This year marked a much-anticipated return to campus! After months scattered in the Zoom-o-sphere, it was wonderful to see everyone in real life beaming with smiles as we resumed in-person teaching, got busy organizing workshops and conferences, and welcomed back invited guests and international scholars. The entire year felt like a delectable family reunion culminating with a cheerful end-of-year party and a grand Commencement event.

Bringing people closer, supporting each and every one of us, and renewing our commitment to our shared values and passions meant a greater emphasis on inclusion, attention to morale and mental health, and continuing to be agile and creative about socializing as we navigated the ebbs and flows of a still tumultuous year.

Our graduate and undergraduate programs were brimming with the energy and appetite of new cohorts and rejuvenated by the creativity of more advanced students eager to reconnect. Graduate students added community-building activities like “Grad Apéro” and “DLCL Volleyball” as well as the first Humanities of Color meeting group. Our faculty continued to expand the range of courses and workshops they offer to reflect the interests of our diverse community of students while opening their horizons to literatures, films, and arts from all over the world.

We’ve been also hard at work shaping the future of the DLCL. The “Rethinking the Ph.D. program” task force proposed an innovative new optional format for the dissertation that would consist of polished, published articles rather than a book-length manuscript. It detailed recommendations to further strengthen pedagogical training, advising and professionalization for a multiplicity of careers within and outside of academia.

We are also expanding with several faculty hires. Dominick Lawton will join the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures as a new tenure-track Assistant Professor in Slavic in the Fall. Alys George will join as an Acting Assistant Professor in German Studies, and we are welcoming new literature lecturers in French, Italian and Spanish. We will also be conducting two faculty searches in 2022-23 at the Junior level, in Comparative Literature and in German Studies.

This year concluded my term as Chair of the DLCL. Thinking back at three years like no other, I am moved and humbled by the generosity of spirit, integrity, and thoughtfulness that I found in everyone. Our lives touched each other’s in beautiful ways. It was an honor, and a true pleasure, to serve our community. As a final gift, these verses by contemporary Ukrainian poet Serhiy Zhadan, as translated by our very own Professor of Slavic Studies Yuliya Ilchuk and her colleague Amelia Glaser:

“…the world is like a dictionary, it preserves its own depths, shares it with school teachers and their students. Your night is like prison bread, hidden in a pocket, like the oblique silhouette of someone walking, the wax that’s shaped into the moon, your path is a reinvented chronicle of cities, the slope leading to the square, the deep tracks left by hunters, where fear meets courage.”

Sincerely,

Professor Cécile Alduy
Mission Statement

The Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages hosts the Departments of Comparative Literature, French and Italian, German Studies, Iberian and Latin American Cultures, and Slavic Languages and Literatures, as well as the Language Center.

Together, these departments and programs champion the idea that people think, live and create in and from specific languages and cultures. The DLCL offers courses, degrees and research programs that seek to think and explore the diversity, complexity and richness of these national and transnational linguistic and cultural spheres. Our students and faculty master modern languages and use them to do research in culture, literature, history, political theory, and philosophy.

In courses on poetry, prose, drama, or film at Stanford and at the Bing Overseas Studies Programs, our undergraduates learn to think both critically and globally about how people use languages to make sense of the world, to claim an identity and a place in history, to foster or challenge past and present representations, to create and to persuade.

Our nationally prominent graduate programs are distinguished by a commitment to interdisciplinarity, rigorous training in critical theory and various methodologies ranging from paleography to digital humanities, and early professionalization. Our Ph.D. students develop their dissertations in conversation with specialists in various world regions and cultures, and their impeccable pedagogical training equips them to teach language and literature effectively.
2021–22 Courses

As bike paths, cafeterias and corridors buzzed again with the cheerful sound of young people beaming with energy and curiosity, our educational mission never felt more joyful and meaningful. Our faculty, lecturers, and graduate students welcomed students back to campus with a wealth of new and signature courses. From seminars on “Radical Poetry in Latin America” to “Dante’s Inferno” or “Renaissance Africa,” our offerings helped students dive into foreign cultures past and present and explore a variety of genres, from opera to fairy tales, narrative theory to comics and films.

They asked big questions that are at once modern and eternal: “War: What Is It Good For?” (a course by Prof. Palumbo-Liu), “What do we feel and see when we read?” (“Literature and the Brain,” by Prof. Landy), “How do culture and technology intersect?” (Prof. Berman) or “How did artists respond to the pandemic?” (Prof. Wittman).

