Comparative Literary & Cultural Studies have joined talents and forces with Women’s & Gender Studies to form the Department of Cultural Analysis & Theory. 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. Meow!

**Big News: Four New Tenure-Track Faculty – count ‘em – to Join the Department!**

In the 2013-2014 academic year, CAT must have broken some recruitment record – its own, at least. No less than four tenure-track assistant professors will add to the Department’s research and teaching power starting in the Fall: comparative literature specialist, **Tim August** (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities); visual culture & new media specialists, **Jacob Gaboury** (New York University) and **Brooke Belisle** (University of California, Berkeley); and, taking the Peter V. Tsantes Endowed Professorship in Hellenic Studies, **Nikos Panou** (Harvard University).
Introducing Our Four New Faculty Members

Jacob Gaboury writes, "Living in New York City, I’ve had the pleasure of working with so many fantastic students and faculty from CAT, and I couldn’t be more excited about joining this dynamic and interdisciplinary program in the fall. My work operates at the intersection of digital media, media archaeology, and queer studies, and I see CAT is the ideal place to support this kind of interdisciplinary research. I am currently finishing a media archaeology of early interactive 3D graphics and beginning a second project on the queer history of computation through the lens of queer failure and Alan Turing’s theories of uncomputability beginning in the 1930s. I’m therefore particularly excited to work with the faculty and students for the new Women’s and Gender Studies Ph.D. program, and to create opportunities for research and collaboration across gender, media, and cultural studies."

Tim August received his Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Comparative Literature and his M.A. from The University of Western Ontario in Theory and Criticism. Tim’s research interests include diasporic Vietnamese literature, postcolonial criticism, theories of food and eating, world literature, and Asian American studies. He has served as an assistant editor for the journal Cultural Critique and has published, or has work forthcoming, in MELUS, Mizna, The Blackwell Postcolonial Encyclopedia, and the Journal of Asian American Studies. He is currently working on a book manuscript that examines the emergence of refugee aesthetics.

Brooke Belisle, currently an ACLS fellow in CAT, will begin a tenure-track position at SBU in 2015. Jointly-appointed in CAT and the Consortium for Digital Art, Culture, and Technology, and affiliated with Art, Brooke will develop curriculum at the interdisciplinary intersections of media history and theory. She received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in Rhetoric, Film, and New Media, an additional master’s in Interactive Telecommunications from NYU, and a bachelor’s in English from Princeton. She has published articles on experimental media art, nineteenth-century visual culture, the representation of race and gender, and the problem of picturing history. Both of her current book projects — Picturing Connection and Seeing Stars — juxtapose emergent and antiquated media to ask how we visualize ethical and material relationships that constitutively exceed us.

Nikos Panou received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature from Harvard University and has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Seeger Center for Hellenic Studies and the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, Princeton University. He is coming to Stony Brook from Brown University, where he has been a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature since 2012. His current book project is titled How to Do Kings with Words: Power and Propaganda in the Ottoman Balkans. It focuses on the ways power and authority were conceptualized and represented in pre-modern philosophical discourse, with a particular emphasis on moral and political works written from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century. Nikos has written on topics ranging from Byzantine historiography to seventeenth-century satire. Among other things, he has edited a collective volume on conceptions of tyranny from Antiquity to the Renaissance that is forthcoming with Oxford University Press.
Brooke Belisle has two more peer-reviewed articles out: one in print, the other online: “Depth Readings: Ken Jacobs’ Digital, Stereographic Films,” *Cinema Journal* 53, no. 2 (February 2014): 2-26 and “I See the Moon, the Moon Sees Me: Trevor Paglen’s Satellite Images.” *Media-N.* 1, no. 1 (Spring 2014) – “Art & Infrastructures: Hardware” issue – http://median.newmediacaucus.org/art-infrastructures-hardware/i-see-the-moon-the-moon-sees-me-trevor-paglens-satellite-images/

E.K. Tan and Mary Jo Bona have been awarded a Presidential Mini-Grant for Departmental Diversity Initiatives for their project entitled, “Bridging the Gap: Interethnic Vision in Asian American and European American Migratory Studies.”

Maria Elena d’Amelio published another article, entitled “The Hybrid Star: Steve Reeves, Hercules and the Politics of Transnational Whiteness.” *Journal of Italian Cinema & Media Studies* 2, no. 2 (2014): 259-77, and received the 2014 Stony Brook President’s Award to a Distinguished Doctoral Student.

