

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) is dedicated to providing MIT students with the tools for sensitive and successful involvement in the global community by contributing to the internationalization of their MIT education. During the 2007–2008 academic year, 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 and Ann F. Friedlaender professor of humanities Isabelle de Courtivron will take over as acting section head effective July 2008, succeeding S.C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing Wang.

Senior lecturer Gilberte Furstenberg received the 2007 ACTFL/FDP-Houghton Mifflin Award for Excellence in Foreign Language Instruction Using Technology. Associate professor of Japanese cultural studies Ian Condry was awarded the Mitsui career development chair in July 2007. Lecturer Arundhati Banerjee and senior lecturer Sabine Levet received 2008 School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS) Academic Infinite Mile Awards for continued outstanding service and innovative teaching at MIT.

Research associate and HyperStudio director Kurt Fendt was promoted to principal research associate in June 2007, and director of English language studies Jane Dunphy was promoted to senior lecturer effective July 2008. FL&L also welcomed Sabine Levet as senior lecturer in French, Ricardo Gessa and Lisette Soto as permanent lecturers in Spanish, and A.C. Kemp as permanent lecturer in English language studies.

FL&L welcomed for the spring semester visiting professor James Iffland and visiting associate professor Pedro Lasarte in Hispanic and Spanish literature. FL&L also welcomed visiting professor Thomas Nolden in German literature. Professor Elizabeth Garrels was on leave during the spring semester, while professor of linguistics Shigeru Miyagawa and associate professor of Chinese studies Emma Teng were on leave for the entire academic year. Professor Teng, who was awarded the 2006 Frederick Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for Recently Tenured Scholars by the American Council of Learned Societies, spent the academic year as a fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study.

This year FL&L cohosted talks by several guests, including Pulitzer Prize winner Jhumpa Lahiri; Marie-Ségolène Royal, regional premier of Poitou-Charentes, France, and the country's first female presidential candidate ("Reforming French Higher Education"); Professor Hongyi He from South Central Nationalities University in Wuhan, China ("The Art of Traditional Chinese Paper Cutting"); Dr. Arun Shourie, former minister of disinvestment, communications, and information technology of India and winner of the Magsaysay and Padma Bhushan awards ("The Story of Privatization in India"); and author and journalist Giles Tremlett ("Ghosts of Spain").

FL&L cosponsored one of Europe's leading poet-dramatist-directors, Valère Novarina, who presented a documentary film screening of Raphaël O'Byrne's *Ce dont on ne peut parler, c'est cela qu'il faut dire* (*What Cannot Be Spoken Is What Must Be Said*) and a live performance of "An Evening of Live Theater with Valère Novarina," followed by a discussion with the artists.

The HyperStudio was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Start-Up Grant for its collaboration with Boston's Old North Foundation in developing the "Tories, Timid, or True Blue?" project, for use in high school history education and to create tools for history scholars to investigate Old North's rich archive of original documents dating back to 1724. The first version of the project, "US-Iran Relations—Missed Opportunities 1997–2005," was successfully released to scholars across the United States, and a second version is being developed for a workshop with US and Iranian policymakers in late November. Two new projects with SHASS faculty are currently in development: the "Comédie française Registers Project," in collaboration with Professor Jeffrey Ravel from History, Oxford Brookes University, the University of Paris-X (Nanterre), and Comédie française, and the "Serial Experience" project on Victorian serial novels, in collaboration with Professor James Buzard from Literature; Professor Joe Childers from the University of California, Riverside; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. HyperStudio is about to launch a brand-new website that will showcase all of its past and current projects in greater detail.

In April, FL&L cohosted MIT's Fourth European Short Film Festival with Comparative Media Studies (CMS), the French Consulate, and the German Goethe Institute. The festival featured such films as *Dos veces/Twice* by Joseba Fuentes (Spain, 2006), *Les petits hommes vieux* by Yann Chayia (France, 2005), and *Equipajes/Baggage Claim* by Toni Bestard (Spain, 2007). As in past years, the festival was met each night with great interest by more than 250 film enthusiasts from MIT and the Boston area. The Short Film Festival has become a unique tradition with a loyal international audience.

