

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY



DEPARTMENT OF SPANISH & PORTUGUESE

## Letter from the Chair

Dear All,

It's been 12 years since I joined The Ohio State University and the Department of Spanish and Portuguese. In those years, I've seen SPPO grow and become one of the largest and most respected departments in the country. This year, I've had the honor and privilege to serve as the department's Interim Chair. Don't get me wrong. This job has been very challenging; I often spend most of my time answering emails or participating in meetings. It has also been very rewarding; I've had the opportunity to work along the best Spanish and Portuguese professors, scholars and mentors in the nation who offer the best learning experience to all students who come through our classrooms and programs. We believe that our programs, courses and events contribute to the enrichment and education of citizens of the world, and we strive to offer the best opportunities for meaningful learning as we navigate different and rich languages, literatures and cultures. We hope to remain in touch with you through our bi-monthly newsletter and we welcome your ideas and suggestions for future issues.

Please know that my door is always open and I will be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Romero".

Dr. Eugenia R. Romero, Ph.D.

Interim Chair, Department of Spanish and Portuguese



Dr. Laura Podalsky

- "Ponerse al día: los jóvenes y el cine argentino contemporáneo." *Cine argentino contemporáneo: visiones y discursos*. Bernhard Chappuzeau y Christian von Tschilschke, eds. Amsterdam: Iberoamericana/Vervuert.
- "Aesthetics of Detachment." *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies* (20): 10-26. Special volume edited by María del Carmen Caña Jiménez and Vinodh Venkatesh.

## Recent Publications

Dr. Fernando Martinez-Gil

- "Syllable merger in Chicano Spanish: a constraint-based analysis." In *The Syllable and Stress: Studies in Honor of James W. Harris*, ed. by Rafael Núñez-Cedeño. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 139-186.
- "El fonema I: las bases del contraste en la materia fónica." In *Enciclopedia de Lingüística Hispánica* (Vol. 1, Part II), ed. by Javier Gutiérrez-Rexach. London & NewYork: Routledge Publishing Co., 595-606.

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## THIS ISSUE

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Poet: Miguel Valerio
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# FACULTY HIGHLIGHT:

## INTERVIEW WITH PEDRO PEREIRA

In considering which professor to interview in this first issue, Dr. Pedro Pereira's name immediately came to mind. As Associate Professor of Portuguese and Iberian Studies, affiliate faculty to the department of African-American and African Studies, Director of Undergraduate studies in The Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, and Coordinator of the Instituto Camões Fund, we knew that he played an important role in our department and for the Humanities at OSU. A good choice, we think.

When speaking with Dr. Pereira, it is immediately apparent that he has a gregarious personality and is enthusiastic about his profession. After a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Coimbra, he finished his Ph.D. in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Brown University, then was awarded a Mellon Foundation Post-Doctoral at the University of Chicago. Although his scholarship is primarily in Portuguese, Dr. Pereira also works to develop awareness and understanding of the Iberian Peninsula as a whole; to bridge the gap in connecting Portugal and Spain and Portuguese and Spanish in terms of languages, cultures and literary histories. He enjoys working in the Department of

Spanish and Portuguese at OSU because he believes that colleagues work as a collective to bridge those gaps of knowledge.

Dr. Pereira serves as the Coordinator of the Instituto Camões Fund, a governmentally funded institution responsible for developing programs for Portuguese language abroad. Soon after arriving at OSU, he successfully secured funding to help sponsor a lecture series to help promote learning Portuguese language and culture within and outside of OSU.

Currently, Dr. Pereira is organizing an international conference that will take place at OSU in October 2017. Scholars will converge from across the U.S., Brazil, Portugal and other European countries. It concludes a multi-year project that has previously hosted conferences in Paris, São Paulo, and Lisbon. The topic of the final conference at OSU will be "Marginality of the Feminine in the Portuguese-speaking World". Dr. Pereira is working to involve colleagues not only from Spanish and Portuguese, but also from Women's Studies, English, and African-American and African Studies to raise awareness about Women's issues and increase the visibility of Portuguese language and cultures on a broader scale.

Dr. Pereira is presently working on an article about the African Sublime in 19th Century Portuguese literature.

## Recent Publications

- "Portuguese and the Emergence of Iberian Studies" in *Beyond Tordesillas: Critical Essays in Comparative Luso-Hispanic Studies*. Ed. By Robert Patrick Newcomb and Richard Gordon. OSU University Press, 2017.
- "Eça de Queirós e o sublime africano." *Queirosiana* 25. Porto, Portugal, 2017.



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about Pedro Pereira



## MIGUEL VALERIO

Graduate Student and Poet

Your graduate studies should reflect your personality and true interests in life. What do you think about? What are you passionate about exploring? Everything! Nothing, really.... I haven't decided quite yet. All reasonable answers from even the most seasoned graduate students. Not Miguel Valerio. It seems he is clear about his personal and professional trajectory. His direction and achievements are evident, his voice steady and calm, when he talks about his (quite amazing) scholarship.

