



2018

Editor's Note

Catherine Greer

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Recommended Citation

Greer, Catherine (2018) "Editor's Note," *Vernacular: New Connections in Language, Literature, & Culture*: Vol. 3 , Article 1.
Available at: <http://trace.tennessee.edu/vernacular/vol3/iss1/1>

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Editor's Note

The articles in this issue address topics that are particularly timely given the current political climate in the United States, as well as current debates surrounding the importance of academic programs in the Humanities. Addressing issues ranging from racism and appropriation to transnationalism and migrant studies, the papers in this issue enrich our understanding of these phenomena in various cultures and how they persist to the present day. Additional works included in this volume offer fresh insights into current linguistic studies, as well as evidence of the promising poetic voice of the next generation.

This issue would not be possible without the valued contributions of our reviewers, who are enrolled at universities across the United States. Their thoughtful feedback, enlightening perspectives, and productive insight helped shape the articles in this issue. Dr. Rudyard Alcocer, Vernacular's faculty advisor, also provided invaluable guidance and support throughout the year, assuring the success of this journal.

This year, Vernacular's editorial board organized an inaugural symposium to showcase current scholarship by graduate students, which was held from February 23-24, 2018 on the campus of the University of Tennessee. We were thrilled to host students from Tulane University, Vanderbilt University, and the University of Tennessee. The symposium featured panels in German, French, and Hispanic studies, and included presentations on Afro-German studies and Holocaust studies; film studies; medieval, migrant, and Brazilian literature; and marginalized feminist perspectives in Spanish literature. Faculty members from the Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures Department at the University of Tennessee served as moderators for all panels, and provided graduate students constructive feedback and mentoring.

A highlight of this year's symposium was the keynote lecture by Dr. Brad Prager, Professor of German and Film Studies (University of Missouri, Columbia), entitled "Bad Acting: On Testimonial Performance and Nazi Perpetrators." The success of our inaugural symposium should pave the way for future symposiums, and reflects the cutting-edge research of graduate students in all represented disciplines. A detailed program is included below.

Our symposium and this issue of Vernacular evidence the compelling research produced by emerging scholars in the field. It is my hope that such endeavors will continue to engender and facilitate scholarly promise among graduate students at universities in North America and abroad, and that through such efforts, we can sustain and further demonstrate the importance of all disciplines within the Humanities.

Catherine Greer, Editor-in-Chief
April 6, 2018

THE DEPARTMENT OF MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES PRESENTS

Inaugural

VERNACULAR

GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM **February 23-24, 2018**

Friday, February 23

1:30-4:00 Registration

2:30-3:30 Identity, Representation, and Americanization

Moderator: Dr. Daniel Magilow, Lindsay Young Associate Professor of German
Advisory Board, *Vernacular: Language, Literature, and Culture*

Afro-German Identity, Media, and Americanism: SXTN's *Ich bin schwarz*
Rudy Saliba, Vanderbilt University

The Defiant Requiem: Appropriation and Americanization
Catherine Greer, University of Tennessee

4:00-5:30 Vernacular Keynote

Bad Acting: On Testimonial Performance and Nazi Perpetrators

Brad Prager, Professor of German and Film Studies, University of Missouri
Advisory Board, *Vernacular: Language, Literature, and Culture*

Saturday, February 24

8:30 Coffee and Pastries

9:00-10:30 Nationalism and Migration

Moderator: Dr. Mary McAlpin, Professor of French and Interim Department Head, Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures

Du Bellay's Linguistic Imaginary: The Symbolic Construction of a French Nation through Literary Imitation

Jodie Miller, University of Tennessee

Ben Jelloun's *Les raisins de la galère*: Between Transhumance and Identity Crisis

Gerard Keubeung Fokou, University of Tennessee

Solar Empires and Space Travel in Eighteenth-Century French Literature

Erika Mandarino, Tulane University

10:30-10:45 Coffee Break

10:45-12:45 Parody, Gender, and Representation

Moderator: Dr. Rudyard Alcocer, Shumway Chair of Excellence in Spanish Faculty Advisor, *Vernacular: Language, Literature, and Culture*

The Actor as Imitator: Making Fun of El Jefe in *Trópico de sangre*

Haley Osborn, University of Tennessee

The Constraints of Masculinity in *Mi compadre el General Sol*

Jerry Scruggs, University of Tennessee

Perceptions of Female Labor and the Public Sphere in *La Rampa* and *Cristina Guzmán*

Holly Villines, University of Tennessee

Valor, mujer y agravio: Feminine Self-Representation and Self-Consciousness

Catalina Rojas, University of Tennessee