FL&L continued the International Cultural Capital seminar series, coorganized by John E. Burchard professor of humanities Edward Turk and Professor Condry. The seminars are a means of exploring diverse approaches to the study of culture and capital from international perspectives and investigating the processes by which culture is produced, be it brand culture, city culture, digital culture, theater culture, performance culture, or national culture. Participants include faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral students from Literature, the Program in Writing and Humanistic Studies, Music and Theater Arts, CMS, and FL&L. This year's speakers included Emmanuel Wallon, professor of political sociology at the University of Paris-X (Nanterre); Professor Thomas Lamarre of McGill University; Professor George Yúdice of New York University; associate professor Jay Scheib of Music and Theater Arts; and CMS postdoctoral associate Joshua Green.

The MIT/Harvard research project "Cool Japan: Media, Culture, Technology" maintained a series of activities under the supervision of Professor Condry. Highlighted events included a discussion ("The Anime Revolution in Media, Culture, and Politics") and talk ("Explaining Anime's Global Power") which preceded a live MIT Dance Theater

Ensemble production of “Live Action Anime 2007: Madness at Mokuba.” Professor of linguistics and Kochi-Manjiro professor of Japanese language and culture Shigeru Miyagawa, in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize–winning historian John W. Dower, held a colloquium in Cambridge for Visualizing Cultures, a project in which images and scholarly commentary are used in innovative ways to illuminate social and cultural history. Also, Professor Miyagawa, along with Professor Dower, received a Getty Foundation award and a Luce Foundation grant for Visualizing Cultures.

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its sixth noncredit French cultural immersion program, “January Scholars in France.” The program, led this year by Professor Isabelle de Courtivron, gave eight undergraduate students a two-week experience in Paris focusing on French arts, letters, and history during MIT’s Independent Activities Period (IAP). The trip was followed by a two-week project in which students chronicled their experiences. More information can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/jsf/>.

In October, FL&L hosted the ten-year anniversary of the Cultura Conference, at which participants already involved in a Cultura project had the opportunity to share their respective experiences and learn from one another and those who were interested were able to develop an in-depth understanding of the issues involved in designing and setting up such an online collaborative project. A tech fair followed that included 10 Cultura and Cultura-inspired projects, with participants and attendees from such institutions as Brown University, Bentley College, Barnard College, Emory University, the University of Hanover (Germany), and the National Taichung University (Taiwan). Senior lecturers in French Gilberte Furstenberg and Sabine Levet chaired several of the conference panels.

FL&L offered two classes, 21F.400/450 German I and 21F.782 Spanish I, abroad for the second time during IAP. Twenty-one students started their adventure to Germany with a workshop with Siemens and Deutsche Bahn in Berlin where they met young German professionals from both firms. The group then studied German in Stuttgart with MIT instructors and got to know two more cities in Germany’s southwest, Konstanz and Heidelberg. In each city, they visited cultural and corporate sites. Eighteen students began their travels and learning of Spanish in Madrid. Lecturer in Spanish Ricardo Gessa taught Spanish to the students and led them through many varied cultural experiences during their stay in Madrid in January 2007.

During the 2007–2008 academic year, FL&L faculty members participated in many foreign language–related and literature-related activities outside MIT. S.C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing Wang served on the editorial board and/or advisory board for *The Chinese Journal of Communication and Society*; *Global Media and Communication*; *Portal: Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*; *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Journal: Movements*; *Advertising and Society Review*; *Chinese Journal of Communication*; *positions: east asia cultures critique*; *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*; the Cultural Studies Series of the Hong Kong University Press; and the Critiques/Cultural Studies book series for the Ju-liu Publishing Company, Taipei, Taiwan. Professor Wang also chairs the MIT International Committee of Critical Policy

Studies of China, convenes a greater Boston monthly seminar on new media policy and practices in China, and is the chair of the International Advisory Board of Creative Commons China Mainland. In addition, Professor Wang was asked to serve on the Board of the Cultural and Media Industries Research Centre at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. This spring, she served on the visiting committee reviewing the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilization at Harvard University.

Associate professor of Hispanic studies Margery Resnick continued her work as president of the International Institute in Spain and as an instructor for the Teachers as Scholars program through MIT. Senior lecturer Ellen Crocker served on the American Association of Teachers of German Executive Board. Senior lecturer Douglas Morgenstern continued his service as MIT's representative on the governing board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning, along with representatives from FL&L senior lecturer Sabine Levet and director of Spanish language Margarita Ribas Groeger. Director of Japanese language Yoshimi Nagaya served as a board member for the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England.

Research and Publications

FL&L research and publications in 2007–2008 included books, book chapters, CD-ROMs, and journal articles.

