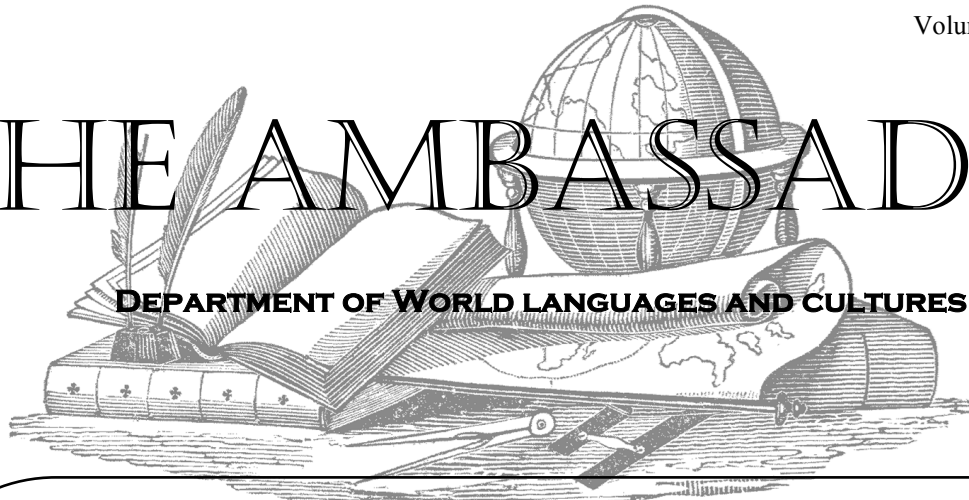


THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR

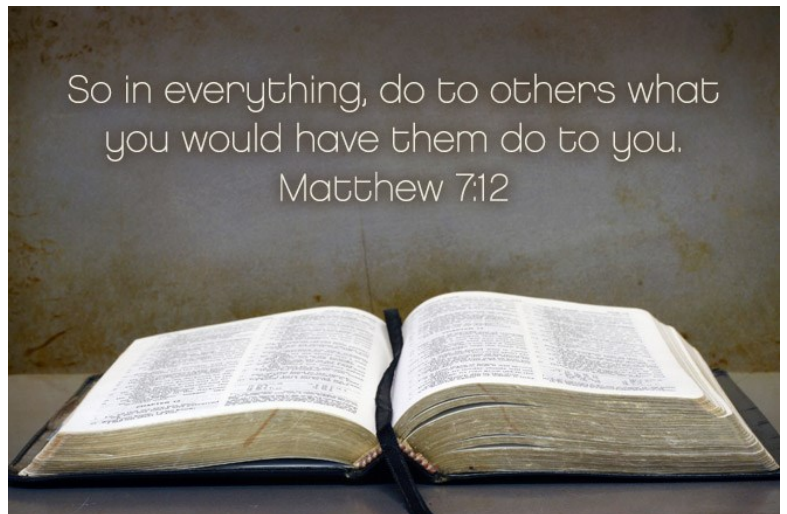
We are all members of civil society, defined here (with thanks to Google): civ-il so-ci-e-ty, noun: **civil society**; plural noun: **civil societies**; society considered as a community of citizens linked by common interests and collective activity.

But lately our civil society seems much less civil, and this lack of civility should be of deep concern for us all. To remind you, here is Merriam Webster's definition of civility for English Language Learners: Civility, noun, ci·vil-i-ty \sə-'vi-lə-tē\: polite, reasonable, and respectful behavior; civilities: polite actions and words. We seem to be a deeply divided nation at the moment, but whatever our beliefs, we should all adhere to our national principles, including our

constitution and its amendments. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, freedom of speech, a free press, and "the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

We should all be concerned about the rough treatment of others in either word or deed, no matter who they are or whether we agree with their views. We even have Divine instruction on the matter, in what is informally known as The Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12 12 "So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (English Standard Version). What does all this

mean for us? We have the right to express an opinion (based on evidence), but we do not have the right to use impolite words ("trolling," for example). We have the right to peaceful protest, but we do not have the right to harm others, nor do others have the right to harm us. As members of the University of Scranton community, our behavior in word and deed should exemplify not only the Golden Rule of the Gospel of Matthew, but the *cura personalis* and promotion of justice integral to our identity as a Jesuit institution.