As always, agility, compassion, and a student-focused approach were our guiding principles as we incorporated pedagogical tools from the “Zoom-era” into real life classrooms, favored remote learning for language courses to enhance second-language acquisition, and continued to invite scholars, artists, and writers from all over the world to discuss urgent topics remotely.

---

Faculty Awards:
Cultivating Humanities and Social Sciences Grants:
2021
Prof. Laura Wittman,
“Mourning, Grief, and Recovery in the Wake of COVID-19”

2022
Prof. Fatoumata Seck,
“The Senegal Liberations Project”

---

German 57N: Nietzsche and the Search for Meaning

---

SLAVIC 70N
Socialism vs. Capitalism: American and Russian Writers’ Responses

---

FRENCH 291/391
WOMEN IN FRENCH CINEMA
PROFESSOR CÉCILE ALDUY

---

“God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him.”
So said Friedrich Nietzsche almost 150 years ago.

---

What becomes of the Self then, or ethics, or our relation to others?

---

Art and Covid-19 - A Health Humanities perspective on grief and recovery
Tues. Thu., 11:30-1
Prof. Laura Wittman

---

French/Italian 6N
Divines

---

“To gaze implies more than to look at – it signifies a psychological relationship of power, in which the gazeer is superior to the object of the gaze.”
- Jonathan Schroeder

---

COMPLIT 126, COMPLIT 226
ARTHIST 206A, ARTHIST 406A
PROFESSOR MARIE HUBER AND ARTIST ALA EBTeker
SPRING 2022 | T-TH 11:30AM-3:00PM

---

SUBMIT YOUR ART
THE COVID ART MUSEUM
Come make art (please learn about it)

---
Incredible decade-long projects are coming to fruition thanks to the dedication of our faculty and students. Prof. Kathryn Starkey and graduate student Mae Velloso-Lyons with the assistance of Quinn Dombrowski are completing the Global Medieval Sourcebook, an online repository of over 199 medieval texts and translations from twenty-six languages.

Prof. Patricia Parker, general editor, and Roland Greene, associate general editor, assisted by Phoebus Alexander Cotsapas, Mae Velloso-Lyons, Lorenzo Bartolucci, Thomas McDonald, and Jin Chow among others, are putting the final touches to the 2-million words online Stanford Global Shakespeare Encyclopedia, rich with over 2,000 pictures from all over the world. Graduate students Nicholas Fenech and Lakmali Jayasinghe contributed articles to the Encyclopedia.

Our faculty proposed new readings of the world and its representations. Prof. Joan Ramon Resina proposed a monograph on Luchino Visconti as Philosopher and edited a collection of essays on Cultures of Currencies: Literature and the Symbolic Foundation of Money. Prof. Yuliya Ilchuk’s Nikolai Gogol: Performing Hybrid Identity (2021) received high praise from her peers. Indra Levy was named the inaugural recipient of the Irene Hirano Inouye Award from the Terasaki Center for Japanese Studies at UCLA.
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 DLCL 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.

Research takes many forms among our various intellectual communities. The focal group materia selected the theme of “Political Ecology” to probe the enduring effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the connections between the environment, law, politics, and literature. The Workshop in Poetics discussed works in progress by DLCL Prof. Sarah Prodan on “Poetry of Sacred Enchantment in Early Modern Italy” and listened to graduate student Radhika Koul discuss the poetics of 14th century Kashmiri mystic Lalla. The research group Comics: More Than Words looked at the world from the academically peripheral standpoints of graphic narratives, popular culture, fandom, visual studies, and superheroes, to seek critical insights into our contemporary societies.

Next year, the Research Unit will proudly sponsor seven new groups. There will be three new student-led reading groups: the Asia-Latin America Reading Group, Caribbean Studies Reading Group, and Generaciones: A Reading Group on Diasporic Mexicandidades. In addition, students and faculty will participate in New Flamencologías, a research group on critical flamenco studies, Cultural Heritage at War (a Digital Humanities Collaborative Project), a Workshop on Literature and Neuroscience, as well as the new Race and Gender: The Iberian World lecture series.
Join us and our guest, Professor Roland Greene, for research over tea, coffee, and pastries.

Thursday, February 24th From 3:30 to 5:00 in the Linguistics Courtyard
Bring your own mug!