Professor Miyagawa published *Handbook of Japanese Linguistics* (Oxford University Press). He also published “Locality in Syntax and Floated Numeral Quantifiers” and “On the ‘Undoing’ Nature of Scrambling: A Response to Bošković” in *Linguistic Inquiry*, “Everyone Has the Right to Education” in *Agency for Cultural Affairs*, and “Genitive Subjects in Altaic” in the *Proceedings of the Workshop on Formal Altaic Linguistics 4*.

Professor Turk published “The French Stage: 2006–2007” in the *French Review* and “Isabelle Huppert; or, the Gallic Valkyrie Who Bewitched Brooklyn” in *Camera Obscura*.

Professor Wang published the book *Brand New China: Advertising, Media, and Commercial Culture* (Harvard University Press).

Professor Garrels completed work on a new edition of Teresa de la Parra's 1924 novel *Ifigenia*, available from StockCero.

Professor Resnick completed and edited two new oral histories of MIT alumni available in the MIT Archives.

Professor Condry published “Youth, Intimacy, and Blood: Media and Nationalism in Contemporary Japan” in *Japan Focus* and “Yellow B-Boys and Black Culture: Towards Transnational Cultural Politics of Race through Japanese Hip-Hop” in *positions: east asia cultures critique*.

Senior lecturer Crocker published the seventh edition of *Neue Horizonte: Introductory German* (Houghton Mifflin).

Senior lecturer Dunphy published a coedited book, *Strategies for Teaching Assistant and International Teaching Assistant Development* (Jossey-Bass).

Senior lecturer Levet has written and edited multiple sections of the online Cultura Community Site, in particular a teacher's guide.

Director Nagaya published "Kako 10-nen no MIT website no ayumi" in the *Proceedings of the 4th Conference on Computer-Assisted Systems for Teaching and Learning Japanese* (with cd-rom).

Lecturer Dagmar Jaeger published her book *Theater in Medienzeitalter* (Aisthesis Verlag). She also published "'Only in the 1990s Did I Become East German': A Conversation with Ingo Schulze about Remembering the GDR, *Simple Storys*, and 33 Moments of Happiness; with an Introduction to His Work" in the *New German Critique* and "Macht: Performativität, Performanz und Polittheater seit 1990" in *Monatshefte*.

Lecturer Kemp's *The Perfect Insult for Every Occasion: Lady Snark's Guide to Common Discourtesy* (Adams Media) was published in addition to her weekly website column for Slang City Mail.

Lecturer Ikue Shingu's "Development of Web-Based Materials for Self-Study of the Kansai Dialect: Rationale and the Problems Encountered" was published in the *Journal of Japanese Language Education*, and *The Development of Web-Based Materials for Self-Studying the Kansai Dialect* was released on CD-ROM.

Lecturer Jin Zhang published *iSpeak Chinese: Audio and Visual Phrasebook and CD-ROM* (McGraw-Hill). She also published "From Interactivity to Interaction: Showcasing a Web-Based Hypermedia Project" in the *Proceedings of the Fifth Conference on Technology and Chinese Language Teaching in the 21st Century*.

Lecturer Ayumi Nagatomi published "Integrating Business Japanese into Japanese Language Instruction" in *Global Business Languages* and "Course Report (Level 1)" for the Research Center for Japanese Language Education at Japan's International Christian University.

Conferences and Presentations

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

Professor Wang coorganized an international conference, "Information Technology and Social Responsibilities," with Joseph Chan and Jack Qiu at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in December 2007. In addition, she gave the following talks: "Creative Culture & Creative Commons: Web 2.0 in China," for the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute, Duke University; "Creative Commons for the Socially Marginalized? Model Building for a Developing Country," for the International Conference on IT and Social Responsibility at the Chinese University of Hong Kong; and the keynote address, "Countdown to

the Olympics,” at the China Media Centre Conference, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia.

Professor de Courtivron gave the keynote address, “Where is home and Does It matter? The Paradoxes of Global Identity,” at the Forum for Education Abroad in Boston.

Professor Miyagawa gave talks on “MIT OpenCourseWare” at Keio University, Kyoto University, the Tokyo Institute of Technology, the Austrian National University, Kyushu University, the Israel Open Book Conference, and the University of Michigan. He also gave linguistic talks at the Kanda University of International Studies, Nagoya University, Nanzan University, Yokohama University, and the Japan English Linguistics Society Spring International Conference.

Professor Turk gave the following talks: “Paris and New York: The Theatrical Avant-Garde and Recent Trends,” at the Martin E. Segal Theater, City University of New York, and “Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy,” at a gathering of the New England Light Opera Company.

