

Foreign Languages and Literatures

Foreign Languages and Literatures (FL&L) 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 2008–2009 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

Kochi-Manjiro professor of Japanese language and culture and professor of linguistics Shigeru Miyagawa will take over as section head starting July 2009, succeeding professor of French studies and Ann F. Friedlaender professor of humanities Isabelle de Courtivron.

Associate professor Emma Teng Chung was awarded the T.T. and Wei Fong professorship in Asian civilizations while associate professor Ian Condry was promoted to associate professor with tenure effective July 2009. Lecturers Patricia Brennecke, Tong Chen, Cathy Culot, and Jin Zhang were promoted to lecturer II, effective July 2009. FL&L also welcomed Min-Min Liang as a lecturer I in Chinese and Masami Ikeda Lamm as a lecturer I in Japanese. Senior lecturer Douglas Morgenstern was selected to receive the 2009 Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

During the fall term FL&L hosted visiting professor Nilüfer Göle (École des Hautes Études), visiting professor James Iffland (Boston University), visiting associate professor Luis Marentes (University of Massachusetts, Amherst), and visiting assistant professor Carlos Rojas (University of Florida). FL&L also hosted visiting professor Thomas Nolden (Wellesley College), visiting professor Emmanuel Wallon (University of Paris-X), and visiting associate professor Carlos Ramos (Wellesley College) in the spring term. Associate professor Margery Resnick was on leave during the spring term S.C. Fang professor of Chinese language and culture Jing Wang was on leave for the academic year.

This year FL&L cohosted talks by several guests, including the 2008 Nobel Prize winner in literature, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio; Harvard's internationally recognized historian Robert Darnton along with Hélène Delavault, a world-renowned cabaret artist from Paris; and professor Leslie Adelson, a leading US scholar in the field of Turkish-German literature. FL&L also cosponsored events featuring Germany's notable poet-essayist Zafer Şenocak; Cuban-born writer and poet Achy Obejas; and Amélie (Fabienne) Nothomb, one of Europe's best-selling French-language novelists.

Professor Miyagawa, in collaboration with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian John W. Dower, was awarded a Getty Foundation award, a Luce Foundation grant, and a US Department of Education grant for their Visualizing Culture project. In addition, the project was awarded this year's Franklin R. Buchanan prize (given annually to recognize outstanding curriculum publication on Asia) by the Association for Asian Studies.

Professor Wang received a grant from the Ford Foundation in Beijing for “Chinese NGOs in the Web 2.0 Environment,” a project undertaken in collaboration with the University of Science and Technology of China and three Chinese NGO partner organizations.

The MIT/Harvard research project “Cool Japan: Media, Culture, Technology,” under the supervision of Professor Condry, presented a series of activities around the theme of “virtual worlds, real politics.” These included film screenings and panel discussions of *Tekkon Kinkreet* with screenwriter Anthony Weintraub and *Campaign* with director Kazuhiro Soda; seminars included “Digital/mobile youth in Japan: New cultural and political movements” by professor Yoshitaka Mori (Tokyo University of the Arts); “Gendering robots: Posthuman sexism in Japan” by professor Jennifer Robertson (University of Michigan); and “UNCOOL JAPAN: Otaku, nationalism and the ‘Never Be Cool!’ politics of Tsurumi Shunsuke” by professor Toshiya Ueno (Wako University, Japan). The last event of the academic year was the MIT Dance Theater Ensemble’s production of *Live Action Anime 2009: Madness at Mokuba*, held in Boston as well as in Tokyo, Japan.

HyperStudio, directed by principal research associate Kurt Fendt, successfully completed the “Tories, Timid, or True Blue?” high school history education project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). This collaboration with Boston’s Old North Foundation created tools for history scholars to investigate Old North’s rich archive of original documents dating back to 1724. The second online version of the US-Iran Relations project is currently being released to US and Iranian scholars and policy makers. HyperStudio has applied for NEH funding for two projects with SHASS faculty: the Comédie-Française Registers project in collaboration with professor Jeffrey Ravel from History, the Oxford Brookes University, the University of Paris-X (Nanterre), and the 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 organized a number of StudioTalks on digital humanities topics. For spring 2010, HyperStudio is planning an international Digital Humanities conference entitled Changing Media—Changing Humanities.

In April, FL&L cohosted MIT’s fifth European Short Film Festival, with Comparative Media Studies (CMS), the HyperStudio, and the German Goethe-Institut, showing films such as *Piknik/Déjà vu* by Irena Gatej (Czech Republic, 2008), *El palacio de la luna/Moon Palace* by Ione Hernández (Spain, 2008), and *Mona* by Agnes Rossa (Egypt/Germany, 2008). As in past years, the festival engendered much interest and has become a unique tradition in the Boston area with a loyal international audience.

