XVIII Colloquium
of the Modern Languages Department

The Road to Fashion:
Industry Challenges in a Global Economy

On Monday April 20th, 2015, the MLD held its XVIII day-long Colloquium at the Richard Harris Terrace. The Colloquium included four panels with presentations by fashion designers, fashion consultants, art historians, writers, fashion researchers and scholars. Students also had the opportunity to watch two documentaries (Las Marthas by Cristina Ibarra and Ives Saint Laurent: His Life and Times, by David Teboul) and to participate in a workshop led by fashion designer Laura Pou, Design It, Recycle It, and Wear It.

Colloquium Program

9:15 - 9:30 Welcoming Remarks - Antonio Pérez, President, BMCC

Opening Remarks - Maria Enrico, Chair, MLD

9:30 - 10:30 From Haute Couture to Prêt-à-Porter and Beyond: French Panache in Contemporary Society
Rachel Corkle and Safiya Maouelainin, Co-Chairs
• Ilene Hacker, Fashion and Textile Studies, FIT
• Inma Medina, Fashion Designer
• Natalie Nudell, Visual Culture and Costume Studies, NYU

10:45 -11:45 Ancient and Modern: Chinese Costume and Traditional Life
Ling Luo, Chair
• Angela Zeng, Production Manager, Steve Madden Company
• Patti Imperiale, Compliance Manager, Steve Madden Company
• Jixi Huang, Jing Hua, Yongying Wang, Qianning Dong, Ruoxi Cai, Zheng Sun, Ciren Yongzhong, BMCC Students

12:00 -2:00 Brown Bag Lunch / Screenings of Las Marthas by Cristina Ibarra and Yves Saint Laurent: His Life and Times by David Teboul

2:15 -3:15 Dress, Body, and Culture: The Language and Politics of Clothes in Latin America and Spain
Margaret Carson, Ángeles Donoso Macaya, and Silvia Roig, Co-Chairs
• Susana Aguirre, Writer and Fashion Researcher
• Rosa Tejada, Art Historian, Museum Educator and Consultant
• Elizabeth Wissinger, Associate Professor, Social Sciences Department, BMCC

3:30- 4:30 Color and Design: Italian Fabrics and Cultural Life Today
Patrizia Comello Perry, John Means, Lisa Sarti, and Kristina Varade, Co-Chairs
• Nomi Kleinman, Assistant Professor, Textiles Department, FIT
• Anita Pantin, Artist, Opera and Theater Costume Designer
• Hiroko Rodríguez, Fashion Consultant
• Nicole Salvemini, Sales/ Office Manager, Textiles Agency

4:45- 5:30 Design It, Recycle It, and Wear It: Workshop with Fashion Designer Laura Pou
Sophie Mariñez, Chair
MLD Faculty Publications

Professor Margaret Carson published excerpts from her translation-in-progress of Remedios Varo’s *Letters, Dreams and Other Texts* in the online Festival Anthology for the 2015 PEN World Voices Festival. http://worldvoices.pen.org/non-fiction/%E2%80%9Cremedios-varo-letters-dreams-and-other-writings%E2%80%9D


Professor Sophie Maríñez published the poem “Carnival Day in Santo Domingo,” in *Small Axe Salon* 18 (February 2015) (http://smallaxe.net/wordpress3/prose/2015/02/04/poem-by-sophie-marinez/)


Professor Valerie Thiers-Thiam co-authored and edited *Grammar and Vocabulary modules for Learnsmart*, a companion site for *En Avant* (McGraw Hill); co-authored and edited *Grammar and Vocabulary modules for Learnsmart*, a companion site for *Deux Mondes* (McGraw Hill); edited the French ebook and eeworkbook *En avant* on online platform *Connect* (McGraw Hill).

MDT Faculty Presentations

Professor Margaret Carson spoke at the conference entitled “Publishing Spanish Writers in English” on March 11, 2015 at NYU. She presented on “The PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant” during the panel “Grants and Support.” She presented “On Translating Sergio Chejfec’s Baro: A Journey” on November 18, 2014, during the meeting of the Cross-Cultural Approaches to Latino/a Studies FIG at BMCC. She will co-moderate the panel, “Who We Talk About When We Talk About Translations: Women’s Voices” during the PEN World Voices Festival, May 9, 2015.

