



Stanford | Division of Literatures,
Cultures, and Languages

Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages (DLCL)
School of Humanities & Sciences

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DLCL

2020-21
YEAR IN REVIEW

2020–21 Courses and Events

As we embraced (and braced for) a year of remote learning, our faculty, lecturers and graduate students revisited entirely their pedagogical strategies to find innovative ways to engage students and put them at the wheel of their own learning journeys.

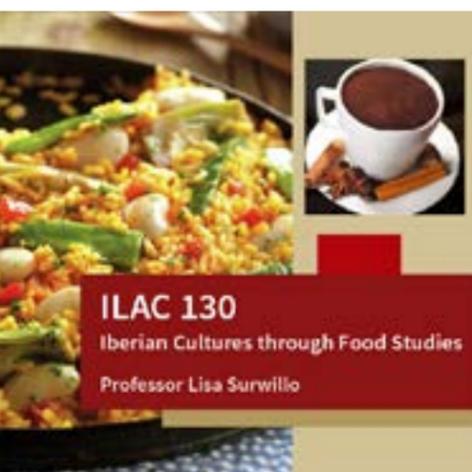
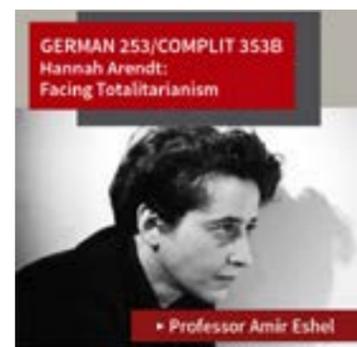
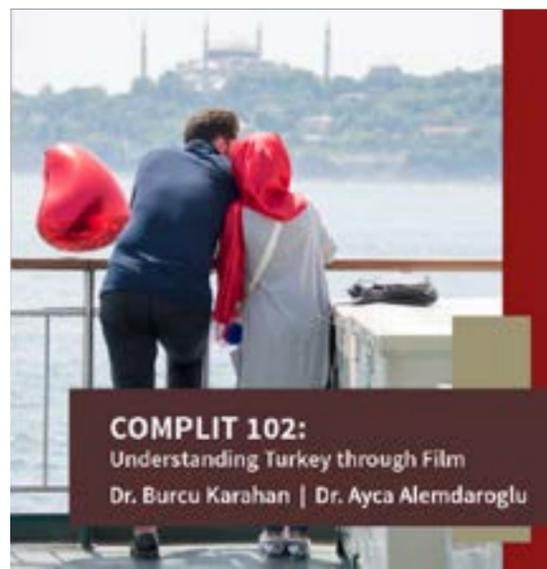
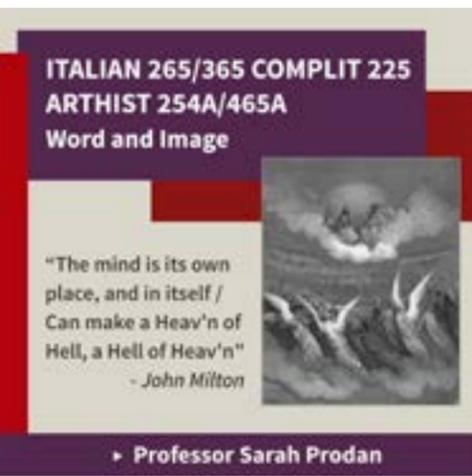
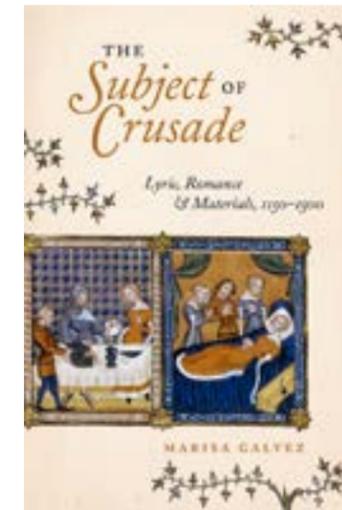
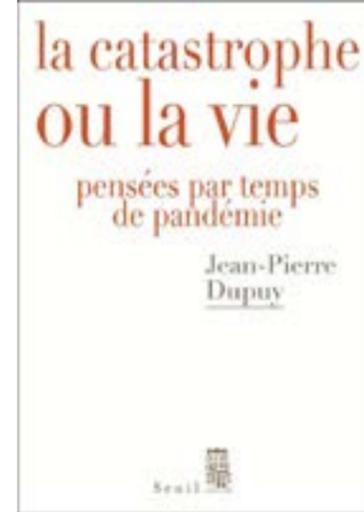
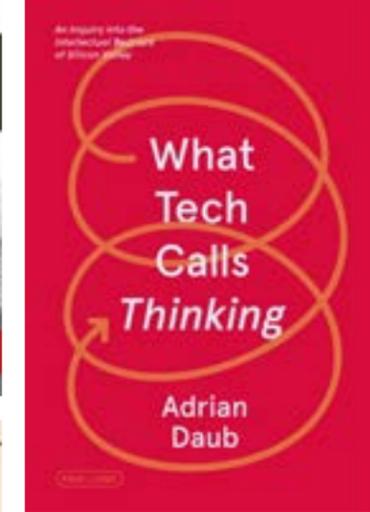
From podcasts to video essays, erasure poetry to found-objects art, peer-to-peer workshops and rhetorical debates, we have never been so creative in the myriad new ways we connected to think together while afar.