Inside this issue:

- Faculty Activities
- LAS Film Festival
- TA Talks
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- ASL Student Project
- German & Spanish Film Festival s
- Summer in Spain Opportunity
- LLC Services
- Volunteer Experience

This newsletter can be read in color at the Department of World Languages and Cultures website:
<http://www.scranton.edu/academics/cas/world-languages/newsletter.shtml>

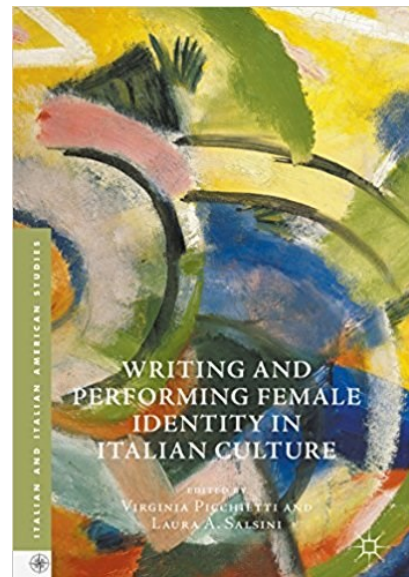
Dr. Linda Ledford-Miller

Dr. Ledford-Miller gave a presentation in November 2016 on “Crime in the City: Inspector Espinosa in Rio de Janeiro,” for the panel on Detective Fiction in Italian and Brazilian Settings at MAPACA (Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association), in Atlantic City.

Also in November, she went to Reykjavik, Iceland, to attend the Noir in the North conference at the University of Iceland, followed by Iceland Noir. The former was an academic investigation of crime fiction, while the latter was a conference of writers on writing and included Ann Cleeves of England and the fabulous Val McDermid of Scotland, along with many other international and Icelandic writers. Iceland has a total population of less than 340,000 and provides most of its electricity through hydropower and geothermal sources. Reykjavik is the capital, with a population of 130,345.

Dr. Virginia Picchietti

Dr. Virginia Picchietti's volume of essays, which she co-edited with Dr. Laura Salsini (University of Delaware), entitled *Writing and Performing Female Identity in Italian Culture*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan in March 2017. Her annotated translation of Dacia Maraini's short story, "Un numero sul braccio" (A Number on Her Arm) and introduction to the story were published in the volume, *Writing Like Breathing: Dacia Maraini Anthology* (Ed. Michelangelo La Luna. ListLab, 2017).

**Dr. Jamie Trnka**

Dr. Trnka continues to conduct original archival research on the EU-sponsored cultural initiative “Shahrazad—Stories for Life.” Her analysis of Shahrazad’s 2012 international citizens’ tribunal in Stockholm, Sweden, provides new insight into how advocacy organizations turn increasingly to documentary theatre and other creative media to advance the cause of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. The resulting article, “‘We Accuse Europe’: Staging Justice for Refugees, Migrants, and Asylum Seekers in Europe,” appeared in the most recent issue of *Critical Stages*, the official publication of the International Theatre Critics’ Association. She has begun work on a second, related article devoted to Shahrazad’s multilingual, transnational performance project “Letters to Europe.”

This summer, with the generous support of the President and the Provost, she will participate in an international faculty seminar on “Germany, Europe, and the Refugee Crisis” organized by the Studienforum Berlin.



Dr. Yamile Silva

During Fall 2016, Silva presented her research in three academic conferences: "La habitación de Nona de Cristina Fernández Cubas y las fronteras entre los afectos y las emociones" at XXVI Annual Conference Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (AILCFH) in November 10-12, 2016 at the University of Houston, Texas; "El caso del falso Inca y su proyecto utópico en el Paitití (1580)" at Segundo Programa Académico del Festival de la Palabra in October 19-22, 2016 in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Moderator: "Utopías y realidades desde Cuba y Puerto Rico" with Ana Zapata Calle (University of West Georgia), Beatriz Calvo-Peña (Barry University), Laura P. Alonso Gallo (Barry University), Anastasia Valecce (Spelman College) and Anisa Farhan Rodríguez (Centro de Estudios Avanzados de Puerto Rico y el Caribe); "Representaciones textuales desde el Río de la Plata: Isabel de Salazar (1611) y Ana Nabarrete (1621)" at XIX Congreso de la Asociación Internacional de Hispanistas (AIH) in July 2016 at the University of Münster, Germany.

