

DEPARTMENT
NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome • P2

From the Desks • P2-3

Profiles • P4-7

Student Perspective • P8-9

The Graduate Corner • P10-12

Recognitions • P13-14

Interventions • P14-17

Events Fall 2024 • P18

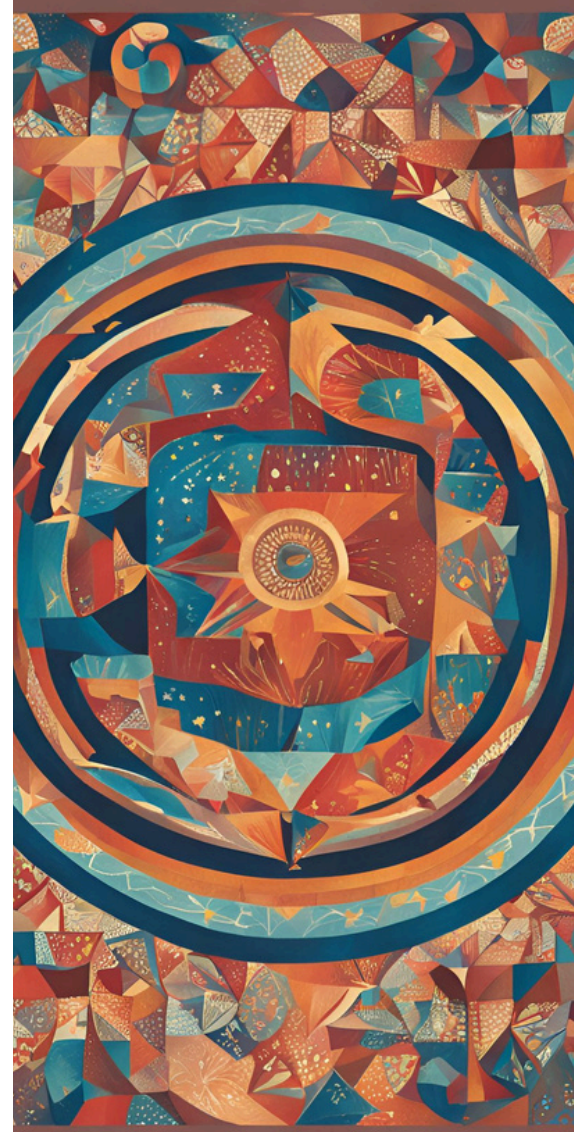
In The Works • P19

WELCOME to this issue of *Acentos*, which focuses on a topic central to everything we do in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese: **Building Community**. Whether you are an undergraduate or graduate student, faculty member, or staff, being part of a supportive community is what makes our department special.

In this issue, we celebrate what it means to build and sustain a sense of belonging. You'll find stories that highlight the importance of fostering community in our classrooms, our efforts to connect with the wider community (both within and beyond the university), and how we come together—not just as learners, but also as colleagues, mentors, and friends—to support one another and grow as a community.

As we wrap up this edition, we also want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to Jesús Velasco. Jesús recently stepped down from his role as our department chair, and we can't let him go without acknowledging his significant impact. Under his leadership, we've seen our department transform into a place where we are not only happy to work but also proud to be part of. We all appreciate how hard he has worked to improve our working conditions and compensation. His dedication has not gone unnoticed, and we are all profoundly grateful for his efforts. Thank you, Jesús, for being part of this journey with us. Let's continue building together!

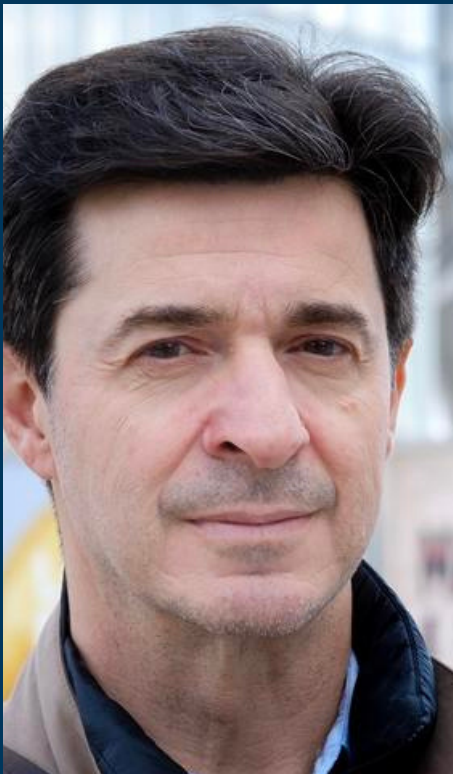
María M. Vázquez, editor



FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

Jesús R. Velasco

Our hallways...walking through the hallways, meeting you all there, crisscrossing the spaces, sometimes bumping into each other, talking about the last book we read, the class we are teaching, everyday issues, sometimes losses, sometimes successes, all this builds a perceptible and also an intangible community. Tangible, indeed, because we are prone to conversation and sometimes, we are loud: I hear a voice outside my office, and because I know that voice sounds bubbly and happy, I get on my feet, leave my office (that door permanently open, or at least semi-open, except when I am in a meeting, yikes!), and start talking to whoever is there. Or perhaps it's just you, who happens to be there, see my door open (or semi-open, etc.), who wants to tell me something that has happened recently, and of which you may be proud, or perhaps concerned. This is my perceptible community, the colleagues, the students, the staff, the laughter, the exchange of nice words. It's essentially what I feel daily.



FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK (CONTINUED)

We have done a good job of keeping that community alive: we did not even have to build it, it was already well built, and we only needed to remember how it worked, why it was important, after the pandemic and after moving to HQ, to use all our power to reimagine it.

Now, our hallways also have pictures of our brilliant students, and we can stop there to contemplate, to think. These images are extraordinary because they also convey an intangible community that we are continually nurturing. Our students show us the many ways in which their reality unfolds, their communities, and their concerns. We learn from them even in their absence because they leave a profound imprint on those same hallways. And those traces remind us of something: what we do, the language we teach, the cultures we strive to understand, the projects we foster and admire –all that matters.

