant Professor of  
Japanese

Dr. Hedberg specializes in the literature and culture of early modern Japan (17th-19th c.), with special emphasis on the Japanese translation and adaptation of late imperial Chinese fiction. His book *The Japanese Discovery of Chinese Fiction: The Water Margin and the Making of a National Canon* (Columbia University Press, 2019) centers on the impact of the vernacular novel *Shuihu zhuan* on early modern Japanese literary theory. His research has appeared in *The Journal of Japanese Studies*, *Japan Forum*, *East Asian Publishing and Society*, *The International Journal of Asian Studies*, and *Sino-Japanese Studies*.

### Research interests:

Literature and culture of early modern Japan; cross-cultural exchange between China and Japan; translation studies; travel and the motif of utopia in early modern and modern East Asia

**Areas of graduate mentoring:** early modern and modern Japanese literary culture-- particularly with reference to the Japanese reception of Chinese fiction and drama. Other areas of interest include the history of Sinitic literature in Japan, literary historiography from the early modern period to the present, and the literature and culture of travel.

Dr. Hedberg's graduate courses include SLC 551 (Global Approaches to Translation), JPN 585 (Literary Translation) and JPN 598 (Japanese Literature in Translation), with topics including ghosts and the supernatural, romance, and travel literature.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: East & South East Asian



**Robert Tuck**, Assistant  
Professor of Japanese

Dr. Tuck studies 19th century Japanese literature and culture, especially Sino-Japanese literary genres and cultural relations. He is the author of *Idly Scribbling Rhymers: Poetry, Print, and Community in 19th Century Japan* (Columbia University Press, 218). His next project is a complete translation of and monograph on arguably the most widely-read text of 19th Century Japan, Rai Sanyo's "Nihon gaishi" (An Unofficial History of Japan, 1827).

### **Research interests:**

Modern Japanese Literature and Culture; Sino-Japanese cultural relations relations; literary historiography in Japan; world literature

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Modern Japanese Literature and Culture; Sino-Japanese literary relations.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: French & Italian



**Frederic Canovas,**  
Associate Professor of  
French

Dr. Canovas specializes in the study of French poetry and narrative from Baudelaire to surrealism. He has worked on the autobiographical writings of André Gide, Jean Cocteau, Paul Léautaud and Julien Green among others. He is also interested in the history of the book and in illustrated books from the 19th century to surrealism. He is the author of two books ("L'Écriture rêvée" and "Correspondance André Gide-René Crevel") and the editor of eight volumes on Paul Valéry and various aspects of classical French literature. He is currently completing a study, entitled *Une nécessité intérieure : essais sur André Gide*.

### **Research interests:**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century French literature and literary history; Representations of masculinity and male homosexuality; Classicism; Literature and the visual arts; Illustrated books

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century French literature and literary history; Literature and the visual arts; Illustrated books

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: French & Italian



**Mark Cruse**, Associate  
Professor of French

Professor Cruse's research focuses on the relationship between writing, performance, travel, and material culture in the European Middle Ages. He has published on medieval theater manuscripts, heraldry in manuscript illumination, King Charles V's renovation of the Louvre, color in medieval European literature, Alexander the Great and the crusades, and European perceptions of the Mongols, among other topics. He has also published on place in contemporary Haitian literature. His book, *Illuminating the Roman d'Alexandre (Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Bodley 264): The Manuscript as Monument*, examines a 14th-century illuminated romance manuscript as an embodiment of courtly values, urban spectacle, princely education, and crusade ideology. His current book projects focus on a manuscript of Christine de Pizan's *Epistre Othea* (co-authored with Gabriella Parussa); and on the representation of the Mongols in late medieval France.

