

COLLOQUIUM ABSTRACTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2011

(10:15) Anthony Lappin, "Arabs and Spain: 711 and All That"

711: when Islam arrived in Europe, precipitating the fall of the majestic Visigothic kingdom, and beginning a near-millennium-long rule domination of al-Andalus. An iconic date, and not only in Spanish history. But also a much misunderstood one, and I shall attempt to use various sources to discuss this event, or rather series of events, within the context of the great migrations of Late Antique and Early Medieval European history. We shall thus be asking the key questions: Who? Where? When? How? and Why?, and subjecting the sources (which remain in Latin, in Arabic, and in DNA) to scrutiny so that they may tell us something, sometimes rather distantly, about the events themselves.

(11:15) Gregory Andrachuk, " 'El triste final de una historia gloriosa': The Morisco Expulsion of 1609"

In 1609 the Spanish government issued orders for the second mass expulsion of an important part of its population, this time the Moriscos, that is, Muslims who had been converted to Christianity. The Moriscos, seen as a cultural and political threat to the integrity of Spain, were nevertheless of significant economic importance, particularly in the Kingdom of Valencia. This paper explores the conditions which led to the expulsion as well as the consequences.

(11:45) Lloyd Howard, "Dante's Italy: Migration of the Living, Migration of the Dead"

In Dante's world, Italy's shores showed great promise. For the defeated and migrating Trojans it was the Promised Land, upon which they would lay the groundwork not just for the Roman Empire to come, but also for Christianity. Upon death the penitent souls would gather near the place the Trojans disembarked, by then a point of embarkation for those migrating souls bound for the promise of Purgatory across the sea and ultimately Paradise itself. Both migrations can be seen in terms of Exodus, but with the focus shifted from the Holy Land to Italy.

(2:00) Marina Bettaglio, "Migrating Signifiers in the Construction of the Italian Identity"

In celebration of the 150th Anniversary of the Unification of Italy, this paper analyses the signifiers employed in the creation of an ever-changing Italian identity. Issues of representation, identity creation, and branding will be examined.

(2:30) Estelle Kurier, "Migrations in Flamenco Song: Canciones de ida y vuelta"

Traditional Flamenco music involves elements from migrating European gypsy groups and Moorish, Jewish, Castilian, and Indian cultures. Later influences in Flamenco music came from the Caribbean and South America. In Flamenco, this form of music is referred to as "ida y vuelta", with the idea that the music left Spain and later migrated back with a new "Latin" style. Although the songs of "ida y vuelta" are not performed as often as the more serious "cante jondo" pieces, they do have a place in current Flamenco repertoire.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2011

(9:30) Silvia Colás Cardona, " 'En construcción': Representación filmica de la gentrificación del barrio del Raval" ("A filmic representation of the gentrification of the neighbourhood of *El Raval*")

The urban development of cities is always tied to events that will directly affect their deconstruction and /or reconstruction. In the case of Barcelona, one of these events was the election of the city as the host for the 1992 Olympics. Shortly after this announcement, a campaign to "clean" and prepare the city for the Olympic Games begins, and a large number of urban planning projects are made public by Barcelona City Hall. In this presentation, we will talk about one of the largest urban areas affected by these projects, the marginal neighbourhood of *El Raval*, and the film by José Luis Guerin that documents the changes in this area and how they affect its population. **Note: this presentation will take place in Spanish.**

(10:00) Dan Russek, "Julio Cortázar y la migración hacia la luz" ("Cortázar and the Migration toward the Light")

The presentation explores the topic of light in the work of Argentine writer Julio Cortázar (1914-1984). Light has a multiplicity of meanings and values: from ancestral metaphor and vehicle of revelation and epiphany to subject matter in the visual arts and condition of possibility of the visible. By analyzing a number of narrative situations in Cortázar's work, the paper argues that a kind of literary phototropism governs his imagination. The texts examined include writings from his first and last books of short stories (*Bestiario*, 1951 and *Deshoras*, 1982), his ground-breaking novel *Rayuela* (1963), and his long prose poem *Prosa del Observatorio* (1972).

Note: this presentation will take place in Spanish.

(10:45) Eva Baboula, "When Byzantium went to Italy: Two perspectives"

During the 13th to 15th centuries a stream of Byzantine intellectuals emigrated to Italy and they are believed to have been important transmitters of the Greek language and literature to their new home. This is also the time when Byzantine painting contributes to the development of Renaissance art. This paper traces the exchange of two types of knowledge between Byzantium and Italy: literary and historical knowledge on the one hand, and images on the other. The paper identifies a range of connections between these two cultural processes and argues that these relationships can only be understood in the larger context of political and social changes in the east Mediterranean.

(11:15) Gabriela McBee, "Indigenous Migration: Inner and Outer Journeys"

A wide range of migrations occur in the Americas before and after the European colonization. This presentation will touch upon the movement of people, culture, and spiritual practices. Indigenous ritual elders have since the beginning of time carried their wisdom and medicine bags from place to place and their journey continues.