FROM THE SPANISH LANGUAGE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Jorge Méndez-Seijas

The Spanish and Portuguese language programs are thriving, with robust enrollment numbers, exceptional new and experienced lecturers and graduate students, and a growing number of undergraduate students pursuing the certificate. This success stems from the community of practice that we have cultivated and our proactive outreach to the larger Yale community and beyond. These efforts have helped our programs expand, thereby enriching our learning experiences with diverse perspectives and deeper cultural insights.

Students, in particular, have contributed invaluable perspectives to our discussions and provided extraordinary feedback, making our academic environment richer and more vibrant. The sense of community within our department fosters a supportive and stimulating environment where everyone is encouraged to excel. Through new course offerings (e.g., Politics and Policies in the Spanish-Speaking World; Uncharted

Narratives: Workshop in Fiction and Creative Nonfiction; Ecological Mindfulness: Poetics and Praxis in the Spanish-Speaking World; and Queer Historias from Latin America, Spain, and Latinx USA; Portuguese for Romance Language Speakers), collaborative research projects, cultural events, and language tables, among other initiatives, members of our community not only learn Spanish and in Spanish, but also forge lasting connections and friendships.

Our programs are also making concrete outreach efforts to Spanish/Portuguese-speaking student organizations and to members of the local New Haven community, efforts that will strengthen our programs even further. This engagement will benefit both the students and the broader community by providing academic resources and fostering a shared sense of belonging. Together, our efforts will continue to offer a cohesive, supportive environment that nurtures academic excellence and personal growth.





Reaching Out: On Bridging Yale with New Haven's Hispanic Communities

An interview with Margherita Tórtora

by María M Vázquez

Margherita is a Senior Lector II in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. Founder and executive director of The Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (LIFY), she is also the winner of the 2024 Richard H. Brodhead '68 Prize awarded for Teaching Excellence by Yale Instructional Faculty

María M. Vázquez: Thank you, Margherita, for taking the time to answer these questions highlighting the importance of connecting as a department with the local Spanish-speaking communities. First, I would like to ask you, when did you start working with the Spanish-speaking community in New Haven, and what motivated you to build these connections? What has been the most rewarding aspect of your work with this community?

Margherite Tórtora: I was born and raised in New Haven, making me a proud member of this community. My involvement began early—around age 11—when I took part in summer jobs and after-school programs at what was then the Fair Haven Neighborhood House. Later, I worked as a United Way summer camp counselor for the Farnham Neighborhood Corporation for several years and taught summer theater at the Boys' Club on Jefferson Street, where we staged plays like *The Wiz*. After living away for 20 years, I returned to New Haven in 1993 and resumed serving the community. I helped as a translator and assisted with filling out applications, both privately and through organizations such as Centro San José and Santa Rosa de Lima. I also worked with Unidad Latina en Acción, contributing to efforts like door-to-door campaigns to educate people about their rights and the steps to take if confronted by ICE. During my early years at Yale, my sister—then a teacher at the bilingual Columbus School on Grand Avenue—allowed me to bring my students to work with the children there. Additionally, I have served as a translator and interpreter for organizations like The Community Foundation and Hill Health. For over 20 years, I've ensured that the Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale includes a special presentation for New Haven Public School students. I've invited several filmmakers to present at local schools, providing Latino students with the opportunity to see themselves reflected on screen and to meet the creative, talented people behind these films. I also regularly collaborate with the New Haven Public Library and Arte, Inc. Sometimes also with Pequeñas Ligas and Bregamos.

Reaching Out (continued)

Giving back to my community has always been my motivation. It's deeply rewarding to see how my contributions help underserved community members feel more confident about themselves and their potential to thrive. I'm especially proud of the young people I've mentored, many of whom have become the first in their extended families to attend college.

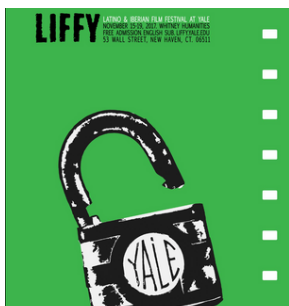
MMV: As the founder and executive director of The Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale (LIFFY), how did the idea for the festival originate? What has it meant to you to see it grow into a successful event that connects the department with the local Hispanic community?

MT: I began organizing the CLAIS film series approximately 25 years ago, driven by a desire to bring the rich world of Latin American cinema to our community. My passion for this work grew as I connected with filmmakers at festivals, inspiring me to incorporate their visits into my Spanish Through Film course.

In 2009, at a film festival in Lima, I had the privilege of meeting Annia Bu, a talented Cuban actress. Later that year, I traveled to Providence to see her and Juan Carlos Tabío present *El cuerno de la abundancia* at PLAFF. It was there that the idea emerged to create a joint film festival spanning Providence and New Haven. This vision materialized as NEFIAC (New England Festival of Ibero-American Cinema), which ran from 2010 to 2014. However, managing a non-profit with collaborators scattered across different locations proved challenging.

In 2015, I proposed transitioning NEFIAC into a new iteration—[LIFY](#) (Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale)—under the auspices of CLAIS at the MacMillan Center. To me, it felt like a natural evolution: the same festival spirit, now anchored in New Haven and integrated into the Yale community.

Since its inception, LIFFY has hosted hundreds of filmmakers, showcasing their recent works (produced within the past three years) to an ever-growing audience.



Reaching Out (continued)

The festival remains free and open to the public, with programming that engages diverse segments of the community. We invite everyone to attend, organize special events for public school children, and foster connections between filmmakers and local organizations like ARTE Inc., as well as schools throughout New Haven.

MMV: What challenges have you encountered while working on community initiatives, and how have you overcome them?

