

department of  
**romance**  
languages and  
literatures



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Everyone in RLL seems to agree that this year is off to a busier start than ever. Planning for our external review, when a team of four scholars from other universities will visit the department, is already under way. We also have a full program of speakers, conferences, and other events scheduled for the coming months.



Professor Michèle Hannoosh researching at the Casa de Pilatos, Seville, Spain

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Karla Mallette as associate professor of Italian. Dr. Mallette is a specialist of the medieval, and indeed modern, Mediterranean, and in addition to her position in RLL holds a “dry” appointment in Near Eastern Studies. We are excited to enhance the Mediterranean aspect of Romance studies, an important new area of research which has become a particular strength of our department. With a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, Dr. Mallette published a first book, *The Kingdom of Sicily 1100-1250: A Literary History* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), and she has a second book forthcoming, also with Pennsylvania, entitled *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean*.

We are pleased to welcome our new Department Manager Carin Scott, who joined the department in June. Carin comes to us from the Department of Astronomy, where she was the key administrator for four years. She previously worked at Wayne State University where she earned an MBA. Carin will be heading up our excellent team of staff and overseeing the general administrative operation of the department.

By the time this newsletter appears, we will have had occasion to celebrate the achievements of two of our senior faculty. Professor William Paulson, Edward Lorraine Walter Collegiate Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, will have given his inaugural lecture, “Timely Interventions: On the Corrective Vocation of Literary Culture,” on September 30th. Professor Frank Casa, who will retire at the end of 2009, will have received the Encomienda de Número de la Orden de Isabel la Católica, an honor bestowed by the Spanish government, presented to him by Ambassador Javier Rupérez, Spanish consul to Chicago, in a ceremony on campus on October 1st. A conference of distinguished speakers and a reception were held around the event.

You can read about the activities of our faculty on pp. 4 and 5. Two associate professors were promoted to the rank of Professor: Professor Vincenzo Binetti (Italian) and Professor David Caron (French). Professor Larry La Fountain-Stokes was promoted to associate professor of Spanish, and also received the Harold R. Johnson Award for service to diversity. Several of the department’s faculty published books in the past year, including, I am happy to say, myself! You can read about these on pp. 5, 10, and 11. A number of our faculty won prestigious grants and fellowships which you can read about on p. 5. Dr. Amaryllis Rodriguez, lecturer in Italian, was appointed to the position of coordinator of first-year Italian.

Our graduate students have been very active and successful in their various endeavors. Ten successfully defended their dissertations, and several others received fellowships, prizes, and awards. You will find all their news on pp. 8 and 9.

The 28th Keniston Lecture will be given on February 8, 2010, by Professor Anne Fausto-Sterling, Professor of Biology and Gender Studies at Brown University. Professor Fausto-Sterling has written a number of books on gender and science which have engaged the general public and crossed the traditional divide between the “two cultures.” On April 22-25, 2010, the department will host the annual conference of the American Association for Italian Studies. You can see the plans and program on the conference website: [www.lsa.umich.edu/rll/aaais](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/rll/aaais).

As I look forward to handing over to my successor (I complete my term as Chair in June), I would like to thank all those alumni and friends of the department who have kept in touch with us and supported our mission and activities. In these difficult economic times, your support is all the more appreciated. UM President Mary Sue Coleman has launched a campaign to increase dramatically the number of students going abroad, and RLL is excited about the possibilities which this holds for our undergraduates (see p. 12). Please keep up your support if you can, and do join us for one of our events if you are in Ann Arbor.

