

Foreign Languages and Literatures

The Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) Section is dedicated to providing MIT students with the tools for a sensitive and successful involvement in the global community by contributing to the internationalization of their MIT education. During the AY04, FL&L faculty continued to provide national and international leadership in the fields of foreign language pedagogy, technology in the humanities, and literary and cultural studies, while demonstrating their commitment to educational excellence within the Institute.

Highlights of the Year

Professor of French studies Isabelle de Courtivron was appointed as the new Ann Fetter Friedlaender professor of humanities in August. S.C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing Wang began an American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) research fellowship in Fall 2003 and was on leave during the academic year. Kochi Prefecture-John Manjiro professorship in Japanese language and culture and professor of linguistics and Japanese Shigeru Miyagawa, and Class of 1956 career development chair and associate professor of Chinese studies Emma Teng were on leave during fall 2003. Beginning July 1, 2004 the section will welcome a new lecturer in Spanish, Solivia Marquez.

This year, FL&L cohosted talks by several guests, including the head of Def Jam Japan, Riko Sakurai, "Def Jam Japan and the Power of Global Hip-Hop"; noted writer Shan Sa, "Transmigration Littéraire"; poet and expert on environmental law in Singapore and Southeast Asia Simon Tay, "Poetry and Politics: Simon Tay on Asian, International, Personal, and Political Transformations in Singapore"; professor of sociology and author Nillufer Gole, "Le voile et les enjeux de l'identité Républicaine française"; local musician and rapper M.C. Kabir, "Hip-hop and Cultural Diversity: A Southern Asian-American Rapper's Perspective"; and German poet Esther Dischereit, who gave two lectures and presented her work to our students in German. Additional events cosponsored by FL&L included two film series, Images Moving between Cultures: Young Turks of German Cinema, and Between the Lines: Negotiating South Asian LGBT Identity, A Festival of Film, Reading and Discussion.

In October, the Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies (CBBS) initiated an annual symposium devoted to the exploration of the intersections of the politics of language and cultural productions in the shifting global realities of the 21st century. The theme for the first symposium of the series was "Beyond US Multiculturalism?: Asian Diasporas and the New Transnational Cultures," which included presentations, readings, and panels with noted authors Jhumpa Lahiri, Nora Okja Keller, Jessica Hagedorn, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Lan Samantha Chang, and filmmaker Mira Nair, as well as cultural critics Homi Bhabha, Leo Ching, and Gary Okihiro.

In March, FL&L and CBBS premiered the documentary, *Nuestras Voces: Being Latina at MIT*. The project, developed by lecturer and director of Spanish language studies Margarita Ribas Groeger and former FL&L lecturer Adriana Gutiérrez-González, is a

collection of interviews and stories documenting the experiences of Latinas at MIT. It gives voice to a group of women whose efforts and struggles are often not recognized, and who as a group are underrepresented in higher education. The stories are as diverse as the women themselves, with common and recurring themes, including family traditions and relations, personal and community expectations, and the quest for a sense of identity.

During AY2004, the exhibit *Black Ships and Samurai* traveled to numerous venues, including Hawaii, Los Angeles, Washington DC, Boston, and Rhode Island. It was created as part of the Visualizing Cultures class/project of Professor Miyagawa and professor of history John Dower. Funds for the project were received from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the MIT dean for undergraduate education, and the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Fund. It features some 200 Japanese and American graphics depicting the 1853–1854 mission by Commodore Matthew Perry that led to the opening of Japan to the outside world.

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its non-credit French cultural immersion program January Scholars in France. Led this year by senior lecturer in French Gilberte Furstenberg, the program gave seven undergraduate students a two-week experience in Paris, focusing on French arts, letters, and history, during the Independent Activities Period (IAP). The trip was followed by a two-week project in which students chronicled their experience. Details of the program and experiences of the students can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/jsf/>.

FL&L was fortunate to have Shirley Geok-lin Lim, writer and professor of English at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a visiting CBBS fellow in the fall of 2003. She taught the class *Topics in Asian American Literatures*, and made various public presentations including “Lives in Translation Bilingual Writers on Identity and Creativity,” with Professor de Courtivron as part of the *authors@mit* series.