### **Research interests:**

Literature, theater, art, architecture, urbanism of medieval France; Manuscript Studies; Alexander the Great in the Middle Ages; Medieval travel literature and depictions of the East; History of Paris; Haitian literature

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Medieval French literature and culture; Manuscript Studies; Medieval travel literature and depictions of the East; medieval cities of Europe; the history of Paris

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: French & Italian



**Serena Ferrando,**  
Assistant Professor of  
Environmental  
Humanities and Italian

Dr. Ferrando specializes in modern and contemporary Italian literature and culture, with a particular interest in environmental humanities. Her research on water and contemporary Italian poetry has birthed the [Navigli Project](#), an eco-digital interactive map of Milan's waterways. She also studies environmental and experimental noisescapes and curates [Noisemakers!](#), a multimedia, multisensory project based in sound mapping. Her publications span from literature to ecocriticism to digital humanities. Her current book project *City of Water. The Poetic Geography of Modern Milan* is an ecocritical study of water in the urban environment of the Lombard capital.

### **Research interests:**

Modern and contemporary Italian literature; environmental humanities; urban soundscapes; the city in literature; digital humanities; Italian surrealist novels, graphic novels, and short stories; literature and mental illness.

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Modern and contemporary Italian literature; environmental humanities; urban soundscapes; the city in literature; digital humanities.

Dr. Ferrando's graduate courses include "City of Water. Uncovering Milan's Aquatic Geographies;" "Noisemakers! Tracing the Origins of Modern Music in Italy;" and "Italian Ecocinema."

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: French & Italian



**Isaac Joslin**, Assistant Professor of French

Dr. Joslin's research focuses on colonial and postcolonial francophone African literatures, cinemas, and cultures. In particular, he works in aesthetics and theories of representation, theories of cultural hybridity, gender studies, youth and childhood studies, diaspora studies, and development studies to frame questions of global humanity in terms of African-centered research methodologies. He has published scholarly articles in *The International Journal of Francophone Studies*, *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies*, *African Literature Today*, *The French Review*, *Oeuvres et Critiques*, *Nouvelles Études Francophones*, and *The Journal of Comparative Literature and Aesthetics*. His current book project is entitled *Future Tense: Rethinking Development discourse through African Humanities*.

### **Research interests:**

20<sup>th</sup>-century African Francophone literature; Postcolonial Studies; Critical Race and Gender Studies, Humanitarianism and Human Rights Discourses

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Postcolonial Theory, Ecocriticism, African Epistemologies and Philosophies, Critical Race and Gender Studies, Humanitarianism and Human Rights Discourses.

Dr. Joslin's graduate courses include *Africa in Global Contexts*; *Images inter-médiatiques et identités afro-diasporiques*; *From Colonialism to Climate Change* (co-taught with Dr. Nina Berman).

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: French & Italian



**Julian Vitullo,**  
Associate Professor of  
Italian, Senior  
Sustainability Scholar

Dr. Vitullo has written on various aspects of medieval, early modern, and contemporary Italian culture with emphasis on the relationship between textual traditions and the material world, including economics, food, and gender studies. She has co-edited two volumes, *At the Table: Metaphorical and Material Cultures of Food in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (2007) and *Money, Morality, and Culture in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe* (2010). Her current research continues to focus on aspects of material culture and identity, including a monograph on discussions of fatherhood during the development of the mercantile economy in Italy, and a study of the historical and cultural factors that support local food networks and sustainability movements in small and mid-size Italian cities. She also works on the history and culture of the Mediterranean diet and lifestyle in Italy, strategies used for maintaining it in Italian communities, and possible ways to adapt to it to our local food system.

### **Research interests:**

Italian literature and culture; Mediterranean diet and lifestyle; Food and Identity; Sustainable food systems

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Italian literature and culture; Environmental Humanities; Mediterranean diet and lifestyle; ; Sustainable food systems

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: German, Romanian, & Slavic



**Nina Berman**, Professor of International Letters and Cultures; Director of SILC

Dr. Berman research focuses on the history of cross-cultural relationships between Germany, Africa, and the Middle East. Her broader research interests include post-colonial theory; globalization studies, gender and disability studies; and intercultural hermeneutics. She has written and co-edited six books and special issues, including *Germans on the Kenyan Coast: Land, Charity, and Romance* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2017), *German Literature on the Middle East: Discourses and Practices, 1000-1989* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2011; Outstanding Academic Title 2012, *Choice*;) and *Impossible Missions? German Economic, Military, and Humanitarian Efforts in Africa* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2004). She also has published numerous book chapters, review articles, book reviews, and articles. She speaks German, Arabic, French, and Kiswahili.