Silva conducted research in the Archivo Arzobispal de Lima, Perú in December 2016. She also co-edited two peer-reviewed anthologies of academic Essays: -"Raza, género y diáspora en el Caribe" (Race, gender and diaspora in the Caribbean). Co-edited anthology with Daniel Torres. *Cuadrivium: Revista de la Universidad de Puerto Rico*. (In Press); and "La literatura del Caribe y Reflexiones sobre El Festival de la Palabra y el Caribe" Instituto de Cultura Puertorriqueña (In Press). She has been asked to

write two reviews: -Review of Rocío Quispe. *Nobles de papel. Identidades oscilantes y genealogías borrosas en los descendientes de la realeza inca*. Iberoamericana, 2016 and Review of Carolina Alzate. *Soledad Acosta de Samper*. Madrid: Iberoamericana, 2015. She also submitted two articles to peer-reviewed academic journals: -"Quema (2015) de Ariadna Castellarnau: la mirada post-humana de la nueva escritura hispanoamericana" 2017 Special Section of *Letras Hispanas*; and "El caso del falso Inca y su proyecto utópico en el Paitití (1580)" *Chasqui*.

Her research has been cited in three book chapters: "Women Cronistas in Latin America" *The Cambridge History of Latin American Women's Literature*. Eds. Mónica Szumurk and Ileana Rodríguez (2016), "Secular Women Writers of Colonial Spanish America." *Routledge Research Companion to Early Modern Spanish Women Writers*. Anne Cruz & Nieves Baranda (2017), "Sor Juana's Romances: Between Fame, Contemplation, and Celebration." Eds. Stacey Schlau and Emilie Bergmann. *Routledge Research Companion to the Works of Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz* (2017). As recognition to her expertise, she received the invitation by Dr. Margaret Shrimpton, Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán (Mex), to give a videoconference on Women Cronistas in Latin America to her graduate seminar class in the Spring 2017.

Silva continues serving as Vice-president of the Academic Organization Asociación Internacional de Literatura y Cultura Femenina Hispánica (International Association of Women and Gender Studies in Hispanic Literature and Culture) and part of the Comité de Evaluación y Difusión del Programa Académico y Profesional del Festival de la Palabra. She served (by invitation) on the U.S. Student Fulbright National Screening Committee (South America) on December 2016. Finally, she was part of the Kino Border Initiative trip, organized by the Jesuit Center, which took place last January.



LATIN AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL SPRING 2017



ON THE EDGE: CONFRONTING THE ABSURDITIES OF EVERYDAY LIFE

Wild Tales (Relatos salvajes). Argentina 2014

February 21

Six darkly humorous short stories that explore the extremities of human behavior in moments of distress.

Nise: Heart of Madness (Nise: O coração da loucura). Brazil 2015

March 21

Dr. Nise da Silveira is back at work in a psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro, where she refuses to employ the new electroshock therapy in the treatment of schizophrenics.

Trash (Lixo). Brazil 2014

April 25

Three kids who make a discovery in a Rio de Janeiro garbage dump soon find themselves running from the cops and trying to right a terrible wrong.

BRENNAN 228 7:00 PM

11TH ANNUAL WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES TA TALK

Sponsored by the World Languages and Cultures Department and the Office of Equity and Diversity

11th Annual World Languages and Cultures

TA Talk

**Thursday • April 6, 2017 • 11:30 - 1:00 •
Brennan 509 (The Rose Room)**



Join the World Languages Department for the 11th Annual TA Talk to hear our Teaching Assistants from **Nepal, Spain, Germany, and Iraq** share about their home cultures, countries, and languages.

All are welcome. Lunch will be provided. Space is limited and RSVP is required by March 31, 2017. Contact Hannah Jackson at **570-941-4711** or hannah.jackson@scranton.edu with questions or to RSVP.

STEPPING OUT OF THE TEXTBOOK AND INTO THE REAL WORLD

At the 2016 Fulbright Midyear Conference for Foreign Language Teaching Assistants in Washington, DC, Aymen Khazaal and Sarah Schreier, the Fulbright TAs for 2016-2017 for Arabic and German, got selected to present on effective teaching methods in front of their fellow FLTAs from all over the world. The presentation was based on concepts and ideas they encountered within the Foreign Language Subject Methods class under the guidance of Prof. Marie Karam and it sought to present the fellow FLTAs with ways to successfully integrate culture in every lesson. Measured by the audiences' questions at the end of the presentation, this presentation seemed to have positively impacted the FLTAs' approach to teaching their respective foreign languages within a more culturally integrated framework to American students all over the country.



