ABOUT US

The Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature (CSCL) offers unique interdisciplinary B.A. programs in Cinema and Cultural Studies (CCS) and Comparative Literature (CLT). At the graduate level, our Ph.D. and M.A. tracks in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies prepare teaching researchers for the challenges of higher education in our immediate future.

Students in CSCL learn to engage with and analyze a diverse range of contemporary cultural forms and practices, including film, literature, and digital technologies from transnational, transhistorical, and transmedial perspectives. The department and its curriculum reflect the diverse backgrounds of its faculty, who bring unique training and skills across Cultural Studies, Critical Theory, Comparative and World Literatures, Film Studies, Migration and Mobility Studies, and Postcolonial Studies. CSCL serves as a hub for the comparative study of contemporary cultures, literatures, film, and media at Stony Brook University, helping to prepare students to address global issues and local concerns in today’s world.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Tim August’s book manuscript The Refugee Aesthetic: Relocating Southeast Asian America is now under contract with Temple University Press.

Greg Clinton along with Lynn have both accepted positions at Colegio Franklin Delano Roosevelt and are moving to Lima, Peru next year. Congrats to them both and well wishes on this new chapter of their journey!

Nikos Panou was installed on November 23rd as Peter V. Tsantes professor in Greek Literature and Language. Receiving his PhD in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and having been a postdoctoral fellow at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies and the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University, Nikos is invested in promoting scholarship, teaching and research in all aspects of Hellenic civilization, from Antiquity to the present. One of his principal goals is to build a stronger Center for Hellenic Studies that will serve as a forum for the study of Greek society, history and culture, and will cultivate a comprehensive understanding of Classical, post-Classical and modern Greece in their synchronic and diachronic ramifications.

AWARDS

Tim August. FAHSS Individual Research Initiative Grant, Stony Brook University.

Tim August. AHLSS Graduate Fellowship & Faculty Research Program Award, Stony Brook University.

Tim August. Distinguished Presidential Travel Award, Stony Brook University.

Joy C. Schaefer. Vivien Hartog Best Graduate Student Teacher Prize in Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies. May 2016. $3,000.

E.K. Tan. Distinguished Presidential Travel Award, Stony Brook University—$1,500.

E.K. Tan. FAHSS Interdisciplinary Initiative Fund, 2016 (Stony Brook University—$6,000) for the Lecture Series: #DigitalAsia–The Digital Humanities in Asian and Asian American Studies.
PUBLICATIONS


Sharing Common Ground: A Space for Ethics by Robert Harvey is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in May 2017. Here is a short synopsis:

Michel Foucault inspired generations of humanists when he forged the notion of “heterotopia.” Like utopias, heterotopias are at a remove – but only spatially, not temporally. Unlike utopias, heterotopias “claw and gnaw at us,” for they are of our world. Concentration camps, cemeteries, and slums are names for some of these “spaces otherwise” as Foucault was prone to put it. Unable to ignore them, what are we to make of these rebarbative spaces?


E.K. Tan moderated “Little Red Dot: Singaporean Writers on Literature and Politics” in September featuring Alfian Sa’at, Jeremy Tiang, and Ovidia Yu. The writers of fiction, drama, poetry, children’s literature, and crime stories, explored the possibilities in different genres for social commentary and action.

On Tuesday, 27 September, Dr. Claudia Calhoun delivered a lecture entitled “‘Maybe Someday But Not Yet’: Race and Liberalism in John Ford’s Sergeant Rutledge.” The presentation examined the “narrative strategies of this 1960 Western, a drama about the Buffalo Soldiers that projected 1960s race relations backwards into a nineteenth-century frontier space in order to appeal to the sympathies of contemporary audiences.” Dr. Calhoun (Ph.D. Yale University, 2014) is currently Visiting Professor of Cinema Studies at New York University.

Kathryn Silverstein, Mark Pingree, Joseph Kampfi and Maggie Desgranges co-organized this year’s CSCL Graduate Student Conference in October. “Paraspaces” was held at Stony Brook Manhattan and featured a wide array of panelists from around the nation, a keynote speech delivered by McKenzie Wark and Marine Futin as guest musical artist.

GREG CLINTON
PhD candidate · Cultural Studies, CSCL

I’m in my 5th year at Stony Brook, on the cusp of completing my dissertation. As a graduate student nearing the end of my studies, I’ve been grappling with the daunting prospect of “going on the job market” – no doubt my anxiety is shared. Instead of doing that, my wife and I have accepted jobs at Colegio Franklin Delano Roosevelt in Lima, Peru. It is a large (2,000 students) pre-K through 12th grade independent international school. Lynn will be the Assistant Principal of the elementary school, and I’ll be teaching English literature in the high school. Our children will enter the school in pre-K and first grade, and they will likely be fluent Spanish speakers inside of a year (while ostensibly an American school, the student body is approximately 60% Peruvian, so the campus is a quasi-immersion environment). We’ll be in Lima by June 30.

Why? Good question. My wife’s been very patient with me these past 5 years – it’s time she got a chance to prioritize her career aspirations. Becoming an administrator at a large, well-regarded international school is a significant step. I enjoy teaching high school English and philosophy, and at many international schools like FDR I can teach at a relatively “high level,” even compared to the undergraduate teaching I did at Stony Brook.

Contrary to what you might imagine, there’s very little risk. The international school market has developed such that to attract qualified and dedicated teachers, schools must provide copious benefits like round-trip airfare back home every year, a furnished home to live in, excellent health and retirement benefits, and so on. I plan to continue my academic research, to publish if I can, to become an affiliate at a local university and be a part of the humanities.

We are excited to break out of the bubble, to challenge our kids to see the world from multiple perspectives, and to be able, once more, to wander. It’s a rare privilege to have the freedom and resources to move around the world at will, mitigating the risks and dangers that other migrants must face – I don’t take it lightly. If nothing else, being at Stony Brook in this department has given me a deep appreciation of that privilege.

I wish you all great luck in pursuing your own goals. If you want to know how to do what we’re doing, write me an email, I’d be happy to point you in the right direction.