### **Research interests:**

Globalization Studies; Humanitarianism; Tourism; German Orientalism And Colonialism; Germans In Africa; Intercultural Hermeneutics; Environmental Humanities

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Dr. Berman's graduate courses include SLC 602 *Comparative Cultural Theory*; SLC 551 *Global Approaches to Translation; What is Globalization?*; and *From Colonialism to Climate Change* (co-taught with Dr. Isaac Joslin).

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: German, Romanian, & Slavic



**Daniel Gilfillan**, Associate Professor of German; Senior Sustainability Scholar

Dr. Gilfillan has published widely on German and Austrian radio and sound art, and on the history of the radio in Germany as an experimental art medium, [\*Pieces of Sound: German Experimental Radio\*](#), (Minnesota, 2009). He is currently working on a book *The Unsung Planet: Resilience, Resonance, and Our Sonic Imagination*. This new book explores relationships between sound and the environment and invites readers into a more attentive awareness of the sonic dimensions of the Earth. It examines the role and centrality of sound for understanding the complex interconnections within sustainability practice and the equally complex interactions between humans and other ecosystem populations (animals, landscapes, geologies, and atmospheres). In addition, he is co-editing and translating (with Solveig Ottmann) a volume of essays written by Weimar-era radio producer, Hans Flesch with the title *Before Brecht: Hans Flesch and Weimar-Era Radio Theory*.

### Research interests:

Twentieth-Century German and Austrian Studies; Media Studies (Film, Radio, Sound Studies); Critical Cultural Studies; Humanities and Sustainability

### Areas of graduate mentoring:

Twentieth-Century German and Austrian Studies; Media Studies (Film, Radio, Sound Studies); Critical Cultural Studies; Humanities and Sustainability. Gilfillan's graduate courses include *Weimar-Era German Cinema, Holocaust and German Memory, Experimental Narrative*, and *Approaches to Film Theory*

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: German, Romanian, & Slavic



**Ana Hedberg Olenina,**  
Assistant Professor of  
Comparative Literature and  
Media Studies

Dr. Olenina specializes in 20th-century Russian literature and cinema, as well as film theory with an emphasis on media archeology, spectatorship, and performance. Her book [\*Psychomotor Aesthetics: Movement and Affect in Modern Literature and Film\*](#) (Oxford University Press, 2020) traces the ways in which early film directors, actors, and performance theorists used the psychological ideas of their time to conceptualize expressive movement and transference of emotion. Dr. Olenina's articles on the notion of gesture and embodiment, Russian Formalism, modern dance, and Soviet avant-garde cinema have appeared in journals such as *Discourse*, *Film History*, *Apparatus*, and several anthologies in the USA and Russia. In 2016-17, Dr. Hedberg Olenina organized an Interdisciplinary Research Cluster, entitled "[Embodied Cognition in Performance](#)," sponsored by The Institute of Humanities Research at ASU.