Michèle Hannoosh

Chair

Department Chair: Michèle Hannoosh Interim Graduate Chair: Javier Sanjinés  
Associate Chair: Enrique García Santo Tomás Editor/Designer: April Caldwell

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# The Pugio Fidei (Dagger of Faith)

## A New Look at Ramón Martí’s Attack on Judaism and Islam

by Professor Ryan Szpiech

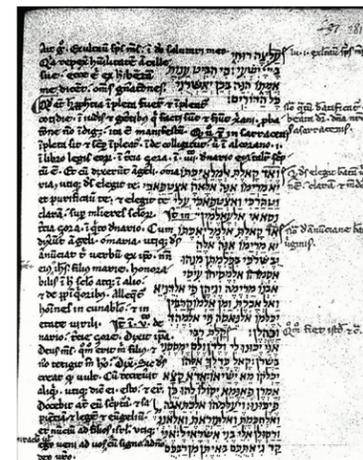


Assistant Professor of Spanish Ryan Szpiech

Professor Ryan Szpiech is currently working on multi-lingual manuscripts containing works of religious polemic (attacks and debates), largely from the Iberian Peninsula. Most of the manuscripts date from between the twelfth and the fifteenth centuries. One work in particular, MS 1405 of the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève in Paris, has yielded an exciting new find: short citations of the Qur’an and Hadith (traditions about the Prophet Muhammad) in Arabic, but written in Hebrew letters and translated into Latin.

This work is the oldest surviving (and only complete) copy of the *Pugio Fidei* (Dagger of Faith) by the Dominican polyglot from Barcelona, Raymond Martini (also known as Ramón Martí, d. after 1284). Most of the work—an attack on Judaism and Islam and a defense of Christianity that is one of the longest works of its kind from the Middle Ages—contains abundant citations from Biblical and Rabbinical sources in Hebrew, followed by translations into Latin.

Because the Qur’an citations in Arabic are written in Hebrew letters, they have escaped the notice of virtually all scholars of Martini’s work. Szpiech has determined that the citations represent the earliest known example of citations of the Qur’an in Arabic in Hebrew letters within a Christian work. This practice, well attested among Arabic-speaking Jews, became more common among Christians in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Italy. Because Martini did not take his Latin translations from the earliest known citations of the Qur’an into Latin (those by Robert of Ketton and Mark of Toledo), the *Pugio Fidei* represents a fascinating new source for discussions of Latin translations of the Qur’an in medieval Iberia. With the help of three undergraduate students working in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), Micah Kanter, Thomas Topping, and Nathan Torreano, Szpiech has edited and translated the Arabic and Latin texts, taking account of all known manuscript copies of the *Pugio Fidei*. The texts, translations, and introductory study are forthcoming later this year.



Thirteenth-century copy of the *Pugio Fidei* (Dagger of Faith) of Ramón Martí. Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève 1405, f.281r.

Insight

## National Destiny and Picturesque Portrayals

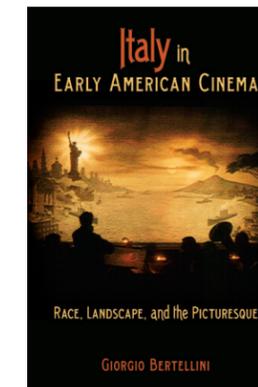
by Professor Giorgio Bertellini

Professor Giorgio Bertellini explores the picturesque painting style and its effect on early 20th-century photographers and filmmakers



Assistant Professor of Italian and Screen Arts and Cultures Giorgio Bertellini

Once associated with landscape painting in Northern Europe, the picturesque painting style came to symbolize Mediterranean Europe through comforting views of distant landscapes and exotic characters. Showing readers how this aesthetic traveled to America and was transferred from 19th-century painters to early 20th-century photographers and filmmakers, Bertellini moves from Western films and travelogues to urban melodramas featuring Southern Italians, the picturesque’s original characters. Taking its cue from a picturesque stage backdrop from “The Godfather Part II,” *Italy in Early American Cinema* offers readings of early films that pay close attention to how landscape representations and narrative settings conveyed distinct ideas about racial difference and national destiny.