Professor Resnick presented “Globalization and the Foreign Language Curriculum” at Brown University, “The Spanish Civil War and Its legacy of Silence” at Complutense University of Madrid, and “Deconstructing the MIT Women: The Oral History Project” in Cambridge at the MIT Women’s Leadership Group/Association of MIT Alumnae (AMITA) meeting.

Professor Garrels led a discussion and gave a presentation on Octavio Paz and Gabriel García Márquez at a dinner sponsored by the MIT Spanish House to celebrate Hispanic Month.

Professor Teng gave the following talks: “Chinese Eurasians/Eurasian Chinese: Does Mixed-Race De-Center the Han from Chineseness?” at the Critical Han Studies Symposium, Stanford University; “Reinventing Home: Images of Mobility and Returns in Eurasian Memoirs” at the International Conference on the Cultural Interpretations of Mobility, Center for Chinese Studies, Taipei, Taiwan; “Racial Degenerates or Harbingers of Peace?: Imagining Eurasian Hybridity” at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Studies; “Interracial Marriage, Orientalism, and Transculturation: Mae Franking’s My Chinese Marriage” at the International Conference on Taiwan Literature and Culture under Globalization, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan; and “Historicizing the China-Taiwan Relation” at the Taiwanese American Conference, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Also, she participated in the Globalizing Modern Chinese Literature: Sinophone and Diasporic Writings conference sponsored by Harvard University, Yale University, and the CCK Foundation.

Professor Condry presented “Digital Masculinity and Otaku Culture” at the Masculinities in Japan workshop at the University of California, Santa Barbara; “Future Anime” at TransculturELLE: Girls Culture in Anime and Manga at McGill University, Montreal, Canada; “Anime, Online Piracy, and the Workings of Soft Power” at the Catching the Wave: Connecting East Asia Through Soft Power conference at the

University of California, Berkeley; and “Future Anime: Time Leaps, Schoolgirls, and the Death of Cool Japan” at the Ubiquitous Media: Asian Transformations conference, at the University of Tokyo, Japan.

Senior lecturer Levet gave the following presentations: “Cultura Communities in the Classroom: From Online Discussions to Classroom Interactions” at the Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium (CALICO) 2008 conference, University of San Francisco, and “Reading the News,” a presentation of current issues in the French media, to the MIT-France Program.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave the following talks and presentations: “From Interactivity to Interaction: The Multiple Assets of Multimedia—Using On-line Communication Tools to Foster Intercultural Communication: The Cultura Project” at the University of Padova in Italy, and “L’outil au service des pratiques culturelles et interculturelles inédites” at the “De nouveaux outils pour de nouvelles pratiques” conference, University of Lille 3, Lille, France.

Senior lecturer Dunphy presented “Craft of Scientific Writing: A Strong Beginning” at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, “Cultures and Classrooms” at the Masdar Institute of Technology (Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates), and “Two Assessments of First Year Writing Assessments” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New Orleans, LA. Also, she presented “How to Train and Help Teaching Assistants” as part of Inside Higher Ed’s Audio Conference Series. Finally, she presented “Teaching and Learning in a Multicultural Classroom,” “Special Considerations for the Multicultural Classroom,” “Craft of Writing Policy Action Memos,” “Craft of Effective Research Presentations,” “Better Teaching at MIT,” and “Strategies for Presenting Research” at various departments and schools at MIT.

Director Groeger presented “The Use of Technology in the Language Classroom” at the Symposium of Teaching and Thinking Spanish in the 21st Century at Princeton University.

Director Nagaya presented “Kako 10-nen no MIT website no ayumi” at the Computer-Assisted Systems for Teaching and Learning Japanese conference, Kapi’olani Community College, Honolulu, HI.

Lecturer Zhang gave the following talks and presentations: “From Interactivity to Interaction Web-based Project: Showcasing a Web-Based Hypermedia Project” at the Fifth Conference on Technology and Chinese Language Teaching in the 21st Century in Macau, China, and “Tackling Discrepancy in Learners’ Language Skills in an Intensive CFL Program” at the Chinese Language Teachers Association annual meeting in San Antonio, TX.

Lecturer Tong Chen presented “FlashCube, Making Mandarin Teaching and Learning Successful” at the Fifth International Conference on Technology and Chinese Language Teaching held at the University of Macau, China.