MT: Securing funding for these initiatives remains the most significant challenge. While I've been fortunate to receive Kempf funding for many years, it is never guaranteed, as I must submit a new proposal annually. Organizing presentations in schools also presents its own hurdles, requiring careful coordination of schedules and allowing ample time for mandatory security screenings.

MMV: What advice would you give to other members of our department who are interested in engaging with the local Hispanic community?

MT: Put yourselves out there and get involved. Attend meetings with organizations like ULA, and take the time to connect with teachers in our public schools. Most importantly, leave behind any sense of elitism—recognize that you are an integral part of this community, no better or worse than anyone else. Everyone has unique talents to offer, and each contribution matters.

Reflect on the skills you can bring to the table and take action. For instance, my son volunteered to teach guitar lessons for Pequeñas Ligas on Grand Avenue. A close friend tutors a young woman from Mexico in English through Santa Rosa de Lima on Blatchley Avenue. Another friend, a retired NHPS teacher, now works with IRIS to help immigrants learn how to protect themselves from ICE. We all have the capacity to contribute in meaningful ways. By coming together, we can help make our community a more equitable and compassionate place to live.

MMV: Thank you, Marga, for being such an inspiring colleague! Your dedication and hard work over the years have helped connect our Spanish department and the wider Yale community with the Spanish-speaking people in New Haven. It's been a huge effort that's truly made a difference for both us and the Hispanic communities here. Thanks again for all your excellent work!



Leveraging Literacy: The Social Impact of “Borders and Globalization in Hispanophone Cultures”

by Luna Nájera

The social value of higher education is increasingly challenged and often dismissed as elitist. Showcasing the social impact of academic work is vital to counter these critiques and to stress the importance of the humanities in addressing contemporary challenges. In the fall 2024 semester, I addressed this challenge by designing a creative project assignment for my advanced Spanish language course, Borders and Globalization in Hispanophone Cultures. In their projects, students drew upon their knowledge of border theory, Spanish and Latin American culture and history, and multiliteracy to create innovative multimodal media aimed at supporting Spanish-speaking migrant communities, particularly those vulnerable to misinformation. Below are samples dealing with fraude notarial (notarial fraud).

[Video 1](#)[Video 2](#)[Video 3](#)[Comic Book](#)

The goal of this groundbreaking project was to enhance students' literacy and communication skills in Spanish by challenging them to convey complex information to authentic audiences whose histories we studied. Students converted official immigration resources into engaging multimodal products, including videos, posters, brochures, interactive maps, and comic strips. These resources address critical issues such as avoiding notario fraud, finding accredited attorneys, accessing case information, and understanding their rights. Now in circulation, these resources are making a significant impact among migrants and migrant-serving communities in Connecticut and beyond.

A key factor in the success of this project was the establishment of strong partnerships with community actors who have first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by migrants. For two years I have collaborated with immigration attorney and Clinical Law Professor Sheila Hayre (Quinnipiac University). Her insights and a curated list of essential, but hard-to-access, materials have ensured that the students' work met real community needs.

By transforming text into multimodal media to support vulnerable communities, this project underscores the important role that higher education can play in situations of precarity. It also prepares students to be impactful social actors, thereby mobilizing their agency. This initiative exemplifies how language learning and content knowledge can extend beyond the classroom, fostering both student growth and community well-being. It demonstrates to students, the public, and our colleagues the profound social impact that higher education can have on the lives of vulnerable populations. Additionally, it underscores the indispensable role of language learning in higher education and beyond, enabling students to use their multimodal literacy to address the challenges posed by mass migration that is driven by neocolonialism, climate change, and neoliberal policies.

Construção de Comunidade

por Rafael Silva Lemos

A idéia de construção de comunidade implica na existência, não de algo em comum, mas de um comum. Vivemos em um momento onde o comum e a sociabilidade se encontram capturados e privatizados por corporações que maximizam seu lucro através da comercialização de produtos imateriais (informação, conhecimento) produzidos com trabalho coletivo. Sob essa perspectiva, é fácil compreender que o sistema premiará a performance do sujeito que melhor se alinhe ao discurso hegemônico. O resultado disso é a precarização da mão-de-obra, o esgotamento do sujeito e um alcance muito limitado da noção de comum, e portanto de comunidade, uma vez que essa só pode ser vista como a soma de individualidades performativamente únicas. Assim, o objetivo se converte na esfera privada em sucesso individual, na esfera pública em reprodução e manutenção da hegemonia. A manutenção da hegemonia do indivíduo progressivamente extermina a possibilidade de futuro, uma vez que impossibilita a imaginação de outras construções comunitárias.

Em certas línguas Bantu existe o conceito de Ubuntu, que é traduzido normalmente como “eu sou porque nós somos” ou “My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours” (Desmond Tutu). Em Ubuntu, presentes não são apenas os vivos, mas também os antepassados e os que estão por-vir. Ubuntu oferece uma visão do comum, como pacto de solidariedade intergeracional. Se a corrente apreensão do comum nos compele a reprodução de um discurso hegemônico, e portanto, pela equivalência e substituição do comum pelo igual, a visão que exponho aponta para uma alternativa, de entender o comum não tanto pelo que somos, mas sobretudo pelo que não somos, que é algo necessariamente mais plural e diverso do que nos mesmos. Nesse sentido, comum é a possibilidade de abertura de caminhos, comum é garantir que as diferenças tenham espaço enquanto diferenças, que outros discursos tenham voz, que outros corpos circulem. A língua é uma das instâncias fundamentais da produção do comum.