## Karla Mallette



Associate Professor of Italian Karla Mallette

**K**arla Mallette joins the faculty of Romance Languages and Literatures this year, as associate professor of Italian. She also has a dry appointment in Near Eastern Studies. She received her Ph.D. from the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto in 1998; she taught at Stanford University, Northwestern University, the American University of Beirut, and Miami University of Ohio before coming to Michigan. Her research focuses on Italy and the Mediterranean, and on communications between Arabic and Romance poetics in the medieval Mediterranean. She has written two books: *The Kingdom of Sicily, 1100-1250: A Literary History* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005), traced the transition between Arabic and Italian literary traditions in medieval Sicily; and *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean* (University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming) rereads a southern European tradition of scholarship that identifies the origins of modernity in the contact between Islamic and Christian civilizations in the medieval Mediterranean. She has also written and edited a number of works on medieval Romance and Arabic poetics and Mediterranean historiography.

At Michigan, Mallette will teach courses on medieval Italian literature and on Italy and the Mediterranean. During her first year here, she is teaching a freshman seminar on two of the most popular framed narratives of the Middle Ages – the *Thousand and One Nights* and the *Decameron* – and a seminar on Petrarch. She will also take over coordination of a course in the

Great Books sequence, GB 291. Her appointment will be sponsored for her first three years by the International Institute, which oversees international programs and area studies centers at the University, and she looks forward to participating in the Institute's activities.

Mallette's new research project, tentatively titled "Lingua Franca in the Mediterranean," studies language and linguistic difference in the medieval Mediterranean. Mallette writes: "During the last decade, medievalists have become interested in applying the insights of postcolonial studies to the medieval world. The difficulty with using this model to read medieval literature is that linguistic, religious and cultural differences were understood differently during the Middle Ages. For instance, in the medieval Mediterranean, nobody wrote in the language he spoke; bilingualism – at a minimum – was the price of literacy. Literary historians have no model for understanding the radical linguistic complexity of the premodern world. In this project, I'm studying the linguistic strategies used to communicate across the boundaries that language created in the medieval Mediterranean, in order to talk about how postcolonial theories apply to that literary history."

## Focus on Faculty

**French Coordinator Lori McMann** is collaborating on a workbook for a forthcoming first-year French textbook. The textbook combines an inductive approach to learning grammar, up-to-date cultural materials, and an extensive video of native speakers.

**Italian Coordinators Romana Capek-Habekovic and Amaryllis Rodriguez Mojica** were awarded the LSA Information Technology Faculty Project Grant for creating a website "Ad Alta Voce," which will help first-year students develop better pronunciation and comprehension skills.

**Professor of Spanish Larry LaFountain-Stokes'** book of short stories *Uñas pintadas de azul/Blue Fingernails* was published in March 2009 by the Bilingual Press/Editorial Bilingüe at Arizona State University.

**Professor of Spanish Kate Jenckes'** article "Borges Before the Law," was published in *Thinking with Borges*, edited by David Johnson and William Egginton (Davies Group Publishers, 2009).

**Professor of French George Hoffmann's** book *Montaigne's Career* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1998) appeared this summer in a French translation, *La Carrière de Montaigne* (Paris: Champion, 2009). In 2009-2010 he is participating as a Faculty Fellow in the Michigan Initiative on Religion and the Secular.



**Professor of French David Caron** presented the lecture "Parisian Memories of the Holocaust: A Personal Narrative" at Shanghai Jiao Tong University and "A Matter of Taste: Gay Public Encounters and Spectatorship in Three Films about Film" at Fudan University, both in China. He also taught two graduate seminars there, one on French gay literature and the other on theories of affect.

**Spanish Lecturer Olga Gallego** had the second edition of her intermediate Spanish textbook *Más Allá de las Palabras* (Indiana: Wiley, 2009) published in spring 2009.

**Professor of Spanish Teresa Satterfield** gave invited talks on computational modeling in May 2009 at the University of Chicago Dept. of Linguistics and Northwestern University's Dept. of Linguistics. She directed the 2009 UM Summer Study Program in Salamanca and was appointed co-chair of the selection committee for the Rethaugh G. Dumas Diversity Initiative Award. Her invited guest review will appear in the Sept. 2009 issue of "Language" on Cantonese's "Codeswitching in Bilingual Children."

