NEW PLAS ASSOCIATED FACULTY

Vera S. Candiani (History)

Vera Candiani previously taught at California State University-Hayward and at the University of California (Berkeley, Davis, and Santa Cruz). Her courses this year include HIS 303/LAS 305 Colonial Latin America to 1810, and a graduate seminar, HIS 504 Colonial Latin America to 1810. A student of William B. Taylor, Margaret Chowning, and Tulio Halperin Donghi, Professor Candiani is a specialist in colonial Latin America. She earned the B.A. and Ph.D. at the University of California, Berkeley, and is preparing a book manuscript tentatively titled “Water from Colony to Nation: Indigenous, European, and Hybrid Hydraulic Practices in Mexico’s Degüé de Huehuetepec, 1555–1900.”

Susana Draper (Comparative Literature)

Susana Draper earned the Ph.D. in Spanish and Latin American Literature at the University of Michigan (2005), and she previously taught at the University of Southern California, the University of Michigan, and Louisiana State University. Her courses this year include COM 377/LAS 377 Architectural Diagrams in Latin American Fiction, COM 378/LAS 378 Intellectuals and the State: Writing in Latin American Culture, COM 238/LAS 238 Contemporary Latin American Literature, and SPA 350/LAS 349 Topics in Latin American Cultural Studies: Dictatorship and Transition in Southern Cone Cultures. Among her recent publications are “Entre política y crítica cultural: Rodó y la microsociología de Protes,” Latin American Literary Review 34.67 (2006); “El boom en Mundo Nuevo: crítica literaria, mercado y la guerra de valoraciones,” Modern Language Notes 121.2 (2006); and “Tu discurso o tu vida... Escritura y deseo en Amir Hamedi,” Katatat: Revista de Literatura Latinoamericana 1.1–2 (2005). Her book manuscripts in progress are “Enclosed Spaces and Lines of Flight: The Architecture of Contemporary Experience (Space, Literature, and Visual Arts in Post-dictatorship Culture)” and an edited volume, “The Malling of Latin America: Writings on the History of the Malls.”

2007 STANLEY J. STEIN SENIOR THESIS PRIZE

On Class Day (Monday, June 4, 2007), PLAS Acting Director Douglas S. Massey announced the Stanley J. Stein Senior Thesis Prize, awarded annually in honor of the noted historian of Latin America and co-founder of PLAS. Class of 2007 co-winners were Alisha Caroline Holland (Woodrow Wilson School) and Aiala Teresa Levy (History).

One faculty reader called Holland’s work (“The Battle After the War: Mano Dura Policies and the Politics of Crime in El Salvador”) “a truly outstanding thesis” based on “a prodigious amount of fieldwork” and a “mastery of the empirical literature.” Another praised it as a “sophisticated thesis that identifies a critical political question and puts forth a theoretically rich, conceptually thoughtful, and innovative argument.”

Levy’s “Spaces, Inhabitants, and Ideas: The Development of the Arts in the Buenos Aires Anarchist Movement, 1896–1910” is “an exceptional combination of urban, social, and cultural history” and “a compelling new way of looking at the politics of popular culture in Buenos Aires around the turn of the century,” one reader observed. Another wrote, “Levy has [carried the efforts of Cora Barrancos and Juan Suriano] one step further, to write a cultural history of anarchism as the crucible for new popular identities in Buenos Aires.”

Honorable mention went to Danielle Ophelia Hamilton (Comparative Literature) for “Forms of Black Affirmation in the Poetry of Nicholas Guilén, Jorge ArTEL, and Antonio Acosta Márquez,” characterized as “a polished analysis of... the formation of Afro-Latin literature”; also cited was Stephanie N. Jacobs (Spanish and Portuguese Languages and Cultures) for “From Journalism to Militancy: Operación Masacre and Transformation in Rodolfo Walsh,” whose “synthesis of the very complex historical context of Argentina between 1956 and 1976” constitutes “a contribution to the present debate on the nature of culture and armed struggle, and history and memory vis-à-vis 1970s Argentina.”