Our faculty went the extra mile to make the virtual feel as warm, rich and savory as the real.

Prof. Lisa Surwillo (ILAC) sent recipes and ingredients to the students in her class “Introduction to Iberia: Cultural Perspectives.” They learnt about Spanish and Portuguese empires and histories by reading about and cooking chocolate, arroz bomba or piri-iri. They traced the political import of the Mexican and Central American tomato to European cuisine, and then made gazpacho to share with their families.

Other faculty took advantage of remote learning to invite artists, performers and scholars from all over the world for intimate conversations with students.

Faculty Awards:
2021 Guggenheim Fellowship: Professor Vincent Barletta
Tinker Research Grant: Professor Nicole Hughes



Faculty, Graduate Students, and Lecturers

Our faculty tackle the big questions of our times. In *What Tech Calls Thinking* (2020), Prof. Adrian Daub scrutinizes the keywords that the Silicon Valley has used to fashion and justify itself. In his latest book, *La Catastrophe ou la vie*, Prof. Jean-Pierre Dupuy dissects the ethical dilemmas brought to light by the pandemic: should the polity choose the economy over saving lives? Prof. Dupuy also gave the first Michel Serres Distinguished

Lecture on May 14, 2021, on the lineage between Pascal, Leibniz and Serres.

In March 2020, graduate students Nelson Endebo (Comparative Literature), Ellis Schriefer (ILAC) and Farah Bazzi (History) launched *Life in Quarantine: Witnessing Global Pandemic*, a digital humanities oral history project that collected artworks and texts from individuals coming from 87 countries.

Centennial Teaching Assistant Awards:

Daniele Biffanti
Nelson Endebo
Laura Menendez
Olga Ovcharskaia

The DLCL Research Unit

The DLCL Research Unit is a unique institution in the nation. It was founded on the premise that research in and across literatures, cultures and languages will figure differently in the university and society of the twenty-first century—that besides making educated persons, these disciplines address some of the most pressing collective questions of the time.

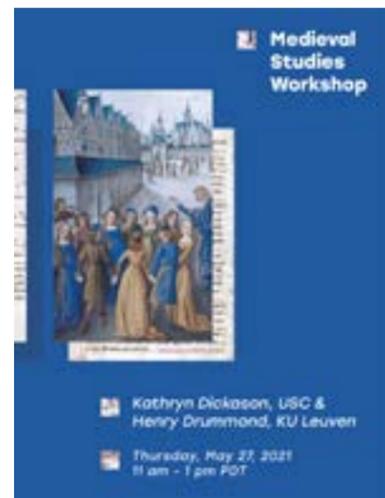
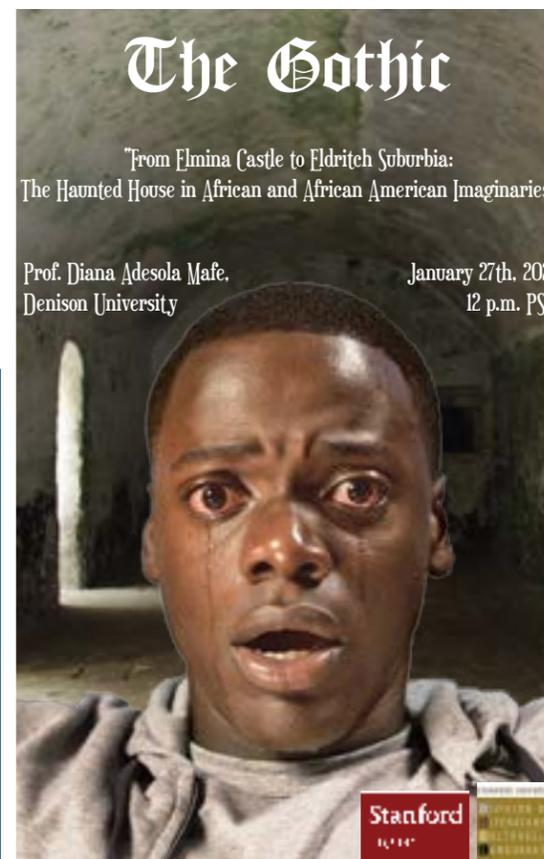
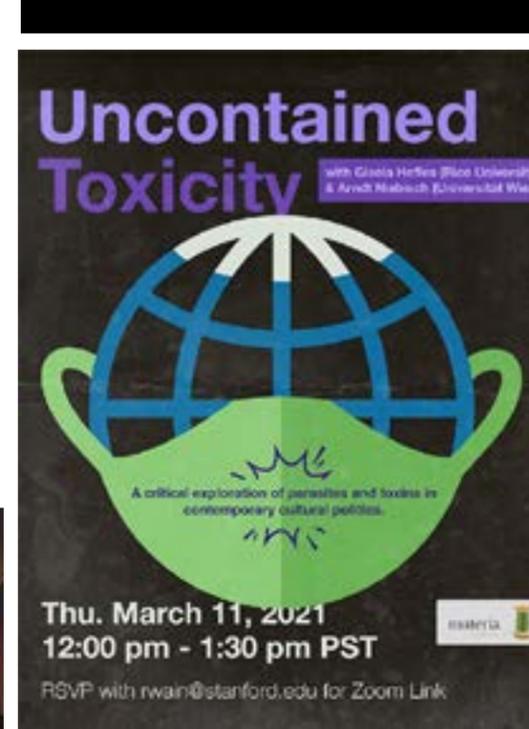
The Research Unit currently embodies the collective work of over a hundred scholars—faculty and graduate students in our five departments and beyond. The eight Focal Groups—the Collaborative Teaching Project, Materia, the Medieval Studies Workshop, Persian, Arabic, Turkish, Hebrew+ (PATH+), Philosophy & Literature, Renaissances, The Contemporary, and the Workshop in Poetics—are conceived as portals that open from the Division outward to wider communities of literary and humanities scholars.