During the academic year, FL&L faculty members participated in various activities outside of MIT that involved foreign languages and literatures. Professor Wang was a member of the international advisory board for the Cultural Research and Development Programme, Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Lingnan University, Hong Kong. Professor Wang was also a convener and organizer of the Policy Culture in Contemporary China research program at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government, and a member of the editorial board for *Advertising and Society Review* and *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*. Professor of French studies and film Edward B. Turk continued his work as assistant film editor for *The French Review*, a journal of the American Association of Teachers of French. Associate professor of Hispanic studies Margery Resnick continued as president of the International Institute in Spain. Associate professor Teng was chair of the Association for Asian American Studies conference. Senior lecturer Furstenberg served as a board member of CALICO (Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium). Senior lecturer in German Ellen Crocker served on the American Association of Teachers of German executive board. Senior lecturer in Spanish Douglas Morgenstern continued his service as MIT’s representative on the governing board to the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning. Lecturer and

director of Japanese language Yoshimi Nagaya served as board member for the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England.

Research and Publications

Head and professor of Spanish and Latin American studies Elizabeth Garrels' "La lucha por el cuerpo muerto de Facundo: Reflexiones sobre la necrofilia política y la construcción de la masculinidad en el libro de Sarmiento" was published in *La literatura iberoamericana en el 2000. Balances, perspectivas y prospectivas* (Ediciones Universidad de Salamanca, Spain).

Professor de Courtivron's paper "Colette: The Art of Paradox" was published in the book *The Modern Woman Revisited: Paris between the Wars* (Rutgers University Press).

Professor Miyagawa's "Historical Development of the Accusative Case Marking in Japanese as Seen in Literary Texts" was published as a special monograph in the *Journal of Japanese Linguistics*. In addition, his paper "Argument Structure and Ditransitive Verbs in Japanese" was published in the *Journal of East Asian Linguistics*, and the chapter "A-Movement Scrambling and Options without Optionality" was published in the book *Word Order and Scrambling* (Blackwell Publishers). His article, "MIT's OpenCourseWare: One Year Later" was published in *Information Science Magazine*.

Professor Wang's paper "The Global Reach of a New Discourse: How Far Can 'Creative Industries' Travel?" was published in the *International Journal of Cultural Studies*, and the paper "Framing Chinese Advertising: Some Industry Perspectives on the Production of Culture" was published in *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*.

Associate professor Teng's book *Taiwan's Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683–1895* (Harvard University Press), was published in June. Professor Teng's paper entitled "An Island of Women: Gender in Qing Travel Accounts of Taiwan" was reprinted in the book *A History of Women in Taiwan* (M.E. Sharpe).

Assistant professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry had the chapter, "B-Boys and B-Girls: Rap Fandom and Consumer Culture in Japan," published in the book *Fanning the Flames: Consumer Culture and Fandom in Japan* (SUNY Press).

Assistant professor of European cultural studies Charity Scribner's book *Requiem for Communism* (MIT Press) was published in December. Professor Scribner also published the following papers: "Second World, Second Sex, and Literature on the European Left" in *Comparative Literature: Journal of the American Comparative Literature Association*; and "Object, Fetish, Relic, Thing: Joseph Beuys and the Museum" in *Critical Inquiry*.

Senior lecturer Morgenstern's paper "Students as Designers and Content Creators: An Online Multimedia Exchange between the U.S. and Spain" was published in *Syllabus Magazine: Technology for Higher Education*.

Conferences and Presentations

FL&L members were invited to numerous national and international conferences during the year.

Professor Garrels presented the paper, “What Are We Reading? *Recuerdos de provincia* as a National and Editorial Game of Dice,” at Harvard’s Center for the Humanities, Baker Center.

Professor Miyagawa gave the following talks: “Argument Structure and Ditransitive Verbs in Japanese” at Kobe University, Kanda University of International Studies, and Tsukuba University; “Weak Island” at Kobe University; and “QR and Scrambling” at Kobe University and Aoyama Gakuin University.

Professor Turk was invited to Connecticut College to present, “Cross-cultural Perspectives on French Film History.” He also gave the talk “American Operetta Traditions” at the Harvard Extension School.

Professor Wang presented “Framing Policy Research on Cultural Industries: Cultural Goods, State-Market Relations, and the International Trade Regime” at the International Workshop on Critical Policy Studies of China. Professor Wang was also co-organizer of the international workshop “A Matter of Choice: Critical Policy Studies of China,” hosted by Harvard University and MIT; and was organizer and chair of the panel, “Asia as Method: Dialogues in Culture and Places” at the annual Association of Asian Studies Convention in New York.

Associate professor Teng was an invited speaker at the 10th National Asian Pacific American Conference on Law and Public Policy for the panel “Media and Sexuality: Popular Appropriation of Asian Culture” at Harvard University. She also gave the talk “Visuality and Frontier Travel in Qing China: From Ethnographic Albums to the Illustrated Newspaper” at the Center for the Art of East Asia, Department of History, University of Chicago.