A chegada do Catalão em nosso departamento é uma alegria, assim como também pode ser a chegada do Guaraní ou do Quechua, línguas indígenas com o maior número de falantes nas Américas. Construir comunidade é fortalecer línguas que não conhecemos, mas também ciências que ignoramos, saberes que não nos pertencem: é necessário que as ciências de Ramon Llull e Mãe Stella de Oxóssi participem simultaneamente do nosso comum, assim como as filosofias de Carlos Gardel, Alfredo Zitarrosa e Noel Rosa, ou a observação social ao modo de Wilfredo Lam, Siqueiros ou Heitor dos Prazeres. Há muita construção comunitária e saber nas vozes de Héctor Lavoe e Candeia, nas de Mano Brown e René (Residente), é preciso ouvi-los como são: sem intérpretes ou porta-vozes, pois o conteúdo em si de um discurso não é necessariamente contrahegemônico, a inclusão de certas vozes, de certos corpos não é garantia da construção de comunidade. Dar espaço e ouvir é importante, mas não basta. Decisivas são as formas como vozes e corpos tomam parte do poder com menos instâncias consultivas e mais instâncias de deliberação com participação direta, um comum com múltiplas formas de produção e circulação.

Nesse sentido, são eixos fundamentais para nosso horizonte de futuro comum iniciativas como o Argalógia, organizado pela Katherina Frangi, e a peça Ti Xa Tes, dirigida pela Sofia Fernandez. Nosso departamento hoje abarca muitos músicos, escritores, poetas (entre estudantes e professores) e, em última instância, assim como a língua, a criatividade é o cerne do trabalho da educação como um todo. É essa polifonia, feita de diálogos com o passado e o porvir que pode oferecer ao nosso presente a oportunidade do compromisso ético e solidário de não capturar o discurso alheio e não privatizar o poder, para seguirmos alargando as bases da nossa comunidade.

Construcción de Comunidad

por Rafael Silva Lemos

La idea de construcción de comunidad implica la existencia, no de algo en común, sino de un común. Vivimos en un momento en el que lo común y la sociabilidad se encuentran capturados y privatizados por corporaciones que maximizan sus lucros a través de la comercialización de productos inmateriales (información, conocimiento) producidos con trabajo colectivo. Desde esta perspectiva, es fácil comprender que el sistema premiará la actuación del sujeto que mejor se alinee con el discurso hegemónico. El resultado de esto es la precarización de la mano de obra, el agotamiento del sujeto y un alcance muy limitado de la noción de común, y, por lo tanto, de comunidad, ya que esta solo puede ser vista como la suma de individualidades performativamente únicas. Así, el objetivo se convierte, en la esfera privada, en el éxito individual, y en la esfera pública, en la reproducción y manutención de la hegemonía. La hegemonía del individuo elimina progresivamente la posibilidad de futuro, ya que imposibilita la imaginación de otras construcciones comunitarias.

En ciertas lenguas bantú existe el concepto de Ubuntu, que normalmente se traduce como "yo soy porque nosotros somos" o "My humanity is caught up, is inextricably bound up, in what is yours" (Desmond Tutu). En Ubuntu, no solo están presentes los vivos, sino también los antepasados y los que están por venir. Ubuntu ofrece una visión de lo común como un pacto de solidaridad intergeneracional. Si la actual aprehensión de lo común nos compele a la reproducción de un discurso hegemónico y, por lo tanto, a la equivalencia y sustitución de lo común por lo igual, la visión que expongo apunta a una alternativa: entender lo común no tanto por lo que somos, sino sobre todo por lo que no somos, que es algo necesariamente más plural y diverso que nosotros mismos. En este sentido, común es la posibilidad de abrir caminos, lo común es garantizar que las diferencias tengan espacio como diferencias, que otros discursos tengan voz, que otros cuerpos circulen. El lenguaje es una de las instancias fundamentales de la producción de lo común.

La llegada del catalán a nuestro departamento es una alegría, así como también lo puede ser la llegada del guaraní o del quechua, lenguas indígenas con el mayor número de hablantes en las Américas. Construir comunidad es fortalecer lenguas que no conocemos, pero también ciencias que ignoramos, saberes que no nos pertenecen: es necesario que las ciencias de Ramón Llull y Mãe Stella de Oxóssi participen simultáneamente de nuestro común, así como las filosofías de Carlos Gardel, Alfredo Zitarrosa y Noel Rosa, o la observación social al estilo de Wilfredo Lam, Siqueiros o Heitor dos Prazeres. Hay mucha construcción comunitaria y saber en las voces de Héctor Lavoe y Candeia, en las de Mano Brown y René (Residente), y es preciso escucharlos tal como son: sin intérpretes ni portavoces, porque el contenido en sí de un discurso no es necesariamente contrahegemónico. La inclusión de ciertas voces, de ciertos cuerpos, no garantiza la construcción de comunidad. Dar espacio y escuchar es importante, pero no basta. Son decisivas las formas en que las voces y los cuerpos participan en el poder, con menos instancias consultivas y más instancias de deliberación con participación directa, un común con múltiples formas de producción y circulación.

En este sentido, son ejes fundamentales para nuestro horizonte de futuro común iniciativas como Argalogía, organizada por Katherina Frangi, y la obra Ti Xa Tes, dirigida por Sofía Fernández. Nuestro departamento hoy abarca muchos músicos, escritores, poetas (entre estudiantes y profesores) y, en última instancia, al igual que la lengua, la creatividad es el núcleo del trabajo educativo en su conjunto. Es esta polifonía, hecha de diálogos con el pasado y el porvenir, la que puede ofrecer a nuestro presente la oportunidad de un compromiso ético y solidario: no capturar el discurso ajeno y no privatizar el poder, para seguir ampliando las bases de nuestra comunidad.



Variantes

During the last academic year, the Creative Forum Faculty Board—Alex Gil, Mayte López, and Santiago Acosta—convened a meeting to propose an exciting idea: founding a literary and artistic magazine. The response from graduate students in attendance was overwhelmingly enthusiastic. However, as with any project starting from scratch, we faced the challenge of determining the magazine's identity and scope.

By Fall 2024, the Editorial Team was ready to embark on the journey. Joining me were Katherina Frangi, Sofía Fernández González, Orit Gugenheim Katz, Casandra Garza Reséndez, Luis Prieto, Zoe Guiney, and Sofía Masdeu. Together, we worked to create *Variantes*, the literary and fine arts magazine of Yale's Department of Spanish and Portuguese, hosted by the Creative Forum.

