

LA COMPAÑERA

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EDITOR: ZACHARY BAQUET '13

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: PROFESSOR ANDREW FISHER



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MEET PROFESSOR ANAHI RUSSO GARRIDO

Who are you?

I am an interdisciplinary scholar in women's, gender and sexuality studies and a cultural anthropologist. For the past decade, my work has mainly focused on gender and sexuality in Latin America, nationalism, space and place, queer theory and transnational feminisms. I hold a PhD in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University and an MA in Cultural Anthropology from Concordia University, Canada. I grew up in Quebec, Canada speaking French on the streets and Spanish at home, as I am of Mexican-Paraguayan descent. I have lived in Montreal, Vancouver, Mexico City, New Jersey, New York and Minneapolis. I also absolutely love chocolate, comic books and enjoy practicing zen meditation and running.

What inspired you to focus on the research interests that you have?

When I was an undergraduate at Universite de Montreal, I used to roam the library racks to write my research papers. I often ended up spending hours looking at books that were not related with anything assigned on the syllabus. These books were often related with the anthropology of gender and sexuality. I think that I found fascinating that there were various ways of thinking and organizing gender and sexuality across culture, something that in our society is still so often naturalized. Later when I decided to do an MA in anthropology, I decided to pursue this interest. I began realizing that so little had been written on female same-sex relations, while there existed a vast literature on males. This was true for Latin America and other areas of the world. Since I already knew Mexico City through my family, it felt "easy" to organize a 4 month fieldwork in the city. I ended up staying there for two years and have since then returned multiple times to Mexico for work, research and to keep in touch with family and friends. My current research builds on my doctoral studies that later focused on the transformation of intimacy in three generations of women participating in queer spaces in Mexico City, at a moment in which sexual citizenship is being redefined in Mexican society. Today, I realize how central it is to continue de-centering the Western subject in queer studies. It forces us to challenge the assumptions embedded in the study of sexuality and to evidence the possibility for human communities to organize life multiple ways. In recognizing our different ways of living and existing, I hope that we can find ways to coexist harmoniously in this world and just life life together on the planet.

What do you think of Carleton so far?

Carleton is a very exciting environment, where all members of the community participate whole heartedly in the multiple activities of everyday life. The community is involved in such a broad range of projects, which make it such a stimulating intellectual environment. I also like the progressive mindset that prevails on campus. It permits engaging with the critical and vital questions of our time that we must face as a college, but also as a contemporary society immersed in a set of global relations.



WINTER TERM COURSES

HIST 170. Modern Latin America 1810-Present This course focuses on the legacy of colonial rule and asks how nascent nation-states dealt with new challenges of political legitimacy, economic development, and the rights of citizens. Case studies from the experiences of individual nations will highlight concerns still pertinent today: the ongoing struggle to extend meaningful political participation and the benefits of economic growth to the majority of the region's inhabitants, popular struggles for political, economic, and cultural rights, and the emergence of a civic society.

Professor Andrew Fisher: MWF 2A

HIST 278. The Spanish Inquisition The Inquisition was the Spanish crown's principal tool for combating heterodoxy and deviance. This course examines the Tribunal's campaigns to eradicate religious, cultural, racial, sexual, and political sources of contagion in both Spain and the New World. Through the prism of its sources, including the interrogations and confessions of the accused, we will study the Inquisition's prosecution of a range of alleged crimes, including relapsed conversion (of Jews, Muslims and Indians), witchcraft, diabolism, homosexuality, and female mysticism. Particular care will be given to the methodological challenges involved in using inquisition sources for the study of popular culture and religion.

Professor Andrew Fisher: MWF 5A

SOAN 234. Ecology, Economy, and Culture This course examines the ways in which economic goods are embedded in social relations. When does a thing become a commodity? What relationships exist between culture and ecology? Formulating an anthropological perspective for the interpretation of "economic facts," we will examine similarities and differences among hunter-gatherers, horticulturalists, and peasants. We will also discuss the interpretation of traders in the brokering of culture, asymmetrical articulation of local and transnational economies, gender bias in classical exchange theory, Mauss on gift-giving and Marx on "commodity fetishism." Theoretical material will be illustrated with ethnographic examples from Africa, Asia, Oceania, and the Americas. Prerequisite: The department strongly recommends that 110 or 111 be taken prior to enrolling in courses numbered 200 or above.

Professor Jay Levi: Tues. and Thurs. 3:10-4:55pm

SPAN 242. Introduction to Latin American Literature An introductory course to reading major texts in Spanish provides an historical survey of the literary movements within Latin American literature from the pre-Hispanic to the contemporary period. Recommended as a foundation course for further study. Not open to seniors. Prerequisite: Spanish 204 or proficiency.

Professor Siliva Lopez: MWF 5A

SPAN 255. Women Dramatists in Latin America: Staging Conflicts This course examines contemporary plays written by Latin American women from a gendered perspective. Issues range from women and political repression to a critique of gender roles. As we read the plays, we will consider both the literary qualities of dramatic texts and the semiotics of staging and its potential for reconceptualizing women's roles in Latin American society and culture. Prerequisite: Spanish 204 or proficiency.

Professor Becky Boling: MWF 2A

SPAN 321. Murder as a Fine Art: The Detective Novel in Latin America We will study the socio-historical factors that gave rise to the genre as well as some of its classical predecessors (Poe, Chandler). We will then turn our attention to some prominent heirs of this genre in Latin America and end by studying why in contemporary Central American literature the genre is enjoying a resurgence We will study the specific traits the genre has adopted in Latin America and how it has become a mirror that often reflects the political and social realities confronting the region, particularly in Central America. Prerequisite: Spanish 205 or above.

Professor Yansi Perez: MWF 4A

SPAN 330. The Invention of the Modern Novel: Cervantes' Don Quijote Among other things, Don Quijote is a "remake," an adaptation of several literary models popular at the time the picaresque novel, the chivalry novel, the sentimental novel, the Byzantine novel, the Italian novella, etc. This course will examine the ways in which Cervantes transformed these models to create what is considered by many the first "modern" novel in European history. Prerequisite: Spanish 205 or above.

Professor Jorge Briosos: Tues. and Thurs. 3:10-4:55pm

WGST 315. Queer Ethnographies Across Latin America and the Caribbean This course focuses on the history and culture of non-normative gender and sexualities across Latin America, the Caribbean and its diaspora. Our focus will question the changing meanings and boundaries of gender and sexuality and their dynamics with race, sex and class across the continent, through the exploration of queer ethnographies primarily. Students will complete the course with a more complex understanding of the historical and cultural embeddedness of sexual identities, practices and communities in the Americas.

Professor Anahi Russo: Tues. and Thurs. 3:10-4:55pm