**Department Chair Michèle Hannoosh** gave a paper entitled "Correspondances baudelairiennes" at the congress of the Association internationale des études françaises in Paris in July. In addition to her book (see p.10), she published "Imagination esthétique et conscience historique: Jules Michelet et les arts plastiques," in *Romanismes. L'esthétique en acte*, ed. Jean-Louis Cabanès (Nanterre: Presses universitaires de Paris Ouest, 2009); and "Delacroix, 'J.' and Still Life with Lobsters," in *The Burlington Magazine*, CLI, 1278 (September 2009).

## The Literary Traditions of the Medieval Mediterranean

by Professor Karla Mallette

**W**hat happened to works of literature and natural philosophy when they translated their way around the Mediterranean? Some tales and treatises were translated, retranslated and commented on until they became something entirely new: a body of literature created by the encounters between Greek, Arabic and Latin in the medieval Mediterranean.

Aristotle's *Poetics* – to name one of my favorite examples of transformative translation – was translated from Greek into Syriac and from Syriac into Arabic by the early tenth century. The great philosophers of the Arab Middle Ages – al-Farabi, Avicenna and Averroes – commented on it. And Averroes' commentary on the *Poetics* was translated into Latin and was studied in the centers of Christian learning. Naturally, because the literary traditions these men knew differed radically from the ancient Greek, their perspective on poetics too were distinct from Aristotle's. Aristotle's discussion of drama, and his division of drama into tragedy and comedy, vanished; drama did not hold a central place in either the Arabic or Latin literary traditions. The theory of mimesis too had disappeared from Aristotle's treatise by the time the medieval commentators received it. Medieval philosophers viewed poetry as an art of argumentation – the late antique and medieval tradition believed that the *Poetics* was part of the *Organon*, Aristotle's treatises on logic – rather than a chiefly aesthetic activity. And countless tiny shifts in Aristotle's treatise were introduced.

Consider, for example, Aristotle's discussion of *peripeteia*. In Greek drama, the term names a turning point – a sudden

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and unexpected reversal of fortune. The early Syriac and Arab translators confused the noun *peripeteia* (reversal) with the verb *peripateo*, which means to walk around, and is the source of the adjective *peripatetic* (used to designate Aristotelian philosophers, because Aristotle paced while he taught). Instead of a *reversal*, the Arabic and Latin commentaries on Aristotle's *Poetics* spoke of a *circulation* or *circumambulation*. Rather than an abrupt and unforeseen change in the fate of a fictional character, the medieval commentators discussed a kind of poem that startles you by presenting an unanticipated image, that makes you feel what the poet wants you to feel by upending your expectations.

The poets kept meaning in play by tinkering with familiar images, spinning old clichés into gold. So too did the philosophers keep the philosophical works of Greek antiquity in circulation, cycling round the Mediterranean, acquiring new meaning with each new translation or commentary. The West discovered Aristotle's *real* treatise on poetics when the Greek text was brought to Italy from Constantinople, following the city's fall to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. A Latin translation made directly from the Greek appeared in 1498, and a Greek edition of the text was published in 1508. During the course of the sixteenth century no fewer than eight retranslations (into Latin or Italian) or reprints of translations were made directly from the Greek. But during the same century, translations of Averroes' commentary on the *Poetics* appeared in *ten* editions and reprints. It took a century of translation, analysis and debate for European intellectuals to accept Aristotle's Greek as the true version of the *Poetics*. We owe more to the Arab and Latin philosophers of the medieval Mediterranean than we generally recognize, and scholars today are working to reconstruct this literary heritage which the West shares with the Arab world.

# Weaving Tradition

## RLL Travels to Perú

by María Dorantes, Spanish elementary language director and Tatiana Calixto, Spanish lecturer. All photos are courtesy of Tatiana Calixto.