The magazine was envisioned as a dual-purpose project with two distinct objectives. First, it aimed to serve as a pedagogical platform by providing undergraduate students in our department the opportunity to publish their creative work. Second, it sought to reach beyond Yale, issuing an open call for submissions to curate outstanding contributions from authors in the U.S. and abroad. Following an extensive outreach effort, we received over thirty external submissions and seven undergraduate pieces nominated by department faculty. After a rigorous selection process, *Variantes* proudly published twenty exceptional works.

Reflecting on this journey, I believe I speak for the entire team when I say we underestimated *Variantes*'s third, unanticipated objective: its value as a professional and pedagogical experience for us as editors. From making editorial decisions and distributing tasks to managing communication with authors and navigating uncharted territory, the process was both challenging and deeply rewarding.

As we celebrate the publication of Issue 0, we look forward to seeing how *Variantes* continues to grow as a vibrant, creative space within our department and beyond.

Ana Fernández-Blázquez

Lead Editor 2024

Our community on Instagram

As the Community Outreach Assistant for the Yale Spanish and Portuguese Department, I am pleased to share our ongoing Instagram initiative, which has been actively growing for over a year. Our social media platform has become a crucial tool for connecting our academic community, offering insights into the world of our department.

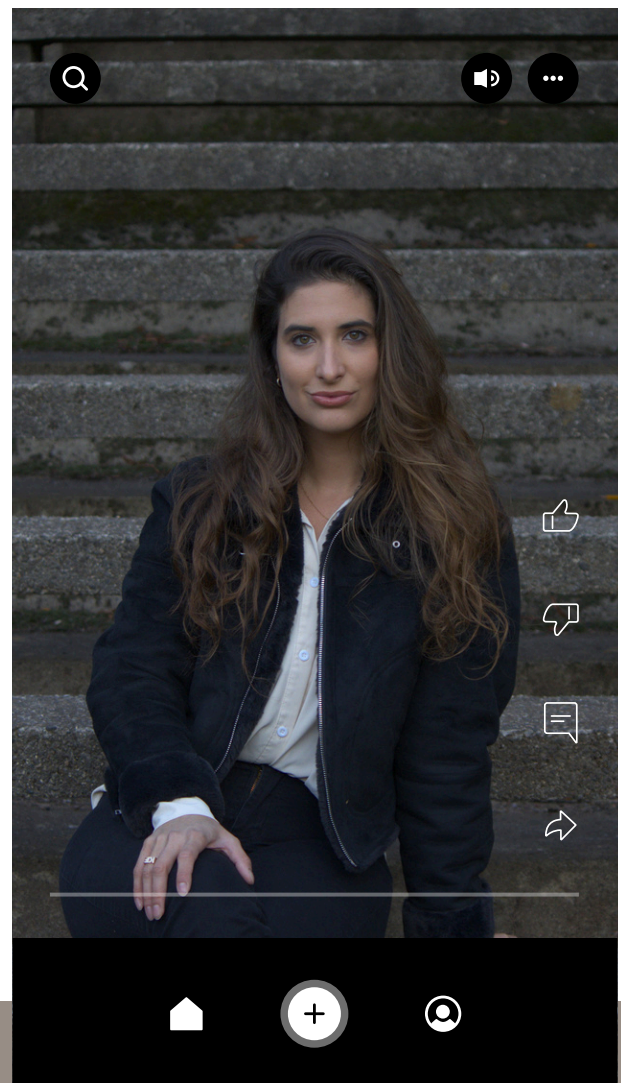
On Instagram, we upload a wide range of information that captures the dynamic life of our academic community. From announcing upcoming talks and lectures to highlighting recent publications, sharing details about courses, and showcasing events that our community is participating in, our platform provides a comprehensive view of our departmental activities.

One of our key focuses has been the "get to know us" section, where we spotlight the diverse individuals of our academic community. From professors and lecturers to graduate students, this feature provides a personal glimpse into the lives and work of our department members. The Instagram account has become more than just a communication channel—it's a living archive of our community's growth, achievements, and shared experiences. As we continue to develop this platform, we remain committed to authentically representing the Spanish and Portuguese Department's spirit of collaboration, intellectual curiosity, and community.

A key element of our Instagram profile is the content sent to us by our community members. I highly encourage everyone to email me about events, interviews, courses, or if you would like to be featured in our "get to know us" section. This is truly the department's Instagram, and we are incredibly enthusiastic about showcasing our community's work.

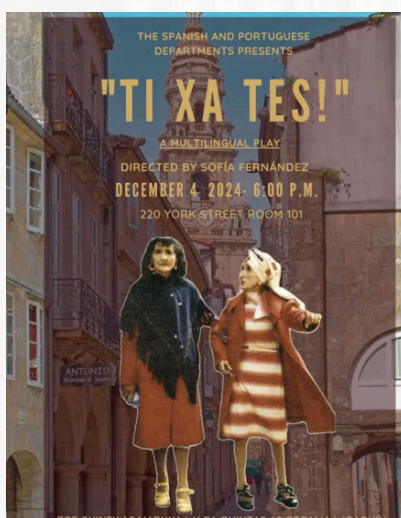
Katherina Frangi

Community Outreach Assistant



THE GRADUATE CORNER

The graduate students in Yale's Department of Spanish and Portuguese are passionate cultural creators and readers who extend their academic interests into dynamic community events. Their commitment goes far beyond traditional scholarship, showcasing a deep love for artistic expression and cultural exchange. This semester, their events included, Queer Literature in Spanish Working Group, Literary Bites: Recitajes, Argalogia 2: Multilingual Open Mic, and the multilingual play, *Ti Xa Tes!*



QUEER LITERATURE IN SPANISH FALL 2024

19 sept., 10 oct.
7 nov., 5 dic.
Entre las 5-6pm.