Professor Peter Consenstein spoke at the International Colloquium on 20th and 21st Century French and Francophone Studies in Baton Rouge, Louisiana on February 26th, 2015. He was an invited speaker on the panel “Forms of Erudition in Contemporary French Writing” and the title of his paper was “In Defense of Anne-Marie Albiach’s Minimalist Poetry.” He gave a talk entitled “The Transmetrical Snark,” at CETLS on April 1st, 2015.

Professor Ángeles Donoso Macaya presented “On (Dis)appearing Corpses, Trauma, and the Documentary Image” at Encrucijadas/Encruzilhadas 2015: Dialogues for Latin American Cinemas. Corps, Corpus, Corpses, a Symposium organized by NYU and Fordham University (New York, February 27-28). She will present the paper “Elogio de la fotocopia” at a session entitled “Performatividades de la Imagen” she is co-organizing at the next XXXIII LASA International Congress (San Juan, Puerto Rico, from May 27th to 30th, 2015). She presented “Variations of ‘Frida’: Graciela Iturbi, Mario Bellatin, and La Chica Boom” at CETLS-BMCC on February 11th and will give a second talk at CETLS-BMCC on May 6th entitled “Depth of Field: Photographic Practices in Chile, 1973-1998.”

Professor Sophie Mariñez will present a paper entitled “Jacques Viau Renaud: Primera voz poética dominico-haitiana en la literatura dominicana” in the panel “Race and the Colonial Past in Modern Caribbean Literature” at the next Latin American Studies Association (LASA), in San Juan, Puerto Rico, (May 27-30, 2015).

Professor Nidia Pullés-Linares presented “Utopía y conquista en Canto titulado Mercurio” at the Graduate Center of CUNY, Department of Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Literatures on November 14th, 2014.

Professor Lisa Sarti delivered the paper “I am a piece of the stage»: Annie Vivanti and the Legitimization of the Female Performer’s Body” at the Women Studies Caucus: Women in Theater, at the Conference of the American Association for Italian Studies in Boulder, CO. She will present the paper “In the Eye of the Beholder: Scopophilia and Female Artistry in Italian Café Chantants” at the NeMLA Convention in Toronto, on May 1, 2015.

Professor Paquita Suárez-Coalla had a Literary Reading and Discussion: The First Time we Went to the Movies/El día que nos llevaron al cine. Club de Lectura de Avilés & Concejalía de Igualdad and Departamento de Literatura Anglosajona (February 19th, 2015). She presented “Nueva York: Una habitación propia”. Escribir en español en Nueva York. Departamento de Literatura Anglosajona at the University of Oviedo, Spain (February 20th, 2015). She also presented “La influencia de Sonia Rivera Valdés en algunas escritoras de Nueva York”. The Conferences at the Archivo de Indianos. Archivo de Indianos of Colombes. Sponsored by the University of Oviedo and the Ribadedeva’s City Hall and the Colombres Indianos’ Archives (February 20th, 2015).
Professor Valerie Thiers-Thiam presented “Francophone women and resilience. A summary of a 1 semester sabbatical research.” (March 3rd at CETLS-BMCC). She will present “Ru de Kim Thuy: Tricoter la résilience entre la lourdeur et la légèreté” at the 46th Annual NeMLA Convention, (Toronto, Ontario, May 1st, 2015). She will also chair the panel entitled “Folie Guerrière.”

Professor Kristina Varade presented the paper “‘Here in this twenty-first century world of wax’: Speculation and Resistance in Patrick McCabe’s The Holy City and Winterwood” at the American Conference for Irish Studies National Meeting in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on March 27th.

Professor Alejandro Varderi participated in a panel on women writers at the Cervantes Institute on February 24th. His paper dealt with the works of Catalan author Mercè Rodoreda. He also presented his novel Bajo fuego at McNally & Jackson Bookstore on March 27th.