Left Sarah Schreier, German Fulbright Teaching Assistant and Right Aymen Khazaal, Arabic Fulbright Teaching Assistant..

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENT VOLUNTEER PROJECT

The Scranton School for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children recently hosted a Family Literacy Day. Families of children ages birth to 4th grade joined together for a day of fun and learning. The students from the University of Scranton ASL classes volunteered for the weekend event. ASL students engaged the children in activities, facilitated family projects and practiced the ASL skills they have learned here at the University. First year ASL students, Katie Twigg and Megan Olsakowski commented "it was overwhelming at first but the most amazing experience. It was actually the first time I ever met a Deaf person". Jordan Thomas and Kayla Concannon, ASL 3 students, commented " Going to the school for the Deaf is always so much fun! We learn so much from being able to interact with the students and their families. This is the highlight of our semester!" Jon Konzelman, Director of the Scranton School, commented "We would like to extend appreciation to students from the University of Scranton's ASL classes who volunteered their time to make the day a great success."



EAST GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**10th Annual East German Film Festival: Fairytales**

3/28 **The Blue Light**. Dir. Iris Gusner. 1976. 79". Subtitles.

3/29 **Three Hazelnuts for Cinderella**. Dir. Václav Vorlíček. 1974. 74" Dubbed.

3/30 **Rumpelstiltskin**. Dir. Christoph Engel. 1959. 69". Subtitles

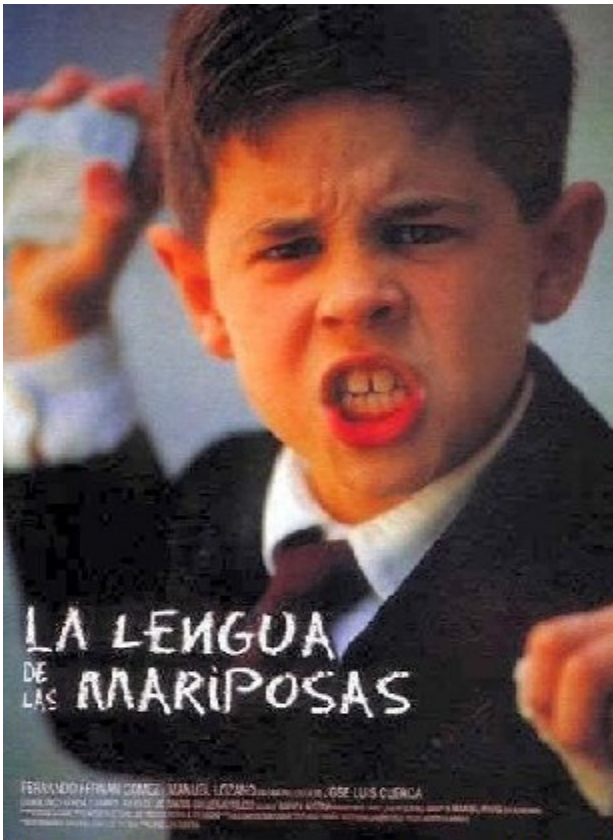


7:30 pm BRN 228 (Pearn Auditorium). Free and open to the public.

Information: jamie.trnka@scranton.edu

This year's festival coincides with LIT 220: Fairytales. Students explore a range of critical issues and methods, including the origins of nationalism in 19th-century Europe, the relationship of oral and written cultural forms, politics and the interpretation of culture, psychoanalysis, and feminism. Local museum professionals will work with the class as students develop projects to share their own knowledge with a broader community.

SPANISH FILM SERIES



Time: 7 p.m. **Spanish Film Series 2017** **Place:** O'Hara 307


Women and Children of the Spanish Civil War

- Wednesday, March 1—*La lengua de las mariposas* (José Luis Cuerda, 1999)
- Monday, April 3—*Libertarias* (Vicente Aranda, 1996)
- Monday, May 1— *La voz dormida* (Benito Zambrano, 2011)



SUMMER 2017 IN SPAIN

Intensive Spanish Language Program


SCRANTON PROGRAM: The Pilgrim's Way to Santiago

 Professor: Dr. Yamile Silva (World Languages and Cultures)



ILCE at UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Our intensive Summer Program helps learners greatly improve their oral and written communicative abilities in Spanish in just 3 weeks. Students spend three weeks in Spain in the beautiful northern city of Pamplona (June 5-27). Program includes all supervised trips and cultural and recreational activities around Pamplona and final trip to Santiago de Compostela:

- Pamplona's historic old town, cathedral of Santa Maria la Real, "Running of the Bulls" walk, pelota vasca workshop, Juevintxo, sevillanas class, Pilgrim's Way to Santiago stage 4: from Pamplona to Puente la Reina, Bilbao: Guggenheim Museum and Loyola Sanctuary, San Sebastián, Olite Castle and winery, final trip to Santiago de Compostela.