EVENTS SPOTLIGHT



We are proud to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our esteemed colleague, Noël Valis, Kingman Brewster, Jr. Professor of Spanish and Portuguese. Professor Valis has been elected to the [American Academy of Sciences and Letters](#), and received Special Mention by the Victoria Urbano Award for her 2024 essay "Spanish Lessons". Congratulations on these outstanding accomplishments, Professor Valis! We are immensely proud of your continued success and contributions to our field.

Congratulations

Maripaz García. Awarded the Yale MacMillan Course Travel Grant (\$20,000) to take her SPAN 145 students to Santo Domingo (Dominican Republic) in March 2025.

Alex Gil. Awarded a Mellon Grant as Co-Pi of the Black Beyond Data team to host a series of national conversations on the future of the Historical Record of the Black Diaspora (\$1.25M)

Orit Gugenheim Katz. Awarded the Translation Initiative Fellowship to conduct research in Buenos Aires (at institutions including IWO and AMIA) to translate Alberto Gerchunoff's works to English. July, 2024.

Olivia Lott, Semifinalist for National Translation Award in Poetry, for Juan Calzadilla's *The Roof of the Whale Poems* (U Wisconsin P, 2023), co-translated with Katherine M. Hedeem.

Luna Nájera. Awarded the Fulbright Specialist Fellowship at the University of Cagliari's Dipartimento di Lettere, Lingue e Beni Culturali for a project, titled: "The Production of Nature in the Early Modern Spanish Empire."-- Summer fellowship at the [Vigilanz Kulture Research Centre](#) at the Ludwig Maximilians Universität, München, for completion of her book chapter.

Lourdes Sabé. Awarded Professional Development Leave (PDL) for Spring 2025. Project title: Developing Interpretive Comprehension Skills: Authentic Texts for the Elementary Spanish Learner.

Aurélie VIALETTE, Awarded Frederick W. Hilles Publication Fund of Yale University to translate *The Cultural Legacies of Slavery in Modern Spain to Spanish*. Fall 2024 (\$6,000); Griswold Faculty Research Grant to travel to the Philippines. Fall 2024 (\$6,840). Yale FAS Travel Grant. Fall 2024 (\$1,000).

RECOGNITIONS

We are thrilled to congratulate **Lourdes Sabé** and **Jesús Velasco** for their instrumental role in integrating the Catalan language into the Yale College curriculum. Lourdes has been exceptionally dedicated, hosting monthly Catalan tables over the past few years where enthusiasts have gathered to share the language and culture during lunchtime—an excellent addition to our cultural events offerings. Thanks to their persistent efforts, the Language Study Committee has approved the inclusion of Catalan. Pending final approval by the Course of Study Committee, Catalan language courses will soon count for credit and fulfill the language requirement. This achievement is a testament to their dedication and hard work. Congratulations, Lourdes and Jesús, on this significant contribution!

PROFESSIONAL INTERVENTIONS

CONFERENCES/PRESENTATIONS

Santiago Acosta, Invited Talk: “The Climate of Poetry: Interdisciplinary Perspectives from the Environmental Humanities.” Latin American Studies Consortium of Northern California (LASC-NorCal), hosted at San Jose State University (SJSU), May 10, 2024.-- Conference Presentation: “Making and Breaking Petrodemocracy: Speculative Disasters and the Political Ecology of the ‘Caracazo.’” 6th Biennial Conference of the Petrocultures Research Group, University of Southern California, May 15-18, 2024.--Conference Presentation: “Poéticas de la carroña: Estética y política del petróleo en la poesía de Carlos Contramaestre.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Conference, Bogotá, Colombia, June 12-15, 2024. --Inaugural Lecture: “City of Oil: The Political Ecology of Urban Photography in Caracas.” Department of Spanish and Portuguese, September 13, 2024. --Santiago Acosta, Moderator and Discussant: Ancestral Clouds Ancestral Claims, Film Screening and Q&A with Denise Ferreira da Silva and Arjuna Neuman, Whitney Humanities Center, October 9, 2024.

Sybil Alexandrov and Alejandro Lee (Santa Monica College) invited to present “No es nula su huella: La diáspora asiática en Hispanoamérica: Inclusión, relevancia y recursos,” for the Sheri Spaine Long Professional Development Series sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP) on October 11, 2024.

Kevin W. Ennis. “The Ancestral Tongue: Preserving Language, Knowledge, and Culture in Ytanajé Cardoso’s *Canumã*.” 13th International Conference of the American Portuguese Studies Association (APSA). Brown University, Providence, RI. 4–6 October 2024.

Ana Fernández-Blázquez. “Something Like a ‘Spanish’ Sense of Belonging: Early Modern Immigration and Citizenship Discourses Today.” Indelible Footprints Colloquium. Princeton University. October 26, 2024 --“Bulos, literatura y populismo discursivo: una relación quijotesca.” III Congreso Internacional Tránsitos. Universidad de Cádiz. November 21, 2024.

Katherina Frangi. “La dislocación y el delirio en *Los animales de Montevideo* de Felipe Polleri”, Congreso Internacional Orbis Tertius, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina, April 24-26.

Maripaz García. Invited talk: “An intermediate Spanish course centered on Hispanics: From a grammar-driven to a theme-based curriculum”. Center for Hispanic Studies, Duquesne University. Pittsburgh, PA. September 16, 2024. --At the AHH Conference in Tarragona: “Los múltiples beneficios de las conversaciones virtuales sincrónicas: Activismo en la comunidad y beneficios lingüísticos, culturales y personales” (With Lourdes Sabé [Yale] and Lucía Osa-Melero [Duquesne University]) and “El rediseño de un curso intermedio de español como lengua extranjera para estudiantes del siglo XXI”. Association of Hispanic Humanities XI International Conference. Diversidad y pluralidad en el mundo hispánico. Tarragona, Spain. June 26-28, 2024. -- “An intermediate Spanish course redesign from grammar-driven to theme-based.” ACTFL Annual Convention. Philadelphia, USA. Nov. 22-24, 2024.