In July 2009, Spanish Lecturer Tatiana Calixto and María Dorantes took 14 students from different concentrations to Cuzco and Chinchero, Perú with the Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) Program, now part of the University's new Center for Global and Intercultural Study (CGIS). There they lived among the Quechua indigenous weaving community for four weeks and learned the traditional art of weaving.

In Chinchero, the students prepared typical meals such as huatia, and potatoes cooked underground after a mound of earth was prepared. They also built their own fires. The students had the opportunity to live with the families in Chinchero and in Cuzco who had very different accommodations from those they are used to in Michigan, gaining experience in the indigenous community and the city. While in Cuzco, students learned more about the Incan Empire by visiting several museums



The group in Q'orikancha (Temple of the Sun) in the city of Cuzco.



Alyssa Ackerman with instructor Yessica and other family members on their way to the cemetery to pay respects to Yessica's deceased father.



Sarah Willits and Alyssa Ackerman collect salt at Salineras de Maras.



Sarah Willits learning to make a jakima on a waist loom.



Amanda McDonald and Emma Landgraf learning the basics of weaving.



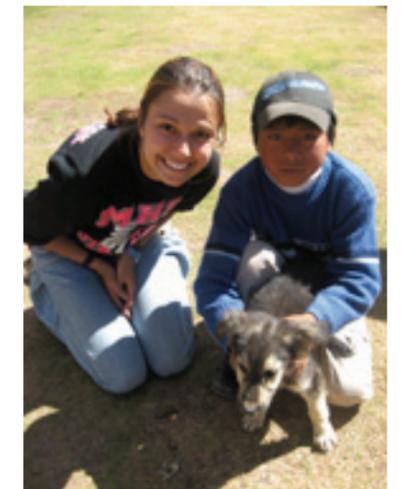
Emma Landgraf, "Eager Weaver," learning to weave on the backstrap loom.



Alyssa Ackerman working on her first woven bag.



Spanish Lecturer Tatiana Calixto making Ponche de habas.



Amanda McDonald and Rogelio playing with a puppy.

and archeological sites, such as Machu Picchu, Moray, Salineras de Maras, and others.

By the end of the experience, all of the students had woven two belts. Some students were so enthusiastic that they also completed handbags. Their experience was very rewarding and culminated with the students writing the life stories of the weavers for the website of the Centro de Textiles Tradicionales de Cuzco.



Señora Norberta teaching Sun (Lyla) Yang how to make a bag.



Emma Landgraf having fun as she beats the weft into a bag on a backstrap loom.



Señora Justina and Elise Carolan learning how to make a knotted bracelet.



On the train to Machu Picchu.



## The RLL Graduate Program

The RLL graduate program very actively begins the 2009-2010 academic year. Our graduate students will be presenting research papers at international and national congresses in their chosen fields of study, and participating in graduate student conferences all over the country as a means of meeting and dialoging with members of their own intellectual generation.

One of the main academic events is the Fraker Conference that graduate students organize every year. We are always proud of the excellent presentations our students make at this conference. Next year's conference, which will take place in late March 2010, promises to be an intellectually engaging exercise on the rhetorical use of the word "crisis." Indeed, the "Turning Point: Crisis & Disaster" will be a major event for our graduate program.

Graduate student reading groups, RLL film series, and mock job talks for graduate students who are going on the job market this year, are all activities of a vibrant group of young scholars who continue to keep us aware of our commitment to excellence both in teaching and in research.

This year's cohort brings nine new additions to our graduate student body. Selected from a pool of highly competitive candidates, we give an enthusiastic welcome to Erika Almenara, Elizabeth Barrios, Keith Christensen, Matthieu Dupas, Pierluigi Erbaggio, Camela Logan, Anna Mester, María Robles Gila, and Rodrigo Toromoreno. They are already adding to the intellectual vitality of our program in Romance Languages and Literatures.

We wish an exciting and productive year to all our graduate students.

