

Spring 2021 Newsletter



Professors Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez-Melgosa Publish New Book

Since 1992, when King Juan Carlos declared Spain as the “home” of the descendants of the Jews expelled in 1492, a wide range of cultural, political, legal, touristic, and institutional initiatives have engaged in the “re-discovery” of the country’s Jewish heritage. These initiatives have put the memory of Jewish Spain to “work” for a variety of political, economic, and identity ends. In *The Memory Work of Jewish Spain* (Indiana UP, December 2020) Professors Daniela Flesler and Adrián Pérez Melgosa examine the implications of reclaiming this memory through the analysis of museums, newly reconfigured “Jewish quarters,” excavated sites, popular festivals, tourist brochures, literature, television series, and art. Within the context of the long history of Spain’s ambivalence towards its Jewish past, the book explores the effects these initiatives have had when implemented at the local, regional and national levels.



Pedro Calderón de la Barca, *Entremeses y mojigangas para autos sacramentales*, ed. Victoriano Roncero López y Abraham Madroñal, Kassel, Reichenberger, 2020

This book is a critical and annotated edition of some short comedic plays by Calderón de la Barca. These “entremeses” and “mojigangas” were performed during the Corpus Christi festival along with sacramental plays. This edition consolidates and studies thirteen of these plays, which have appeared in various forms across the 17th century.

Antología de la literatura burlesca del Siglo de Oro. Burlas picarescas, ed. Victoriano Roncero López, New York, IDEA, 2020.

Humor was the predominant element in Spanish picaresque novels written and published between 1554 and 1646. This anthology presents critical editions of some of the funniest and most outrageous jokes featured in early modern Spanish literature, ranging from *Lazarillo de Tormes* to *Estebanillo González*.



Professor Katy Vernon receives Mentoring Award

Professor Vernon received the The Graduate School's Dean's 2021 Award for Excellence in Graduate Mentoring by a Faculty Member. For many years, Professor Vernon has shown unparalleled dedication to graduate students. Through numerous enthusiastic letters included in her nomination for this award, current and former students attested to Professor Vernon's exceptional mentoring work and the lasting impact it has had in their lives.



Moisés' SPN 321 class interviewed Spanish journalist Susana Ye in Fall 2020, after discussing her documentary *Chiñol*.

Moisés Hassan Bendahan receives 2021 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student

The award recognizes outstanding graduate student teachers, evaluating "the candidate's generosity with personal time, accessibility to students and demonstration of a continual concern with the intellectual growth of individual students." From his courses in elementary, intermediate and advanced Spanish language to an MA course of his own design, "Amor, cohetes y pérdidas: Visualizing Latinx Identity in Graphic Narratives," Moisés has combined a commitment to furthering students' intellectual achievement and intellectual growth with a willingness to share his time, energy and expertise with students and colleagues alike.



Professor Joseph Pierce Receives Award for Best Article

Professor Pierce received the 2020 Best Article award from the journal *Latin American Research Review* for his article, "I Monster: Embodying Trans and Travesti Resistance in Latin America." The article interrogates how monstrosity has been harnessed by trans and travesti poets, performers, and artists, to disrupt contemporary multiculturalism in Latin America. Specifically looking at the work of Susy Shock (Argentina) and Claudia Rodríguez (Chile), Pierce argues that the unstable place of the monster in Latin American cultural production allows these artists to resist normative identity categories, while also providing alternatives to state-sponsored inclusion initiatives.



Professor Fernando Loffredo Receives Prestigious Fellowship

Professor Loffredo received Harvard's 2020-21 Inaugural Fellowship Villa I Tatti / Museo Nacional del Prado. This brand new [fellowship](#) is the result of a new cooperation agreement between the world-renowned Prado Museum and Villa I Tatti — The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies. Spending one semester in Madrid and one semester in Florence, Professor Loffredo has been conducting research for his book, *A Sea of Marble: Traveling Fountains in the Early Modern Mediterranean*, which focuses precisely on artistic relations between Spain and Italy.

Undergraduate Student Daniel Raber's Internship

Undergraduate student Daniel Raber is interning for Suffolk County legislator Samuel Gonzalez (9th Legislative District). He is working on constituent services, community events, legislative research, and public outreach in Brentwood, Central Islip, and North Bay Shore, in both English and Spanish.

Spanish is fun with Omar!

SBU Class 2020



Omar with his SPN 111 class in Spring 2020.

Stony Brook's President and Graduate Student Organization (GSO) Spotlight HLL Graduate Student and TA Omar Badessi

Omar was spotlighted as an instructor who demonstrates excellence in his teaching practices. After transitioning to remote learning, Omar created exciting hands-on activities for his Spanish and Arabic language classes that encouraged student engagement and a sense of community, such as karaoke nights and "Storyboard That" exercises. Testimonies from his students emphasize how crucial Omar's pedagogical skills, individualized attention, friendly disposition, and extra support have been amidst the difficult circumstances of the pandemic.

Our New Ways of Teaching during the Pandemic

While most of our classes are taking place online, some instructors, like Sally Sabo, have been teaching in person since August 2020. Her Spring 2021 SPN 112 class is #StonyBrookStrong!





Pensando Xibānyá: Voices from the Chinese Diaspora Lecture Series organized by Moisés Hassan and Mary Kate Donovan

In response to the rise of anti-Chinese rhetoric resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, members of Spain's Chinese community began to speak out on social media using the hashtag #NoSoyUnVirus in early 2020. These reactions are one manifestation of how, in the last decade, a new generation of Spaniards of Chinese descent have started to form social networks and build new forms of activism. While most of this emerging discourse has taken place on social media platforms, the Spring 2021 event, *Pensando Xibānyá*, organized by HLL graduate student Moisés Hassan and HLL alumni Mary Kate Donovan, aims to bring visibility to Spain's Chinese community by highlighting the work of Chinese Spanish artists, authors, and activists through a virtual lecture series to be co-sponsored by Stony Brook University and Skidmore College.

The goal of the three-part series is to provide a forum for an interdisciplinary group of voices to speak about Chinese identity in Spain and the #NoSoyUnVirus movement.

Join us for the last event in this series on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 1 pm EDT:

Activism and Education Antonio Liu Yang, Inés Herrero Gómez and Yue Fu.

[Register for this Zoom event here.](#)

We Appreciate Your Support

Last October, our Department participated in the University's second Giving Day, which had been rescheduled from its original April 2020 date due to the pandemic. We are grateful for the support of so many of you! Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to fund scholarships for our undergraduate and graduate students who are in need of financial assistance especially during these difficult times in our world.

This year, Giving Day will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. We hope you will join us once again! We depend on the support of our alumni and friends to build and improve our research and teaching opportunities through scholarships, graduate fellowships, and other experiential opportunities for our students. [Please join us on April 21!](#)

If you are interested in learning more about how you can support our students and Departmental initiatives, please feel free to contact Hodan Hassan, Assistant Dean for Advancement, at 631.632.4055.