Thanks to a generous gift from an MIT alumnus and his spouse, FL&L continued its seventh non-credit French cultural immersion January Scholars in France program. Led this year by professor Edward Baron Turk, the program gave four 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 experience. More information can be found at <http://web.mit.edu/jsf/>.

Also during IAP, FL&L offered 21F.782 Spanish I, abroad for the third time. Seventeen students began their travel and language learning in Madrid. Lecturer in Spanish Ricardo Gessa taught Spanish and led the students through many varied cultural experiences. In connection with 21F.405 Germany Today: Intensive Study of German Language and Culture and the MIT Germany program, Kurt Fendt guided 12 students on a Capstone Immersion Module from Berlin to Hamburg. While in Germany, students visited German cultural institutions and attended various company workshops.

In October, FL&L and the Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies hosted a two-day symposium at MIT, allowing participants the opportunity to share their respective experiences on bilingual and bicultural studies. Participants came from Boston University; Brown University; Centre International Rennais d'Études de Français pour Étrangers; Davidson College; École des Hautes Études; Harvard University; Mount Holyoke College; University of Caen; University of California, Santa Barbara; and University of Rennes 2, among others. Associate professor Teng and lecturer Tuli Banerjee organized and chaired several of the conference panels.

During AY2009, members of FL&L participated in many foreign language and literature related activities outside MIT. Professor Wang continued her service 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*, *Chinese Journal of Communication*, *positions: east asia cultures critique*, *Advertising & Society Review*, *Taiwan: A Radical Quarterly in Social Studies*, the Cultural Studies Series of Hong Kong University Press, and the "Critiques/Cultural Studies" book series for the Ju-liu Publishing company, Taipei, Taiwan. In addition, Professor Wang served on the board of the Centre for Research on Social and Cultural Change in China at the University of Technology in Sydney, Australia, as well as the Media Industries Research Centre at the University of Leeds, UK.

Professor Condry served as councilor to the Society for East Asian Anthropology of the American Anthropological Association. Professor Resnick continued her work as president of the International Institute in Spain, while senior lecturer Jane Dunphy became a member of the Board of Directors. Senior lecturer Ellen Crocker served on the American Association of Teachers of German Executive Board in addition to her collaboration with the Goethe-Institut Boston. Douglas Morgenstern continued his service as MIT's representative to the Governing Board of the Consortium for Language Teaching and Learning alongside senior lecturer Sabine Levet and director of Spanish language Margarita Groeger. Director of Japanese language Yoshimi Nagaya served as board member for the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England. Lecturer Johann Sadock began his tenure on the American Association of Teachers of French Executive Board for Eastern Massachusetts.

Research and Publications

FL&L research and publications for AY2009 included books, CD-ROMs, book chapters, and journal articles.

Professor de Courtivron coedited the “French from Elsewhere” issue of *SITES, The Journal of French and Francophone Studies*. Her book *Lives in Translation: Bilingual Writers on Identity and Creativity* (Palgrave/McMillan) appeared in paperback.

Professor Garrels edited a new edition of Teresa de la Parra’s 1924 novel *Ifigenia: Diario de una señorita que escribió porque se fastidiaba*, available from StockCero, in addition to writing “Exploring the Free Market Through Narrative,” a review of Luis E. Cárcamo-Huechante’s *Tramas del mercado: imaginación económica, cultura pública y literatura en el Chile de fines del siglo veinte*, in *ReVista: Harvard Review of Latin America*.

Professor Miyagawa published *Handbook of Japanese Linguistics* (Oxford University Press) in addition to articles and book chapters such as “OpenCourseWare: Building a Culture of Sharing” in *Opening Up Education* (MIT Press) and “Genitive subjects in Altaic” in *Proceedings of the Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 4* (MIT Working Papers in Linguistics).

Professor Turk published “The Sixty-first Avignon Festival (6–27 July 2007): A Tradition of Renewal,” in the *French Review* and “Marcel Carné,” a contribution to *Célébrations nationales: 2009* (Direction des archives de France).

Professor Wang’s recently published book *Brand New China: Advertising, Media, and Commercial Culture* (Harvard University Press) came out in Arabic. She also published “The Logic of Chopsticks” for *The Journal of Advertising Research*.

Professor Condry published *Nihon no hippu hoppu: bunka gurobarizeshon no “genba”* (NTT Publishing), the Japanese translation of his *Hip-Hop Japan: Rap and the Paths of Cultural Globalization* as well as “Anime Creativity: Transnational Samurai and the Quest for Cool Japan” in *Theory, Culture and Society*.

Professor Resnick completed and edited four new oral histories of MIT alumni, available in the MIT archives.

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

Senior lecturer Morgenstern continued to publish new work on the online project LanguageSpace.

Lecturer Chen contributed to *Chinese Grammar Made Easy: A Practical and Effective Guide for Teachers* (Yale University Press).