Having completed a B.A. in Philosophy from St. John's University, Miguel continued his M.A. studies in Spanish at the same University. It was during that time when he realized his interest to pursue a Ph.D. in Latin American literatures and cultures for a career in academia. Miguel initially

entered OSU with the intention of studying Latin American Avant-garde poetry, but after taking several classes in literature and attending a conference on Afro-Christian Festivals in the Americas, his interest honed in to his current dissertation topic: "Kings of the Kongo, Slaves of the Virgin Mary: Black Religious Confraternities Performing Cultural Identity in the Early Modern Iberian Atlantic." Miguel's dissertation earned him the Presidential Fellowship for the 2017-18 year, the most prestigious scholarship awarded by The Graduate School at OSU.

The best mentor advice he received that he would pass on to other graduate students? Spend time procuring grants and fellowships that allow you to do research during the summer. Value the challenges and mentor feedback; they will allow

for improvement of critical writing and research. Take breaks from working during the weekend to do things you enjoy; Miguel does poetry and bowling.... And don't get run over by a car in Rome. You could miss an important academic conference (Seriously.).

## Upcoming Publications

- "Black Dancers & Musicians Performing Afro-Christian Identity in Early Modern Spain & Portugal." *Slavery Dynamics in Medieval & Modern Mediterranean: Markets, Circulations, & Mobilities*. Roser Salucrú i Lluç & Iván Armenteros Martínez, Editors. (In press). Expected March/April 2017.
- "The Queen of Sheba's Manifold Body: Creole Black Women Performing Sexuality, Cultural Identity, & Power in Seventeenth-Century Mexico City." (Submitted to journal.) Spring/Autumn 2017.



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about Miguel Valerio

## DID YOU KNOW?

During Catalanian festivals, **castells**, or human towers, can be up to 10 human stories high, usually with a small child being placed on the top.

source: BBC News, Close-Up  
photo credit: David Ramos, GETTY





# GENDER POWER & INSTITUIÇÕES

March 31  
April 1  
2017

in Luso-Hispanic Literature and Media

## OSUCHILL

OSU Congress on Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics

### 20TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

MARCH 31 - APRIL 1

OSUCHILL

**Keynote speakers:** Dr. Erin O'Rourke, University of Alabama & Dr. Janice Askie, The Ohio State University

**Organizers:** William Johnson & Oihane Muxika-Loitzate

LUSO-HISPANIC LITERATURE AND MEDIA

**Keynote speakers:** Dr. Ana Paula Ferreira, University of Minnesota & Dr. Paul Julian Smith, City University of New York

**Organizers:** Eric Garn & Olivia Cosentino

For more information visit: [sppo.osu.edu/annual-symposium](http://sppo.osu.edu/annual-symposium)



### SPPO CLUB CONVERSATION TABLES

Held every **Monday** and **Thursday** from 3-4 PM in the Crane Café.

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IT'S WHAT WE DO.  
IT'S WHO WE ARE.

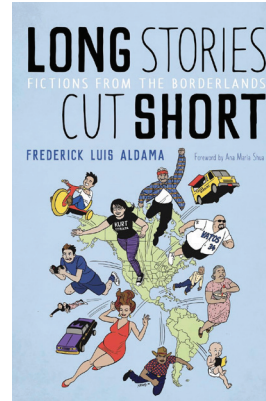


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Thank you for  
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Department  
of Spanish and  
Portuguese

### WRITER'S READING: FREDERICK LUIS ALDAMA

*Long Stories Cut Short: Fictions from the Borderlands*



THURS, FEB 9 | 5:30 PM

WEXNER CENTER STORE

Hear Ohio State professor Frederick Luis Aldama read from his first book of fiction, *Long Stories Cut Short: Fictions from the Borderlands*, in the Wexner Center Store. A book signing follows the reading. Admission is FREE to the public.

### A CAMÕES SP8894 COLLOQUIUM CO-SPONSORED BY CMRS

FRI, FEB 10 | 2:20-3:40 PM

HAGERTY HALL 255

"Camões Enrhythmed" presented by Prof. Vincent Barletta, Stanford



### INTEGRATING & STRUCTURING SPANISH SP8893 COLLOQUIUM

FRI, MAR 3 | 2:20-3:40 PM | HAGERTY HALL 255

Visiting assistant professor, Diana Ruggiero, University of Memphis, will discuss "Integrating & Structuring Spanish for the Professions within the Modern Language Curriculum of the 21st Century"

### CLLC FOREIGN LANGUAGE CAREERS MEET & GREET

TUES, FEB 21 | 4-6 PM | SUZANNE M. SCHARER ROOM, OHIO UNION

Networking opportunity for students and alumni.