DEPARTMENT OF COMPARATIVE LITERATURE
SENIOR HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS, 8 MAY 2017, 4:00, WILSON 101

Matteo Cavelier Riccardi
“Dreaming with the Great Helmsman: Negotiating Representations of Socialist China in Two Italian Travel Narratives”
The thesis explores the literary and political intent of the travel narratives of Curzio Malaparte and Tiziano Terzani in the PRC. Written at the two ends of the Maoist era, the narratives trace the changing status of Socialist China in the Italian imaginary. Both texts evaluate Chinese socialism as a possible antidote to Italy’s Cold War binary.
☞ Prof. Chin, Prof. Riva

Christina Flynn
“Transcending Domesticity: The Resonance of the Female Form in the Romantic Novel”
This thesis is an exploration of the way that the female form embodies music and bridges the chasm between the official and domestic sphere within Romantic discourse on art. In comparison are Lebens-Ansichten des Katers Murr by E.T.A. Hoffmann, Corinne, ou l’Italie by Madame de Staël, and George du Maurier’s Trilby.
☞ Prof. Bernstein, Prof. Sng

Rachel Gutman
“Runaway Women: A Translation of Poetry by Roxana Crisólogo, Victoria Guerrero, and Mónica Carrillo”
Contemporary Peruvian poets Roxana Crisólogo, Victoria Guerrero, and Mónica Carrillo’s works are each concerned with aspects of political, gender-based, and racial violence in Peru. This translation includes critical introductions to each section that discuss the multiplicity of women’s voices in Peru across time and the ways in which each author’s generational and social identities inform her work.
☞ Prof. Kuhnheim, Prof. Smith

Sally Hosokawa
“Dream Cosmologies: An Experimental Translation”
An experimental translation of 夢宇宙論 [Dream Cosmologies] (2012), a collection by contemporary Japanese poet Yanagiuchi Yasuko. Yanagiuchi explores numerous cosmological theories and the (in)significance of human life within the vast universe. The critical introduction offers a Benjaminian approach that prioritizes multiplicity and co-inhabitance, not semantic accessibility, when translating from Japanese into English.
☞ Prof. Sng, Prof. Fidler

Brenda Sarai Jaramillo Zambrano
The World, the Devil, and the Flesh: A Translation of the Novel Mundo, demonio y carne by Michelle Ascencio”
A partial translation of Venezuelan author Michelle Ascencio’s novel Mundo, demonio y carne. Ascencio’s 2005 novel utilizes historical fact to foreground a young woman’s journey of empowerment in an otherwise repressive society that seeks to strip her of autonomy. The critical introduction focuses on language and spirituality as tools of feminist power.
☞ Prof. Merrim, Prof. Rodriguez

Catherine Kelly Liu
“Tostala: A Translation of Four Short Stories by Abdul Hadi Sadoun”
Translation of curated short stories from Abdul Hadi Sadoun’s 2014 collection, Tostala, which in metanarrative form disputes the legitimacy of pan-Arabism. The critical introduction provides a survey of thematic material, grounded in the concept of exile, and launches into a longer discussion about challenges of translation. In particular, it explains Arabic grammatical systems involving syntactic instability that problematize word-for-word translation.
☞ Prof. Faiza, Prof. Drumsta
Daniel Rapuano
“The Dread of the Opening Line: A Translation of Short Stories from L’Angoisse de la première phrase, by Bernard Quiriny”
Translation of selected short stories from L’Angoisse de la première phrase, the first published collection of short stories by the Belgian writer Bernard Quiriny. The translations are prefaced by a critical introduction, which addresses the usefulness of Todorov’s definition of the fantastic for reading the stories. Specific translation challenges and the choice of stories to translate are also addressed.
 Prof. Ravillon, Prof. Haynes

Laura Valle-Gutierrez
“From El Barrio to La Banlieue: Fictions of Identity in Nuyorican and Beur Literature”
The thesis treats four foundational novels of Nuyorican and Beur literature—Down These Mean Streets, Le Gône du Chaâba, When the Spirits Dance Mambo, and La Seine était rouge—that examine how second-generation migrants construct cohesive subjectivities. Constantly negotiating the unifying and discriminatory forces of language, race, and space, the texts nuance readers’ understanding of a need for strategic essentialism.
 Prof. Drumsta, Prof. Alvarado