8 • Focal Groups
 6 • Research Groups
 100+ • Faculty and Graduate Students
 100+ • Events hosted in 2020–21

This year, our community sought to probe pressing issues and revisited the past to look for the roots of concepts, representations and misrepresentations affecting our present. Talks examined “Toxicity” and viral imagery in Argentinian narratives, scholarship and activism, contemporary Indian fiction, decolonial grammar and more.

In addition to funding research, the Research Unit publishes *Mantis: A Journal of Poetry, Criticism & Translation*.

It also works closely with CMEMS, The Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies. This year, their series of talks “Race in the Archives” traced medieval representations of race in Castile, Arabic epics, Genoa and West Africa, and invited pioneering scholars in the field.



DLCL By The Numbers: 2020–21

5

DEPARTMENTS



7

MAJORS



13

MINORS



71

GRADUATE STUDENTS

41

FACULTY MEMBERS

90

LECTURERS



42 languages

ONE LANGUAGE CENTER

IN THE 2020–21 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DLCL AND THE LANGUAGE CENTER HOSTED:

256

COURSES IN LITERATURES AND CULTURES

600+

LANGUAGE SESSIONS

During this extraordinary year, students and faculty lived on five continents—from South Africa to New-Zealand, from Berlin to Sri Lanka, from Mountain View to New York, and from France to Israel.



CLASS OF 2021

10

Ph.D. Graduates

77

Undergraduate Minors

21

Undergraduate Majors

2021 Graduate Degrees



Anne Christy Burke
Slavic

Björn Buschbeck
German Studies

Nicholas Fenech
Comparative Literature

Cortney Miller Hamilton
ILAC

Lakmali Jayasinghe
Comparative Literature

Kim Anh Ngo
German Studies

Shoshana Olidort
Comparative Literature

Alexis Pearce
ILAC

Peter Tellouche
FRIT

Callie Ward
ILAC



Incoming Ph.D. Students



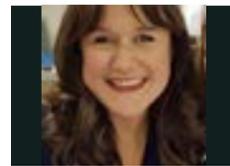
Harry Carter
Comparative Literature



Ty Davidian
Italian



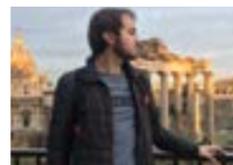
Òscar Ferrer
ILAC



Korinne Hensley
French



Ariel Horowitz
Comparative Literature



Georgii Korotkov
Slavic



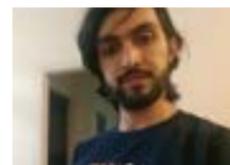
Marina Machado
Comparative Literature



Sergio Martinez
ILAC



Sam Page
Slavic



João Viana
ILAC



Katherin Yu
French

What We Were Thinking About This Year

"I spent this year thinking about hope, and where it can be found in the modern world. Does hope depend on grand narratives of historical progress or religious redemption? Do politics depend on hope, or is hope the opposite of action?"
—Courtney Hodrick

"I have been struck by how little public grieving we have seen during the pandemic."
—Laura Wittman

"As Chair, I've been thinking a lot about how immensely helpful and practical humanistic values are to serve as a moral compass with which to sail through it all."
—Cécile Alduy

"...immigration, travel, the right to freedom of movement, the right to cross borders with dignity..."

"I've been thinking a lot about how much of who we are is what we imagine, and specifically about how poets have contributed to shaping our scientific understanding of our own minds."
—Lorenzo Bartolucci

"What exactly happens when one writes, be it a scribble or the last page of a novel?"
—Romina Wainberg

—Dharshani Lakmali Jayasinghe