Lecturer Johann Sadock presented “French-Speaking Sephardim Today: From Intellectual Controversies to Comic Relief” at the Association for Jewish Studies 39th Annual Conference in Toronto, Canada, “Quinzaine de la Francophonie 2008” at the French Library/Alliance Française of Boston with the American Association of Teachers of French, “Black, Blanc, Beur: parlons-en!” (a film documentary) at Dartmouth College and MIT, and “L’identité nationale aujourd’hui: Défis et enjeux” (a French diversity workshop) for the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association’s Diversity Day at Lasell College.

Lecturer Jaeger presented “Performing the Non-Dramatic: Thirza Bruncken’s and Robert Wilson’s Stage Direction of Plays by Elfriede Jelinek and Heiner Müller” at the 31st Annual Colloquium on Literature and Film, West Virginia University, Morgantown.

Lecturer Sylvia Rieger’s talks included “Berlin: Undecipherable Topography in the Works of Judith Hermann, Julia Franck and Inka Parei” at the Modern Language Association convention in Chicago and “Resurrecting West German and West Berlin Utopias in Post-Wall German Fiction” at the German Studies Association’s conference in San Diego, CA.

Lecturer Shingu gave the following talks and presentations: “The Development and Examination of a Kansai-Dialect Self-Study Site” at the annual seminar of the Association of Teachers of Japanese in Atlanta, GA, and “The Development of Web-Based Materials for Self-Studying the Kansai Dialect, at the Japanese Association of Language Teachers conference in Tokyo, Japan; the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages conference in San Antonio, TX; and the Computer-Assisted Systems for Teaching and Learning Japanese conference in Honolulu, HI.

Lecturer Kemp gave the following talks and presentations: “Publishing in ESL” at Boston University’s Center for English Language and Orientation Programs; “From Idea to Bookshelf” at The Writer’s Life Series, Cambridge Center for Adult Education; and “Geography of ESL: Communicative Projects Using Google’s My Maps” at the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages convention in New York City.

Principal research associate Fendt presented “Digital Scholarship” at the Comédie Française in Paris, France, and made several presentations about HyperStudio research and projects at a variety of MIT venues and to various visiting groups (Industrial Liaison Program, CMS, Office of Educational Innovation and Technology, international university delegations).

MIT Service and Enrollments

FL&L faculty members contribute to MIT through their service on a number of Institute-wide committees: SHASS Gender Equity Committee, Faculty Policy Committee, Council of Educational Technology, OpenCourseWare Advisory Committee, OpenCourseWare Secondary Education Working Group, CMS Steering Committee, Kelly-Douglas Traveling Fellowship Committee, Burchard Selection Committee, Committee on Graduation, Institute Nomination Committee, Committee on Discipline, Faculty/Administration Committee, MIT-China Strategy Group, MIT-France Committee, MIT ACCESS, Academic Computing Strategic Planning Committee, Educational Architecture

Group, Foreign Fellowship Committee, Global Education Opportunities at MIT Committee, and Crosstalk Forum.

Professor Resnick continued to serve as director of the MIT/AMITA Women's Oral Histories Project, chair of the Burchard Scholars, and MacGregor Hall faculty advisor as well as a long list of other MIT activities. Director Ribas Groeger continued to serve as a student group advisor and activities coorganizer for MIT's Counseling and Support Services program "Mujeres Latinas," as well as a faculty liaison to La Casa Hispana (Spanish House). Professor Wang served on the MIT-China Strategy Group, the International Committee of Critical Policy Studies of China, the MIT Council on Educational Technology, the CMS Steering Committee, the Academic and School Council, and many other committees.

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 on association websites focusing on the minority community. Currently, several members of our full-time faculty and full- and part-time teaching staff are women or members of underrepresented minority groups.

We had three majors in FL&L this year, two in Spanish and one in French. The total number of students who proposed or completed a minor was 47, broken down as follows: Spanish, 17; French, 12; Japanese, 9; Chinese, 5; and German, 4. We had 476 proposed or completed concentrators, broken down as follows: Spanish, 173; Chinese, 98; Japanese, 79; French, 66; German, 36; other languages, 13; studies in international literature and culture (SILC), 8; theory of language, 2; and English language studies, 1. Spanish continues to have the largest enrollment, at 526, followed by Chinese, 381; Japanese, 368; French, 281; English language studies, 265; German, 198; and Italian, 34 (offered only during IAP). The enrollment in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects taught in English) was 254.

Jing Wang

Section Head

S.C. Fang Professor of Chinese Language and Culture

More information about the Foreign Languages and Literatures Section can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/fl/wwwl/>.