### Research interests:

20th-century Russian literature and cinema; Film Theory; History of Psychology; Humanities and Neuroscience; Performance Studies; Embodiment; European and American Modernism

### Areas of graduate mentoring:

20th-century Russian literature, visual arts and intellectual culture; film theory; media studies; interdisciplinary approaches to embodiment; humanities and neuroscience

Dr. Olenina's graduate courses include SLC 602 *Comparative Cultural Theory*; and *Narrative and Embodiment in Cinema*

# PhD in English and Comparative Literature

## Core Faculty: German, Romanian, & Slavic



**Ileana Orlich**, President's  
Professor of Romanian,  
English, and Comparative  
Literature;  
Senior Sustainability Scholar

Dr. Orlich publications comprise numerous book translations with critical commentaries, book chapters in international volumes, and dozens of refereed articles, as well as several monographs: [\*Subversive Stages: Dramatic Transcreations in Pre- and Post-Communist Hungarian, Romanian and Bulgarian Theater\*](#) (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2017); [\*Staging Stalinism in Post-Communism Romanian Theatre\*](#) (Casa Cartii de Stiinta UniPrint, 2012); [\*Avantgardism, Politics and the Limits of Interpretation in the \(Ex\)Centric Waste Land: Reading Gellu Naum's Zenobia\*](#) (Paideia Press, 2010); [\*Myth and Modernity in the Twentieth-Century Romanian Novel\*](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2009); [\*Articulating Gender, Narrating the Nation: Allegorical Femininity in Romanian Fiction\*](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004); [\*Silent Bodies: \(Re\)Discovering the Women of Romanian Short Fiction\*](#) (New York: Columbia University Press, 2002). She also translated extensively from the Romanian, Spanish, and Russian theatre and wrote stage adaptations in English and French for performances in Romania, France, and the United States.

**Research interests:** Romanian literature and culture; history of Central Eastern European and Russian theatre; Post-Communist Central Eastern Europe and Russia; Gender Studies; Political Geography and Nationalism in Central Eastern Europe and Russia.

**Areas of graduate mentoring:**

European and American comparative literatures and cultural studies, with an emphasis on religion, ethnicity, gender and cultural geography, theatre and politics, and nationalism in Central Eastern Europe and Russia.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: German, Romanian, & Slavic



**Danko Šipka**, Professor of  
Slavic Languages and  
Applied Linguistics

Dr. Šipka is a professor of Slavic languages and head of the Linguistic Faculty at Arizona State University. He also holds a titular professorship conferred upon him by the president of the Republic of Poland. Dr. Šipka served as a senior linguist or consultant to numerous language industry companies. Dr. Šipka's research interests include lexicography, lexicology, lexical morphology, and cross-cultural linguistics. His publications encompass over 200 papers and reviews as well as 30 books, including: *Lexical Conflict: Theory and practice* (Cambridge University Press, 2015, paperback 2019), and *Lexical Layers of Identity* (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

### Research interests:

Language and Culture, Cross-cultural Linguistics, Cross-cultural Communication and Miscommunication, Cultural History of Literary Languages, Lexicography as Cultural Practice, Ideologies of Language Documentation, Multilingualism, Heritage Language Communities, General Research Methodology (especially research design and statistics)

### Areas of graduate mentoring:

Dr. Šipka's graduate courses include *History of Slavic Languages*; *Psycholinguistics*; *Computational Linguistics*; *Cognitive Linguistics*; *Only English? Why multilingualism matters*; *Hyphenated Minds: Heritage speakers and their vocabularies*; *Language and Culture Clash*

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



**Ligia Bezerra**, Assistant Professor of Portuguese

Dr. Bezerra's research interests include Latin American and Lusophone literature and culture, consumption, discourse, and everyday life. She has published articles on Brazilian, Angolan, and Argentine literature and culture. Her book, *A Consuming World: Imagining Everyday Life in Twenty-First Century Brazilian Fiction* (Purdue University Press, forthcoming), presents an in-depth study of the representation of consumer culture in current Brazilian literature. Her next project focuses on twenty-first century songs of protest in Brazilian Popular Music and investigates how Brazilian Popular Music is articulating resistance to anti-democratic forces in the current social and political climate.