Assistant professor Condry gave the following presentations: “Japanese Hip-Hop and the Power of Global Popular Culture,” Center for East Asian Studies, Stanford University; “New Circuits, New Arrivals: A-Twice and Race in Japanese Hip-Hop,” Music and Identity conference, Brown University; “*Kangaeru Shitto*: Exploring the Hip-Hop Movement,” Temple University, Japan; “Lafura Jackson and the Promise of Planetary Humanism,” American Anthropological Association’s annual meeting, Chicago; “*Genba* Globalism and the Locations of Power in Popular Music,” Art and Social Change Symposium, University of Technology, Sydney, Australia; and “Women Rappers in Japan: Responses to Global Machismo,” Association for Asian Studies annual meeting, San Diego.

Assistant professor Scribner gave the following talks: “Terror and the Novel: F.C. Delius in Context,” German Studies Association conference, New Orleans; “Curating the Communist Past in Berlin and Eisenhuettenstadt,” Center for European Studies, Harvard University; “Requiem for Communism,” Dia Arts Foundation, New York;

“Divided Screen: Christa Wolf’s Berlin Goes from Text to Film to Video,” conference on Cinema and the City, Cambridge University; “Terror and Culture,” Deutsches Haus, Columbia University; and “Von Trotta’s Leaden Times,” Deutsches Haus, Columbia University.

Senior lecturer Crocker gave two presentations in the fall, including “Collaborative Narratives: Constructing Cultural Understanding with *Berliner sehen*” at the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference, Philadelphia; and “*Berliner sehen* and *Berliner sehen Exchange*: Migrating the Project to other Institutions” at the Sine Nomine conference at Harvard University. Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave several presentations during the year, including “Enabling Learners to Construct their Understanding of a Foreign Culture,” Northeast Conference on the Teaching of a Foreign Language, New York; “How the Use of Technology Fosters a Dynamic, Constructivist and Humanistic Approach to Learning,” at the Conference on Technology in the Humanities, Ithaca College; and “Web-based Cross-cultural Dialogues” at the Yale Center for International and Area Studies.

MIT Service and Enrollments

Members of the FL&L faculty contribute to MIT through their service on a number of Institute-wide committees: the Edgerton Faculty Achievement Award Selection Committee, the Council on Educational Technology, OpenCourseWare Faculty Advisory Committee, Institute Nomination Committee, Committee on Discipline, Burchard Scholars Selection Committee, Committee on Faculty-Administration, Kelly/Douglas IAP Traveling Fellowship Committee, Comparative Media Studies graduate and undergraduate admissions committees, Women’s Studies Steering Committee, Creative Arts Council, Cambridge-MIT Initiative, MIT-France Scientific Committee, Comparative Media Studies steering and curriculum committees, MISTI China Program, and Crosstalk forum.

Associate professor Resnick continued to serve as director of the MIT/Amita Women’s Oral Histories Project. Associate professor Teng served as faculty advisor to the MIT Association for Asian American Students. Director Ribas Groeger was a student group advisor and activities co-organizer for MIT’s Counseling and Support Services program “Mujeres Latinas.” Senior lecturer in Chinese Julian Wheatley continued his roles as housemaster for East Campus and as director of the China/Singapore MISTI programs. Director of English language studies Jane Dunphy continued her work with MIT’s Teaching and Learning Laboratory (TLL) and, with TLL director Lori Breslow, was awarded Class of ‘51/’55/’71/’99 funds to develop a web site of international teaching assistant materials for training.

FL&L has maintained its commitment to making full-time appointments and to attracting qualified candidates from minority groups. In order to achieve these goals, FL&L has targeted historically black and Hispanic colleges and universities and has advertised in journals and association websites focusing on the minority community. Several members of our full-time faculty and full- and part-time teaching staff are minorities or women.

We have three majors in FL&L this year. Two are second bachelor of science degrees, one each majoring in Spanish and French, and one is a joint major in Spanish and brain and cognitive sciences. The total number of students who proposed or completed a minor is 46. We had 455 proposed or completed concentrators, broken down as follows; Spanish (148), French (84), Chinese (78), Japanese (77), German (41), other languages (17), studies in international literature and culture (SILC) (6), and English language studies (4). Spanish continues to have the largest enrollments (488), followed by Chinese (338), French (302), Japanese (284), English language studies (234), German (188), and Italian (23), which is only offered during IAP. There were 324 enrollments in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects taught in English).

Elizabeth J. Garrels

Section Head

Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies

More information about Foreign Languages and Literatures can be found on the web at <http://web.mit.edu/fll/www/>.