ACADEMIC OFFERINGS: All students will take 3 credits. 4 class hours per day Monday to Friday for 3 weeks (60 class hours). Spanish Written and Oral Communication Course (3 hours per day) and Conceptual Grammar (1 hour per day). You will be placed in beginning, intermediate, or advanced track. Syllabi are available for transferring credits to your home institution. University of Scranton students' will attend one seminar per week on the Pilgrim's Way to Santiago. ILCE Summer Programs are taught by outstanding local professors from Universidad de Navarra, and by distinguished invited professors from Columbia University, University of Oxford, Aarhus University, and University of Miami.

ROOM AND BOARD: Students live with families and have two meals per day included.

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATED PERSONAL EXPENSES: Students will be responsible for personal costs including: some meals during field trips, and personal expenses. These additional expenses are estimated to total approximately (\$300-\$600 personal expenses).

CONTACT: For more info about program dates and registration, contact Dr. Yamile Silva (Yamile.silva@scranton.edu)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 1ST, 2017, or until program is full.

COST: 4,750

www.unav.edu/ilce

LANGUAGE LEARNING SERVICES

The Language Learning Center

The Language Learning Center offers free services to foreign language students:

- Weekly tutoring in Spanish, German, French, Italian, and more
- Knowledgeable tutors available for drop-in tutoring
- Computer lab
- Foreign language resources
- Video showings in various languages

Location: O'Hara 306

Hours:

- 9 AM - 10 PM Monday-Thursday**
- 9 AM - 3 PM Friday**
- 6 PM - 9 PM Sunday**



**Questions? Contact Hannah Jackson ▪
hannah.jackson@scranton.edu ▪ 570-941-4711**

A WORLD BEYOND THE CAMPUS – MY TIME AT LACKAWANNA PRO BONO

By: Sarah L. Schreier, Fulbright German Language Teaching Assistant



During the long winter break and intersession, I dared to cross the invisible boundaries of the university campus and spent my time volunteering at Lackawanna Pro Bono right here in downtown Scranton. While some people would argue that I should have spent the break traveling the country, I can clearly say that in leaving the sheltered campus and volunteering at LPB, I definitely discovered a completely different world –a world right here in Lackawanna County in which many low-income people facing serious civil legal matters, e.g. eviction or losing custody of their children, would have no representation if it weren't for the help of Lackawanna Pro Bono. Lackawanna Pro Bono is a non-profit organization that provides low-income people with legal representation in civil matters. The clients have to meet very low eligibility guidelines and the type of case has to match the eligible cases taken in order to be able to use the services of LPB. If an application or case is accepted, LPB is looking for lawyers in Lackawanna County who volunteer their time for that client and provide them with advice or legal representation in their civil legal matter e.g. court hearings or custody hearings.

During my time as a volunteer at LPB, I was the first person of contact for people reaching out to LPB: I took phone calls, answered general questions, directed people to other appropriate organizations, screened the calls for potential clients and made sure that the case is a case that LPB would handle, took applications from eligible people on the phone or in-person, and I sat in on initial meetings of the LPB director Sylvia Hahn with accepted clients. My time at Lackawanna Pro Bono was extremely enlightening and really enriching because I did not only learn a lot about the legal system and legal procedure in civil matters in the US, which is a huge interest of mine, but I also got to realize that it is extremely important that organizations such as LPB exist because without them so many indigent people would simply have no representation or get help for their civil legal problems, as the 6th amendment of the US constitution only guarantees free legal representation in criminal matters. In that way, I would even argue, that my time as a volunteer at LPB made a bigger impact on my understanding and knowledge of American culture, as it can be found right here in Scranton, than any traveling around or within the 49 other states could have had.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
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A JESUIT UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF WORLD LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Editor: Kelli Cali