Lecturer Sadock published a short essay “Two ladies,” based on Philippe Faucon’s *Two Ladies*, in The Boston Jewish Film Festival program book. He will also publish “Francophone Maghrebi Jewish Literature” in the *Encyclopedia of Jews in the Islamic World* (Brill de Leyde) and “Ce qu’être jeune en France veut dire” in the *France in the Twenty-First Century/La France au XXIe siècle* (Summa Publication) coming out in spring 2009.

Lecturer Zhang coedited *Chinese Grammar Made Easy: A Practical and Effective Guide for Teachers* (Yale University Press).

Conferences and Presentations

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

Professor de Courtivron was the panel moderator for “Vive la différence: Franco-American cultural relations” at the international symposium *Transmissions* in Cambridge, MA.

Professor Garrels presented the lecture “Cuyo and central Chile: Geography, history, and regional vs. national formations in Sarmiento’s *Facundo* and his autobiography *Recollections of a Provincial Past*” at California State University, Long Beach.

Professor Miyagawa presented the keynote speech “OpenCourseWare around the world” at Tsuda College and gave the keynote speech at an Association of Pacific Rim Universities meeting held at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan. He was also invited to present many talks nationally and internationally, including “Benefits and some perils of opening up your teaching materials” at Dartmouth University in Hanover, NH; “Human language engenders creativity through recursive operations,” at Yukawa Institute of Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University, Japan; “Distinguishing A- and A-bar movements without reference to case,” at MIT, at Nanzen University, and at Tsuda College; and “Meiji Restoration and modernization of Japan,” at Primary Source in Boston.

Professor Turk presented “Jeanette MacDonald and Nelson Eddy” to the New England Light Opera Company. He was interviewed for Serge July’s documentary film *Il était une fois... Les enfants du paradis*, slated for broadcast on France’s TV5 telecast. He was also panel moderator for “Writing in two languages” at the international symposium “*Transmissions*” in Cambridge.

Professor Wang gave the following talks and presentations: “NGO 2.0 and social practice” at the MIT in China conference; “Advertising and business models in the Web 2.0 environment” at the University of Science and Technology of China; “New media and NPOs in China,” Yunnan Development and Communication Net, Kunming, Yunnan Province, China; “Chinese advertising in the Web 2.0 era: challenges and opportunities” at the Conference on Asian Trends, National University of Singapore; “Advertising in China: projecting the future” for the School of Information and Communication, Peking University, China; “Internet advertising and new media technology” at the International Symposium of the Globalisation of Advertising in Asia: The Impact on Media at the Australian Centre, School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne, Australia; “New media, internet advertising, and business models” at Shanghai University in China; and a keynote address “Advertising and innovation” for a conference on Innovation and Creativity in Chinese Media at the China Media Center, University of Westminster, UK.

Professor Condry was invited to give the following talks and presentations: "Anime revolution" at Boston College; "Samurai gangsta: Japanese hip-hop and the new politics of change" for the East Asian Studies Department at Princeton University; "Language, hip-hop, and global flows" for the panel Global Flows at the American Anthropological Association's annual meeting in San Francisco, CA; and "Genba globalization and Japanese hip-hop" for the Anthropology Department seminar series at Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan.

Professor Resnick presented "Insights from the MIT Oral History Project: MIT women: 1922–1944" in Rotterdam, Holland. She was also the organizer and presenter of the 17th Annual Colloquium on Women in the US and Spain International Symposium, Women Politicians and the Media, in Madrid.

Professor Teng was the moderator for the Biculturalism Blues roundtable at the international symposium Transmissions in Cambridge and at the Asian-American Studies Symposium at Boston College in Chestnut Hill, MA.

Senior lecturer Dunphy gave the following talks: "Strategic communication: The case of the presentation abstract" and "The craft of writing policy action memos" at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute; "The art of teaching recitations" at Yale University; and "Teaching and learning in a multicultural classroom," "Special considerations for the multicultural classroom," "Critical guidelines for MITES," "Craft of effective research presentations," "Teaching & learning 101: supporting international students' communication," "Better teaching at MIT," "Strategic communication," and "Strategies for presenting research" at various departments and schools at MIT.

Senior lecturer Furstenberg gave the following talks and presentations: "Using on-line communication tools to foster intercultural understanding: The Cultura Project" at MIT; "Developing students' intercultural competence in the language class: Why and how?" presentation at the annual American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Conference in Orlando, Florida; "Le programme Cultura: Diversité des stratégies pour communiquer à distance," presentation at a Conference on Intercultural Communication at the University of Thessaloniki, Greece; and "A dynamic, web-based approach for developing intercultural communication" at the m-ICTE Conference (V International Conference on Multimedia Information and Communication Technologies in Education) in Lisbon, Portugal.