**Other Activities by MLD Faculty**

Professor Margaret Carson was the respondent at a presentation made by Professor Peter Consenstein on “The Transmetrical Snark,” at CETLS, April 1st, 2015.

Professor Ángeles Donoso Macaya used ELIC funds to take her SPN 472 class to El Museo del Barrio. On April 17th, students received a guided tour of the current exhibition and had lunch at La Cafeteria afterwards. She edited two new forthcoming issues of the BMCC Spanish students magazine Acentos Latinos.

Professor Sophie Maríñez, Fanny Rodríguez, and Kristina Varade co-led a departmental workshop entitled “Class Management Strategies: A Round-Table in the classroom” on April 15th at CETLS.

Professors Sophie Maríñez and Safiya Maouelainin created the Early Modern Studies Across Disciplines (EMAD) Faculty Interest Group, and coordinated its first meeting in CETLS for May 13th, 2015.

Professor Sophie Maríñez edited the third issue of the French student literary magazine Echos du Tout-Monde, dedicated to Quebec.


On April 14th, 2015 two Cuban writers –Anna Lidia Vega Serova (David Award Winner) and Sonia Rivera-Valdés (Casa de las Americas Award Winner) gave a two-hour workshop in which students learned writing techniques for fiction and non-fiction narrative. The authors also read their own work. Workshop and Reading followed by Q&A. This event was sponsored by ELIC and coordinated by Paquita Suárez-Coalla.

Professor Paquita Suárez Coalla also coordinated a one-day event – LART at the Centro Español – to celebrate the 15th anniversary of this organization –Latino Artists Round Table. The event consisted on a Round Table Discussion about the latest literary criticism approaches (January 25th, 2015). She had a literary Reading, followed by a discussion, at the Centro Español as part of the events of the Women’s History Month. The event was titled 8 de marzo con las mujeres y con la madre naturaleza (March 8th, 2015).
Paquita Suárez Coalla, Silvia Roig and Ainoa Íñigo organized the event *Retratos del carnaval caribeño: La fotografía de Mario Picayo y Mario Hernández*, as part of the Hispanic Heritage Month on November 25, 2014. They invited the Cuban-American photographer, editor and cultural activist Mario Picayo. They also invited the Argentinian filmmaker Marta N. Bautís on March 16th, 2015, as part of the Women’s Herstory Month. There was a screening of her documentary *Un cóndor en los cañaverales/A Condor in the Reeds*, followed by Q&A.

Professor Kristina Varade co-led the CETLS workshop on Diversity techniques in the classroom with Elizabeth Berlinger on April 1st.

**MLD Faculty Awards and Recognition**

Professor Peter Consenstein was awarded a PSC CUNY Research Award for the summer 2015. The grant is based on an invitation to speak at Cerisy-la-Salle at a conference entitled "Georges Perec : Nouvelles approches," where he will discuss Perec’s Jewish Identity.

Professor Ángeles Donoso Macaya received a Fellowship from the Faculty Resource Network Program at NYU. She will be a NYU Scholar-In-Residence during the summer 2015.

Professor Silvia Roig was awarded a PSC CUNY Research Grant to conduct research at the Fons Especial Aurora Bertrana in Girona, Spain.

Professor Lisa Sarti is the recipient of a PSC-CUNY Research Award for her book project *The Aesthetic of Spectatorship in Italy, 1895-1930*, which investigates the influence of optical trickery in orienting cultural trends and shaping a new spectatorship.

Professor Kristina Varade was awarded a Stewart Travel Grant for my recent work on Irish fiction writer Patrick McCabe, sponsored by the The CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences. She also won the PSC CUNY “B” grant for summer research in Italy and at Trinity College, Dublin for the continuation of a large project entitled “Charles Lever: New Considerations and Global Perspectives in Anglo-Irish Literature.

**Other MLD News**

On April 6th, 2015 the CUNY Committee on Academic Policy, Program and Research unanimously approved our proposal for a AA degree in Modern Languages.

The Language Placement Test is now available on line.