Raiford Guins and Kristen Nyitray have garnered a TLT (Teaching, Learning & Technology) TALENT Grant for their project, “Digitization of Documents for the William A. Higinbotham Game Studies Collection.” Ray edited and contributed to the themed issue “Marshall McLuhan’s Understanding the Media: The Extensions of Man @ 50” in the April 2014 issue of the *Journal of Visual Culture* (13 no. 1) and published, “After Life History: An Interview with Raiford Guins” on his Game After: A Cultural Study of Video Game Afterlife, in the themed issue “The Undead Arcade” for *Reconstruction: Studies in Contemporary Culture* 14 no. 1 (2014). In addition, on 26 April, he excavated Atari’s waste in Alamogordo, NM for the Xbox Entertainment Studios/Lightbox Entertainment documentary, *Atari: Game Over.*

Volumes III and IV of Marguerite Duras’ *Œuvres complètes* [Complete Works] were published in May by Éditions Gallimard with several texts edited, with commentary and archival work presented by Robert Harvey. Robert was also promoted to the rank of SUNY Distinguished Professor.


Laine Nooney has been named Postdoctoral Associate with the Intel Science and Technology Center for Social Computing, in the Department of Media, Culture and Communication at New York University for 2014-2015 and Ma Lunpeng has been named to a tenure-track assistant professorship at Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, Virginia.


Beth Tsai has received several grants and fellowships, with increasing value: a GSO Distinguished Travel Award ($1,500), The Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Dissertation Fellowship ($15,000), and Stony Brook’s AIISS Graduate Fellowship ($20,000).
Lilla Tőke (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2010) has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in English at CUNY, LaGuardia Community College.

Kette Thomas (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 2008) has just been tenured and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor of Diverse Literatures at Michigan Technological University.

Troubadour Italian Studies has published Shifting and Shaping a National Identity: Transnational Writers and Pluralism in Italy Today, edited by Grace Bullaro (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 1993) and Elena Benelli.

Martina Koegler (M.A. Cultural Studies, 2012) has been working as adjunct lecturer in American Studies at the University of Graz for the last two years, while hunting for grants to finance her Ph.D. We can now report that Martina just been accepted into Copenhagen University as a Ph.D. scholar. She accepted a three-year research fellowship at their Center for Transnational American Studies during which she will also write her dissertation. She also had two major publications come out last year: an article – Koegeler-Abdi, Martina. “Shifting Subjectivities: Mestizas, Nepantleras, and Gloria Anzaldúa’s Legacy.” MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S. 38, no. 2 (2013): 71-88. http://melus.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/mlt016?ijkey=go6Z2TBgwzyydzZe&keytype=ref and a co-edited book – Koegeler, Martina and Richard Parncutt, eds. Interculturality: Practice meets Research. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013.


David Seelow (Ph.D. Comparative Literature, 1990) is the Founding Executive Director of the Center for Game and Simulation-Based Learning as well as the Founder of the Online Writing Lab Center for Online Education, Learning and Academic Services at Excelsior College in Albany, New York. David was recently awarded a huge grant from the Kresge Foundation ($639,000) for which he is the P.I. (principal investigator). This is a two-year grant to develop interactive, multimedia rich learning modules for the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab which will serve both adult learners and community colleges across the nation. This grant involves partnerships with Howard Community College, Mesa College, Valencia Community College, Union County Community College, and Broome Community College. David also got the 2014 NUTN (National University Technology Network) Distance Education Innovation Award for the Online Writing Lab at Excelsior College, awarded in San Antonio, Texas, September 2014. About David’s initiatives, evaluators have this to say: “ESL Writing Online workshop is just one part of a comprehensive suite of multimedia writing instruction that is one of the largest free writing resources in the US and is one of a kind for its integration of multimedia and a video game to support writer’s learning and to help meet modern students’ needs for interaction and engagement.” and “Excelsior College’s OWL initiative offers an outstanding example of a high-impact innovation that can be widely adopted by other institutions. The incorporation of gaming strategies and the highly interactive design of OWL resources follow best practices in engaging students as active learners.”
“Humanities for the Environment” Program at the Humanities Institute, guest lecturer Greta Gaard spoke on "Gender Justice and Climate Justice: Making the Connections" on 26 March 2014.

Robert Harvey spoke on “Crime’s Expansiveness: Notes on Duras Between Journalism and Fiction” and Jessica Harwick presented her paper, "Male Places, Female Spaces: The Female Artist’s Room in Irving’s The World According to Garp" at the CAT Graduate Colloquium on 16 April 2014.

Harilyn Russo, Foundational Disability Studies and Feminist Scholar, read from her book, Don’t Call Me Inspirational on 21 April 2014.


CAT Long Table Discussion on “Zombie Culture,” 30 April 2014.

An informational forum, entitled “Ukraine: Struggle of Democracy,” on 1 May 2014.

Engaged Ethnography Workshop, in cooperation with Northeastern University, on 2 May 2014.

Abel Täke Nichols was born on 28 April 2014.

Here is Theo Yako, Elizabeth Schmermund and Fadi Yako’s son, dressed as Batman.