### **Research interests:**

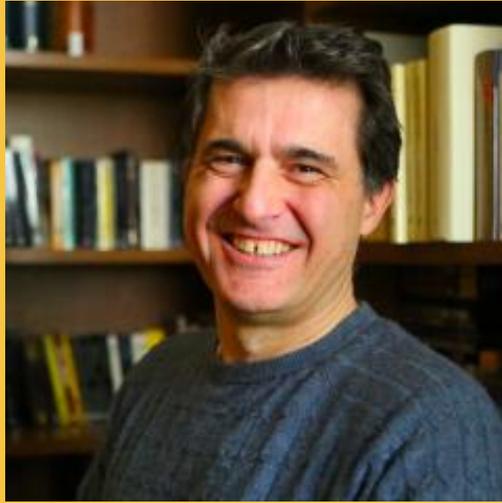
Contemporary Latin American fiction, Lusophone literature and culture; Consumer culture, everyday life

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Dr. Bezerra's teaching and mentoring interests include consumption, everyday life, democracy, identity, and globalization, with a focus on Latin America (particularly Brazil and Argentina) and the Lusophone world (particularly Portuguese-speaking Africa and Brazil). She teaches interdisciplinary courses that address these issues and geographical areas as depicted in literature, film, music, series, ads, and other media.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



**Juan Gil-Osle**, Professor of Spanish

Dr. Gil-Osle specializes in early modern Spanish and Hispanic literature and visual culture. His recent publications focus on globality, border studies, Basque studies, friendship/networking theories, the relationship between word and image, and gender studies. He is the point person to the Spanish in China Initiative, editor of *Laberinto* journal, and president of the Early Modern Image and Text Society.

### **Research interests:**

Globalism in the Early Modern Period; Early modern Spanish and Hispanic literature and visual culture; Cultural Exchange between China, the Americas, and Europe; History of Emotions; Gender Studies; Digital Humanities

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Global Studies, Basque Studies, Early modern Spanish and Hispanic literature and visual culture

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



**Christopher D. Johnson,**  
Associate Professor of  
Spanish, German, and  
Comparative Literature

Dr. Johnson's research focuses on the literatures and cultures of early modern Spain, Germany, England, and the Americas. Central to his scholarship and teaching are the theories and practices of comparative literature, including translation studies and comparative arts. He is the author of "Memory, Metaphor, and Aby Warburg's Atlas of Images" (2012) and "Hyperboles: The Rhetoric of Excess in Baroque Literature and Thought" (2010), he also translated and edited "Selected Poetry of Francisco de Quevedo" (2009). Currently, he is working on a book for Princeton University Press, whose working title is "Baroque Expression: On Seventeenth-Century Literature, Art, and Thought."

### **Research interests:**

Early Modern Spanish Literature; Cross-cultural Exchange between Europe and the Americas; Critical Theory; Poetics; Word and Image; Intellectual History; Translation Studies

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Dr. Johnson's graduate courses include Global Approaches to Translation and SLC 602 Comparative Cultural Theory.

# PhD in Comparative Culture and Language

## Core Faculty: Spanish & Portuguese



**Cynthia Tompkins,**  
Professor of Spanish

Dr. Tompkins specializes in Latin American cultural production: women's writing, literary theory and aesthetics, and Latin American film. In addition to articles published in refereed journals, book chapters, 5 co-edited monographs, translated and co-translated books, she has authored *Latin American Postmodernisms: Women Writers and Experimentation* [Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2006]; *Experimental Latin American Cinema: History and Aesthetics* [Austin: University of Texas Press, 2013], and *Affective Erasure: Representation of Indigenous Peoples in Argentine Cinema* [New York: SUNY Press, 2018]. For the last seven years she has directed *Imagofagia*, the online journal of Argentine Association of Film and Media Studies (AsAECA).

### **Research interests:**

Latin American Film, Latin American Women Writers, Latin American Cultural Production, Contemporary Critical Discourse

### **Areas of graduate mentoring:**

Dr. Tompkins's graduate teaching and mentoring interests include Translation Studies; Women's Writing across the Americas; Feminism across the Americas; Latin American Film (comparative); Literary Theory, and Aesthetics; Ecocriticism; Disability Studies.