Javier Sanjinés  
Interim Graduate Chair

## RLL Ph.D. Graduates



### Radost Rangelova

After defending my dissertation in July 2009, I moved to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where I recently began my first semester in the Spanish Department at Gettysburg College. I am teaching language and Caribbean literature courses and I am involved in the programs in Latin American Studies and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. In the past month I have enjoyed a rich array of lectures and social activities.

In the short term, I am working on two conference papers and on an article based on the work that I did for my dissertation. My long-term research plans include the revision and publication of a manuscript based on my dissertation, as well as work on a new comparative project, that studies the construction of gender and sexuality in the detective genre in Hispanic Caribbean literature.

I have taken advantage of Gettysburg's proximity to several big cities and cultural centers in the area. I recently went to Washington, DC to attend the Library of Congress National Book Festival, and I look forward to future trips to Baltimore and Philadelphia.

Radost Rangelova  
Dissertation: "House, Factory, Beauty Salon, Brothel: Space, Gender and Sexuality in Puerto Rican Literature and Film"  
Assistant Professor, Gettysburg College

## RLL Ph.D. Graduates

### Silvia Marchetti

I am currently in San Marino. I have been offered a position as a visiting professor at the University of New Hampshire in Ascoli Piceno (Italy) for winter 2010, where I will be teaching advanced courses in Italian film. Since my defense, I have worked on two articles "Decolonizing Italy: Migrant Writers and the Tradition of Picturesque" and "Listening to the Sound of Anti-Fascism in Federico Fellini's *Amarcord*." The former has been accepted for publication by *The Italianist*, while the latter is a conference paper which I am revising for *Mnemosyne o la costruzione del senso*. I am currently applying for a European Union-funded, two year research grant (Marie Curie) in collaboration with the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies in Translation, Languages and Cultures of the University of Bologna.



Silvia Marchetti  
Dissertation: "Promoting the 'Minor': A Figural Practice in Italian Literature and Film"  
Visiting Professor, University of New Hampshire

### Noelia Cirmigliaro

After my graduation in June 2009, I moved to Hanover, New Hampshire to start my position as assistant professor of Spanish at Dartmouth College, where I will be teaching mostly classes on early modern Spanish literature and culture. My plans are to continue teaching and studying the Spanish early modern past and actively contribute to my field of study. I spent the summer preparing syllabi and teaching materials for my classes and sketching out the directions in which I will transform my dissertation into a book. But also, I have to admit, I enjoyed an absolutely delightful summer filled with hours of canoeing on the Connecticut River and delicious Vermont cheese-tasting.

We also offer our best wishes to the following Ph.D. recipients this year:

**Manuel Chinchilla** (Spanish)  
Assistant Professor, Sewanee:  
The University of the South

**Raquel Vega Duran** (Spanish)  
Assistant Professor, Claremont  
McKenna College

**Pedro Porben** (Spanish)  
Assistant Professor, Bowling  
Green State Univ.

**Julie Robert** (French)  
Post-doc, Univ. of Michigan

**Sebastián Díaz** (Spanish)  
Lecturer, Dartmouth College

**Cristina Miguez** (Spanish)  
Post-doc, Univ. of Michigan

**Alana Reid** (Spanish)  
Assistant Professor, Univ. of Central  
Arkansas

## Meet the *New* Graduate Students

not pictured

**Elizabeth Barrios** (Spanish)  
B.A., Knox College  
Interests: southern cone literature



**Pierluigi Erbaggio** (Italian)  
M.A., Wayne State Univ  
Interests: contemporary Italian literature



**Anna Mester** (Spanish)  
B.A., Mt. Holyoke College  
Interests: Afro-Romance Studies

not pictured

**Keith Christensen** (French)  
B.A., Truman State Univ  
M.A., State Univ of NY at Buffalo  
Interests: Renaissance literature



**Maria Robles Gila** (Spanish)  
B.A., Univ del Pais Vasco  
Interests: contemporary Spanish literature and audiovisual culture



**Erika Almenara** (Spanish)  
M.A., Univ of Wisconsin  
Interests: history, memory, violence in Latin America



**Matthieu Dupas** (French)  
B.A., Université Lumière Lyon 2  
M.A., Paris IV Sorbonne  
Interests: sexual difference in the 17th-century