Alex Gil. Keynotes and guest lectures in the United States, Scotland, Mexico, England, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. Had tons of fun organizing the Caribbean Digital XI in Jamaica.

Aníbal González Invited talk: “Ciencia ficción hispanoamericana: un arte de anacronismo?” at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid, sponsored by the Departamento de Literaturas Hispánicas. May 30, 2024.

Orit Gugenheim Katz. “Jewishness in the Latin American Imagination.” Association for Jewish Studies Conference. December 18, 2024.

María José Gutiérrez. Invited talk: “Rebel Dolls: Science Fiction and Feminism” at the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, and Cultures at Quinnipiac University, June 10, 2024. -- “¿Hablar de ciencia ficción es también hablar de feminismo? Las poshumanas responden.” Latin American Studies Association. Reacción y resistencia: Imaginar futuros posibles en las Américas. Bogotá, Colombia, June 12-15, 2024.

Mayte López. “Fuera del marco: Silencios, ausencia y evidencia en *Los dos retratos*, de Norah Lange.” Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Bogotá, Colombia. June 12-15, 2024. --“Nueva York: Un punto de encuentro para el español y otras lenguas”. Roundtable. Feria Internacional del Libro de Nueva York/The Mexican Studies Institute at The City University of New York. BMCC Tribeca Performing Arts Center. New York. Oct 12, 2024.

Olivia Lott. Colloquium speaker for “The Black-Latinx Colloquium Series” at the University of Illinois-Chicago. October 10, 2024.

Sofía Masdeu. “Contradicciones y silencios en la construcción del archivo colonial del Río de la Plata. La conquista de una raza condenada a desaparecer en *En esa época* (2001), de Sergio Bizzio.” XI Congreso Internacional Orbis Tertius, La Plata, Argentina, April 24-26, 2024.--“Get Out if You Can: The Creation of a Local Gothic and Fantastic Literature in Río de la Plata.” Annual Conference of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Bogotá, Colombia, June 12-15, 2024.

Luna Nájera. "Relational Networks of Knowing: Plant Knowledge and an Ethic of Care from the Chagra." Track: Otros Saberes and Alternative Methods. Latin American Studies Association, Bogotá, 06/12-15.

Luis Prieto. "La écfrosis y la espuma: La poesía modernista de Juana Borrero," Panel: "Estudios de Literatura com focos específicos," I Congresso Internacional de Linguagem, Literatura e Discurso, Universidade Federal Do Maranhão, December 2024.

Lourdes Sabé. "Los múltiples beneficios de las conversaciones virtuales sincrónicas: Activismo en la comunidad y beneficios lingüísticos, culturales y personales" (With Maripaz García [Yale] and Lucía Osa-Melero [Duquesne University]) "Establecimiento y organización de intercambios virtuales interinstitucionales". Association of Hispanic Humanities XI International Conference. Diversidad y pluralidad en el mundo hispánico. Universitat Rovira i Virgili. Tarragona, Spain. June, 2024.

Noelia Sánchez-Walker, Invited talk: "Advancing Social Justice Through Language Teaching: from Theory and Praxis to Meaning" in the panel titled "Language and Social Justice" held at UCLA NHLRC Fifteenth Heritage Language Research Institute at the University of California, Irvine on Jun 11, 2024.

Noël Valis. Panel Participant, "Free Speech at Yale and Beyond," with David Bromwich and Sally Satel. Buckley Institute, New Haven, May 25, 2024. --"Reading Federico García Lorca's *Poet in New York*," Roundtable at the 92nd Street Y, New York, Aug. 20, 27; Sept. 3, 2024 (Virtual) -- "Marina Romero Remembered," Research Colloquium, Rutgers University, Dec. 4, 2024 (Virtual).

Aurélie Vialette. "Nuevas investigaciones en torno a Josep Anselm Clavé. Un proyecto digital." Universidad de Salamanca. June 7, 2024. -- "Penal colonies." Carceral Spain and the Philippines. El Taller – NYU Madrid. June 25, 2024. -- "Concepción Arenal: violencia y ley." Violencias opacas. El discurso de las escritoras en la prensa femenina peninsular y la agencia en el espacio público (1848-1918). Barcelona, 17-18 de junio de 2024.--Joao Pina. *Tarrafal*. Book presentation Heyman Center for the Humanities. Columbia University. October 23, 2024.--"Colonial Incarceration and its Legacies in the Southern Philippines." Justice-in-Education Forum. Columbia University. October 30, 2024. Discussant for "Thermal (dis)Comfort: Environmental Design Conditions of the Bahay Na Bato Houses" by Alberto Martínez García. Classed Nature workshop in the Environmental Humanities and Southeast Asia Studies. Yale University. Council on Southeast Asia studies, December 2, 2024.

Lisa Voigt. Offered several workshops on publication in US academic journals in 2024: in Mexico City, Lisbon, Oslo, Seville, and St. Louis. She presented "Blanco parece crudo: Glossing Whiteness in Early Modern Lisbon" at Iberian Seascapes: Culture, Performance, and Resistance in Asia, Africa, and the Americas (May) and at the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies 53rd Annual Conference (July), both in Lisbon, Portugal. While on research leave in fall 2024, delivered lectures at Washington University-St. Louis, University of Oslo, and Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Seville), and she presented at the conference "The Book of Books: The Libro de los epitomes in context" at the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters in Copenhagen. She was also a guest instructor at Archives of Colonial Dis/Possession: Centering Non-European Perspectives on Wealth (15th-18th Centuries), a VolkswagenFoundation Summer School in Seville, Spain, September 30 to October 4.

PUBLICATIONS

Acosta, Santiago. “Unearthing Value: Visions of Gold in Contemporary Venezuelan Art.” *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, vol 34, issue 1. (Accepted for publication, forthcoming in Spring 2025.); *La desesperanza: Antología poética*. Prologue by Gustavo Guerrero. Madrid: Visor Libros, 2024.