Senior lecturer Levet presented "Reading the news" for MIT-France; "Cross-cultural comparison through film" at UC Berkeley; and "Developing students intercultural competence in the language class: Why and how?" at the ACTFL Conference in Orlando, FL. She also participated in the Cultura panel at the Modern Language Association and Association of Departments of Foreign Languages seminar at Brown University, Providence, RI.

Lecturer Brennecke continued her series of workshops, Citing Sources, at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Lecturer Chen presented “Generating language context through animations: A powerful tool to stimulate and inspire students’ speaking ability,” at the ACTFL Conference in Orlando, FL.

Lecturer Culot’s presented “Interactive on-line teaching resources: Belgium unveiled by its contemporary artists” at the 81st Annual Convention of the American Association of Teachers of French in Liège, Belgium.

Lecturer Jaeger presented “Reading culture and identity in Yoko Tawada’s work” at the 12th New Europe at the Crossroads Conference in Munich, Germany.

Lecturer Kemp presented “Preventing plagiarism: An integrated approach to academic honesty” at the Massachusetts Association of Teachers of Speakers of Other Languages Conference in Leominster, MA.

Lecturer Sadock gave the following talks and presentations: “Between complaint, abuse and fear of flying: Good and not-so-good Jewish daughters and sons and their intimate relationships in contemporary Francophone Sephardic literature,” at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in San Francisco, CA; “Black, Blanc, Beur: parlons-en!” documentary film at Brandeis University and at MIT; the French Diversity workshop “Métissages politiques et culturels” and “Cas de figures” at the Massachusetts Foreign Language Association, Lasell College, Newton, MA.

Lecturer Lissette Soto participated in the Mes Latino panel entitled Latinos in Higher Education, at MIT.

Lecturer Zhang presented “Translation and learning Chinese” at Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT; “What a one-hour workshop on Chinese-English translation can do” at the International Conference on Translation Studies, Cross-Cultural Communication and Chinese Pedagogy in Portland, OR; “A technology-enhanced college-level Chinese curriculum: MIT’s Chinese Program” at the ACTFL Conference in Orlando, FL; and “Bridging the vocabulary gap between intermediate- and advanced-level CFL textbooks” at the annual meeting of the Chinese Language Teachers Association in Orlando, FL.

Principal research associate Fendt presented “Visualizing historical theater data” at the Calendrier Électronique des Spectacles sous l’Ancien Régime et sous la Révolution symposium at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA; “The US-Iran project” at the Musgrove Conference; in addition to several presentations about HyperStudio research and projects at a variety of MIT venues and to various groups and international university delegations that visited the Institute.

MIT Service and Enrollments

FL&L faculty members contribute to MIT through their service on a number of Institute-wide committees: Global Council, McMillan-Stewart Committee, Mellon Committee, SHASS Gender Equity Committee, Faculty Policy Committee, Council of Educational Technology, OpenCourseWare Advisory Committee, OpenCourseWare Revenue Enhancement Group, Women’s and Gender Studies Steering Committee, CMS

Committee, Burchard Selection Committee, OME Search Committee, Commencement Committee, Committee on Discipline, Faculty/Administration Committee, MIT-China Strategy Group; MIT-France, MIT-Japan, MIT-Germany, 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, as well as on the Burchard Scholars Committee, Committee on Academic Performance, and as faculty advisor for MacGregor Hall. Director Groeger continued to serve as a student group advisor and activities coorganizer for MIT's Student Support Services program Mujeres Latinas. Senior lecturer Morgenstern remained director of the MITUPV Exchange for MIT students and students of the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. Professor Teng served as faculty advisor to both the Association for Asian American Students and the HAPA Club while serving on the Committee on Race and Diversity among 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 of our full-time faculty and full- and part-time teaching staff are women or members of minority groups.

We had six majors in FL&L this year, four in Spanish, one in French, and one in East Asian Studies Major Departure, administered through this office. Three will be continuing their studies next year. The total number of students who proposed or completed a minor was 41, broken down as follows: Spanish, 12; Chinese, 11; Japanese, 8; French, 7; and German, 3. We had 482 proposed or completed concentrators, broken down as follows: Spanish, 141; Chinese, 108; French, 84; Japanese, 80; German, 42; other languages, 10; Studies in International Literature and Culture (SILC), 13; Theory of Language, 3; and English Language Studies, 1. Spanish continues to have the largest enrollment at 483, followed by Chinese (371), Japanese (334), English Language Studies (285), French (274), German (193), and Italian (25, only offered during IAP). Enrollment in SILC courses (cross-cultural language and culture subjects taught in English) was 305. Our total enrollment for AY2009, including our graduate subjects and IAP, was 2,093.

Isabelle de Courtivron

Section Head

Professor of French Studies and Ann F. Friedlaender Professor of Humanities

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