CONCERNING VIOLENCE
A COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GROUP
in collaboration with ARTS - JUSTICE
presents

UndocuBlack Nonperformance and Dreaming Otherwise
a workshop with Alan Pelaez Lopez

Friday, April 8 | 2-3:30 PM
El Centro Chico y Latino Community Room

In-person (lunch provided) and virtual.
Writers get circulars as advance.
Deadline RSVP: alanpelaezlopez@stanford.edu

QUEER, TRANS* and FEMINIST READING GROUP

A Universal History of Ruins from Antiquity to the Enlightenment

Spring 2022
Tuesday, April 19th, 12pm PDT on Zoom

Prof. Alain Schnapp
Greek Archaeology, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne and Institut national d'histoire de l'art

RSVP here for the Zoom link: bit.ly/3ijjWnD

For more information, please contact Prof. schnapp or Laura Menendez at jrevena@stanford.edu or lauramendez@stanford.edu

Ruins - Modernity Research Unit

FOOD of THE GODS
by SIRIN MEHRA in 1993

04FEB
FRIDAY
04 FEBRUARY
AT 12.00PM
https://www.stanford.edu/pods/foodgods
DLCL By The Numbers: 2021–22

5 DEPARTMENTS

7 MAJORS

13 MINORS

42 languages

ONE LANGUAGE CENTER
IN THE 2021–22 ACADEMIC YEAR, THE DLCL AND THE LANGUAGE CENTER HOSTED:

69 GRADUATE STUDENTS  
41 FACULTY MEMBERS  
90 LECTURERS

251 COURSES IN LITERATURES AND CULTURES  
600+ LANGUAGE SESSIONS

CLASS OF 2022

11 Ph.D. Graduates  
2 M.A. Graduates  
42 Undergraduate Minors

19 Undergraduate Majors
2022 Graduate Degrees

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
Helen Deborah Krueger
Leonardo Velloso-Lyons
Mae Velloso-Lyons

FRENCH AND ITALIAN
Daniele Biffanti
Andrea Capra
Cynthia Vialle-Giancotti

GERMAN STUDIES
Josh Armstrong
Emily Goodling
Runqi (Tina) Zhang

IBERIAN AND LATIN AMERICAN CULTURES
Daniel Hernández Guzmán
Marcelo “Marco” Merola
Juan Esteban Plaza

SLAVIC LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
Lenora Murphy

Incoming Ph.D. Students

Oluwakemisola Adeusi
German Studies

Müge Gedik
Comparative Literature

Rebekka Gründel
German Studies

Corinne Hensley
French and Italian

Ethan Hill
Iberian and Latin American Cultures

Hannah Hudson
French and Italian

Gift Iyioku
German Studies

Luo Jia
Comparative Literature

Jacob Lavoie
German Studies

David Lemus
Iberian and Latin American Cultures

Ruoqi (Sarah) Li
Comparative Literature (2023)

Fernando Martinez Periset
Comparative Literature

AJ Naddaff
Comparative Literature

Jonatan Tadmor
Comparative Literature

Alyssa Virker
Slavic Languages and Literatures
DLCL Research in Action—SUUCHO

On February 24, 2022, Russia started invading Ukraine. On March 1st, DLCL Academic Technology Specialist Quinn Dombrowski co-founded Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUUCHO) with Anna Kijas (Tufts University) and Sebastian Majstorovic (European University Institute). While physical monuments and cultural artifacts are most clearly at risk during a war, servers hosting digital collections face the same risks of damage and destruction.

SUUCHO has brought together over 1,300 volunteers from across North America and Europe to safely archive more than 3,500 Ukrainian cultural heritage websites, ranging from libraries, museums, or archives with KGB documents, to photo galleries from ballet companies and children's after-school programs.

Many members of the DLCL have contributed to SUUCHO, including Prof. Yuliya Ilchuk, who translated the entire interface for the Omeka gallery software into Ukrainian, and graduate students Evan Alterman, Mariia Gorshkova, Eric Kim, Georgii Korotkov, Katherin Yu and Olga Ovcharskaia.

The DLCL has always been a pioneer in the Digital Humanities. We are proud that this innovative and humanistic spirit is having an effective and meaningful impact on an international scale, proving that socially-engaged humanists can make a difference beyond the academy.

2022 Michel Serres Distinguished Lecture

Francophone author Léonora Miano gives the Michel Serres Distinguished Lecture on May 10, 2022 in Pigott Hall. Photo by Becca Faith De Los Santos