Gil, Alex.*And the Dogs Were Silent, by Aimé Césaire*. Edition, translation and critical introduction. Duke University Press, 2024.

Gutiérrez, María José. “Inappropriate Monsters, Biopolitics, and a Sterile Modernity / Monstruos inapropiados, biopolítica y modernidad estéril.” (Prologue to the bilingual edition of *Inti Huamán o Eva Again* by Efraím Castillo). Editores Isla Negra, pp. 7-73, 2024.

Jones, Nicholas. *Cervantine Blackness*. Penn State University Press, 2024.

Lott, Olivia. “The Battle of Legibility.” Special Forum: the 2023 PEN Manifesto on Literary Translation, ed. Brad Harmon and Eleni Theodoropoulos. *MLN*, vol. 138, no. 5, 2024, pp. 1572-1577.

Masdeu, Sofia. Epilogue in *Educación intercultural y políticas públicas en América Latina*, edited by Víctor Díaz. Ariadna Ediciones, 2024.

Sabé, Lourdes. Textbook review. *Trayectorias: español práctico*. McGraw Hill publisher. *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos* (Washington U., St. Louis) Volume 58.1, 2024.

Valis, Noël. “The Enchantment of Don Quixote” (*Modern Age*, 2024) was included in the online site, Real Clear Books and Culture, Apr. 16, 2024.

Vialette, Aurélie. “The Failed Panopticon? Architecture, Social Projects and the Problematic Notion of “Model” in Barcelona’s Presó Model” *Postcolonial Spain. Coloniality, Violence and Independence*, edited by Helena Miguelez-Carballeira, University of Wales Press, 2024, pp. 191-209; “You Said Independence? The Case of Scotland’s and Catalonia’s Nationalisms: A Discussion of J.H. Elliot’s Scots & Catalans: Union and Disunion.” *Boundary 2*, 2024, pp. 223-249.

Voigt, Lisa. “‘Pública Notícia’: Black Brotherhoods and Corporate Subjectivity in Eighteenth-Century Brazil” in *Slave Subjectivities in the Iberian World* (16th-20th centuries), ed. Ângela Barreto Xavier, Cristina Nogueira da Silva and Michel Cahen (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2024), 117-133.

FALL 2024 EVENTS






CINE MEDICINA, UNA MIRADA CONTRA COLONIAL PARA LA LIBERACIÓN INDÍGENA

Una charla con **FRANCISCO HUICHAQUEO**. Cineasta, artista curador y profesor de la Escuela de Artes de la Universidad de Concepción, Chile

17/09/24
15:00-16:00 horas
Luce Hall 203
34 Hillhouse Avenue




Patrocinado: Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM); Poynter Center for Teaching and Learning; Council on Latin American & Iberian Studies (CLAIS); Department of Spanish and Portuguese




De la partitura a la escena: la dirección musical en la zarzuela

featuring José Sánchez

This event is in Spanish.
Friday, September 27 • HQ 134
12:30-2:00pm
Lunch will be served




The Theater of Capital

with Alisa Zhulina

in conversation with Nuria Sánchez Matías, Julie Peters, and Marc Robinson

We invite you to join us for a dramatic evening of dialogue with Alisa Zhulina (NYU Tisch) and her groundbreaking *The Theater of Capital*

Learn more

LITERARY ES

by Luis Prieto



with Marcos García Barrero







Ana Lucia Araujo

Why We Need to Look at Africa and Brazil When Studying the History of Atlantic Slave Trade and Slavery with Inés Forjaz de Lacerda and Yohely Comprés Henríquez

Tuesday, October 1 • HQ 134
5:30-7:00pm
Reception to Follow




Enric Bou

Foodscapes y literatura. El sabor de los libros with Aurélie Vialette

Monday, October 7 • HQ 107
1:00-3:00pm
A delicious lunch will be served



For more information, visit creativeforum.yale.edu

TALKING WITH TIME: A NEW INTERPRETATION OF MEXICA CALENDRIC DIVINATION

A talk by James Maffie, Emeritus
Department of History
University of Maryland

September 30, 2024
4:00-5:30 PM

Humanities Quadrangle 273
320 York St.
Yale University

Sponsors: Department of Spanish & Portuguese, Department of the History of Art, Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM)








Indigenous Cinemas and Futurities in Brazil

featuring Olinda Yawar Tupinambá & Ziel Karapotó

in conversation with Jamille Pinheiro Dias

Co-sponsored by the Poynter Fellowship in Journalism

Yale Premiere

The Latino and Iberian Film Festival at Yale

Nov 4, 7PM
53 Wall St.

"In the shadow of the Border-Industrial Complex, immigrants are building a movement rooted in human connection and the sanctity of life"







Andrew Hui

Associate professor of humanities at Yale-NUS College, Singapore

A conversation on his recent book, *The Study: The Inner Life of Renaissance Libraries*

(Princeton University Press, 2024)

interdisciplinariaidad sonora entre el pensamiento, la música y la literatura

turnée d'étude with Magda Polo Pujadas

in conversation with Sofia Fernández González

Mon, October 21
HQ 107
5:30PM




for more information, visit creativeforum.yale.edu



BORDERLAND

THE LINE WITHIN

Film screening followed by a conversation with Pamela Yates, Paco de Onís, and Alex Gil

Sponsored by The Department of Spanish & Portuguese, The Poynter Fellowship in Journalism, The MacMillan Center, LA Sociedad de Latin Law Students, The Yale Law Immigrant Justice Project, the James and Dorothy Kemper Fund, and The Program in Ethnicity, Race, and Migration (ERAM)

Thursday, December 5
12:00pm
HQ 134





IN THE WORKS

Department Website Relaunch

El Observatorio

An Undergraduate Spanish Club

Collective Research Sprints

Galician Language and Culture Tables

Spanish Conversation Group