**Camela Logan** (French)  
B.A., Brown Univ  
M.A., Univ of Oxford  
Interests: Francophone sub-Saharan Africa in modern France



**Rodrigo Toromoreno** (Spanish)  
B.A., Univ of Toronto  
Interests: Latin American subaltern studies

## My Father and I

by Professor David Caron

"It is a living museum of a long-gone Jewish life and, supposedly, a testimony to the success of the French model of social integration. It is a communal home where gay men and women are said to stand in defiance of the French model of social integration. It is a place of freedom and tolerance where people of color and lesbians nevertheless feel unwanted and where young Zionists from the suburbs gather every Sunday and sometimes harass Arabs. It is a hot topic in the press and on television...And for better and for worse, it is a French neighborhood."—from *My Father and I*



The Caron Family

Mixing personal memoir, urban studies, cultural history, and literary criticism, as well as a generous selection of photographs, *My Father and I* focuses on the Marais, the oldest surviving neighborhood of Paris. It also reveals the intricacies of the relationship between a Jewish father and a gay son, each claiming the same neighborhood as his own. Beginning with the history of the Marais and its significance in the construction of a French national identity, I propose a rethinking of community and look at how Jews, Chinese immigrants, and gays have made the Marais theirs. These communities embody, in their engagement of urban space, a daily challenge to the French concept of universal citizenship that denies them all political legitimacy.

I move from the strictly French context to more theoretical issues such as social and political archaism, immigration and diaspora, survival and haunting, the public/private divide, and group friendship as metaphor for unruly and dynamic forms of community, and founding disasters such as AIDS and the Holocaust. I also tell the story of my father, a Hungarian Jew and Holocaust survivor who immigrated to France and once called the Marais home.



Associate Professor  
David Caron



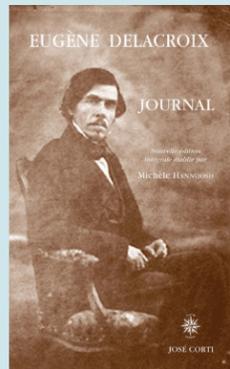
Finkelsztajn's bakery in the  
Marais

## History as Art: Exploring Eugène Delacroix's *Journal*

Professor Michèle Hannoosh talks about her new work on Delacroix and the new sources she discovered

Delacroix's *Journal* is one of the most important works in the literature of art history and is generally considered a great work of literature in its own right. In recording the daily activities and thoughts of the painter from small details to momentous events, from practical information to theoretical abstraction, it also provides a unique perspective on a society undergoing the rapid and sometimes tumultuous changes of modern life, viewed through the eyes of an individual who experienced them first-hand and reflected on them at length.

In my new edition, I have tried to bring out these various aspects of Delacroix's diary. It consists of a wholly new text, established on the basis of the original manuscripts and of a number of new manuscript sources. It also includes hundreds of pages of unpublished texts which I discovered in two private archives in the course of my research. These had remained more or less intact since the painter's death in 1863: notebooks, travel diaries, loose pages of jottings and reflections, drafts of unpublished or unfinished articles, these works are among the painter's most interesting writings, encompassing his ideas on painting, literature, sculpture, music, and philosophy, pages on modern beauty, on realism, on the antique, on the sublime, notes on a wide variety of readings from antiquity to the contemporary press, discussions of artists past and present. I have also reconstructed a number of notebooks which had been dismantled after his death and their pages scattered across the globe. To the known sketchbooks on his famous journey to North Africa in 1832, my edition adds numerous new texts and unpublished testimonies by his contemporaries, including his own thoughts on the then recent French conquest of Algeria. The edition features a substantial critical commentary and an introduction on the importance of the diary as a work about art, as the writing of a painter, and as a means for interpreting the culture of nineteenth-century France. For me it was a project of absorbing interest and I feel privileged to have had it to work on over the years.



