About Us

CAT is a dynamic transdisciplinary space for the scholarly exchange of methods and concepts for analyzing complex social and cultural phenomena. We’re committed to the critical study of the transnational and transcultural flow of peoples, capital, media, and ideas as well as the production, dispersion, and reception of literary, visual, digital, and material cultures; and the theories and practices of social and political movements.
Recent Awards & Publications Kudos!

Gregory Ruf was the recipient of the College of Arts & Sciences Teaching Excellence Award for 2015.

Dylan Godwin (ABD) received the 2015 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student.

Mary Moran-Luba garnered the coveted President’s & Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

Kadjji Amin got a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities on “Sex” at the University of Pennsylvania Humanities Forum for the 2015-2016 academic year and a Stony Brook Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship for Spring 2015.

Nancy Hiemstra and E.K. Tan are both recipients of the President’s Distinguished Travel Awards.

Joaquín Murta (ABD) has been awarded a full scholarship to attend the 2015 edition of the Institute for World Literature Summer Program in Lisbon, Portugal. The Institute for World Literature, which is organized by Harvard University, is a one month intensive summer school for advanced graduate students and other specialists working in comparative literature.

Beth Taxl (ABD) was selected to give a lecture entitled “Tai Ming-liang at the Museum: Cinephilia, the French Connection, and Cinema in the Gallery” in Spring 2015 as part of the prestigious Provost’s Graduate Student Lecture Series.

Sofia Varino and Claire Yu (both ABD) won GSO Distinguished Travel Awards to support Varino’s travel to the “Approaching Posthumanism and the Posthuman” Conference and Doctoral Workshop at the University of Geneva in June 2015 and Yu’s travel to the Fourth Asian Conference on Film & Documentary in Kobe, Japan in November 2015, where she will present a paper entitled “The Way We Were: Documenting Taiwan in Qiong Yao’s Romantic Melodrama.”


Joy C. Schaefer, “‘Must We Burn Hitchcock?’ (Re)Viewing Trauma and Effecting Solidarity With The Birds (1963):” Quarterly Review of Film and Video 32, no. 4 (2015): 329-343.


Alumni News

A Case Study of Karbi Oral Traditions

Debashree Dattaray

I must have been working on student learning outcomes or revising course outlines when I got the forwarded announcement from my favorite, former Stony Brook professor about the Fulbright Program. I was in the mood for adventure. During the summer of 2013, after analyzing the Fulbright catalogue (there are many positions and they’re all different), participating in a few Fulbright webinars, and talking to someone in the Fulbright office, I applied to teach American culture in China. In May the following year I received the green light. I am currently teaching a film course to undergraduates and a course on Transcendentalism to post-grads at the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies in Guangzhou...and loving it. My eight-year old daughter is with me and attending the British School of Guangzhou. Our reception here has been heart warming: we’ve made amazing friendships both with Chinese and international faculty and their families. As a community college teacher I wasn’t sure I had the credentials that Fulbright was looking for, but happily I was wrong. I would be happy to talk to folks about the application process, the China program or other.

Rafe Dalleo (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2004) will be leaving Florida Atlantic University to join the English department at Bucknell University as an Associate Professor in fall 2015. (Elena Machado, Ph.D. English, 2004 was hired as full.) “This means we will have a chaotic summer as we move north, but we are looking forward to returning to the land of seasons!”

Maya Lang (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2007) judged the 2015 William Plummer Porter Fiction Contest at Swarthmore College, where she also gave a reading of her work. She will be teaching fiction workshops at the University of Tula and the grub Street Writing Center in Boston. She has an essay forthcoming in A Manner of Being: Writers on their Mentors (U. Mass Press, 2015). Her novel, The Sixteenth of June (Scribner), was long listed for the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize.

Elena d’Amelio (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2014) just received a one-year research scholarship from the University of San Marino, where she will work as a Research Fellow in the newly created Center for Internationalization of Higher Education.

Debashree Dattaray, who was with us as a Fulbright scholar in 2007 and who is now Associate Professor of Comparative Literature at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, has just published her long essay on Karbi oral traditions, Oral Traditions of the North East, by the Centre of Advanced Study in Comparative Literature.