Eugène Delacroix, *Journal*. Nouvelle édition intégrale établie par Michèle Hannoosh. 2 volumes, Paris, José Corti, 2009.

## Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora

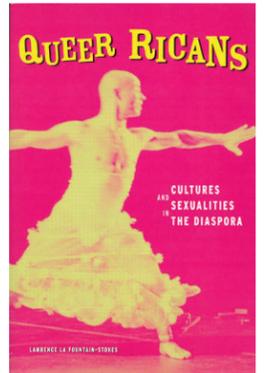
by Professor Larry La Fountain-Stokes



Associate Professor  
Larry La Fountain-Stokes

*Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009) is a book about queer Puerto Rican migration and culture. One of my main goals in this book was to challenge and transform Puerto Rican migration studies paradigms by showing how attitudes towards stigmatized forms of same-sex sexuality and gender variance provoke and affect migration, and how artists, writers, filmmakers, dancers, choreographers, and performers have documented and discussed this fact. I also seek to show how this experience has had a historical, gendered, and geospatial dimension, that is to say, how it has changed from the late 1960s until the first decade of the 2000s; how it is affected by gender; and how it varies according to where the individual artists live, be it, for example, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia,

Chicago, or San Francisco. In generational terms, I focus initially on a writer who has lived in Spain and New York but who is mostly associated with Puerto Rico (Luis Rafael Sánchez), then on first-generation immigrants to the U.S. (Manuel Ramos Otero, Luz María Umpierre, Frances Negrón-Muntaner), and finally on second-generation artists born in the U.S. (Rose Troche, Erika López, Arthur Avilés, and Elizabeth Marrero). The book celebrates, documents, and also critically interrogates and analyzes the works of these leading artists and writers and proposes that they are central to understanding contemporary Puerto Rican and American culture.



## Alumni News

If you are not a member of the U-M Alumni Association, it is easy to join. Simply visit the website <http://alumni.umich.edu/>, or call the Association directly at (734) 764-0384 or (800) 847-4764.

**Nancy D'Antuono** (Ph.D. Spanish 1975)

"I continue to teach and to pursue my research interest: Siglo de oro plays as performed and adapted by Italian playwrights and commedia dell'arte troupes in the 17th and 18th centuries. In a new vein, I am preparing for publication the dual language text of an 18th-century Italian opera libretto, *L'Infedeltà fedele* by Domenico Cimarosa, in cooperation with Dr. Ethan Haimo of the University of Notre Dame who will edit the score."

**Ann Peckenpaugh** (AB French 1976)

"I recently re-connected with many people who were in Michigan's Junior Year Abroad in Aix-en-Provence in 1974-1975. The Wisconsin members of the program held a reunion in Madison, WI in June 2008. We plan to organize another reunion. Meanwhile, I set up a Google Group on which we have posted our updates and old and new photos. If you were in the Aix program in 1974-1975, and want access to that website, send an email to me at [Annbecker@comcast.net](mailto:Annbecker@comcast.net)."

**Desiree M. Ferguson** (B.A. Spanish 1978)

As a practicing attorney, I have always used Spanish to communicate with Spanish-speaking clients. For example, years ago, I worked with a legal services program for migrant workers in Michigan, many of whom speak only Spanish. Currently, I use it in my practice as a criminal defense appellate specialist, where many of my clients likewise speak only Spanish. In fact, I am currently enrolled in a class at the University of Detroit Mercy Law School, where I am an adjunct professor, which is intended to develop Spanish fluency in law-related topics. It is being offered in conjunction with UDM's joint degree program in US and Mexican law.

**Sheilagh Margot Riordan** (M.A. French 1990)

"I did a Fulbright year in Sweden in 95-96 and finished my PhD, then ran a 1000+ study abroad program at the U. of Melbourne in Australia for 8 years. Now I'm blissfully back to part-time teaching French at Florida Atlantic University, spending time with my husband and our two small children, and just finished writing my first novel!"

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