

DLCC Symposium 2025 & International Speaker Series
"Changing Word: Travels, Nations & Cultures"

Tuesday, March 25th, 2025
L.S. Dougherty Room 113, 5:30 - 6:30

Presentation and discussion

Moderator: **Alexandra Sterling-Hellenbrand**

Presenter: **Ryan Hellenbrand**

Ph.D. candidate, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, UW-Madison

Listening to the Trees, Together:
Indigenous Sustainability and Forestry Education

This talk will outline how German Scientific Forestry, exported to the United States in the nineteenth century, has shaped the settler colonial context with which Indigenous Nations must contend. It provided a model to transform the forests of the Upper Great Lakes region into a permanent homeland for settlers. By contrast, the Menominee Nation of Wisconsin employs forestry to maintain their inherent sovereignty and to ensure their collective continuance. Engaging with Menominee Forestry invites us to develop strategies for climate resilience and environmental justice that are conscientious of and responsive to the self-determination of Indigenous Nations.

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025
New River Room (PSU 100)

Student Panel

Asuntos internos: an Intro to Latinx Studies Panel

(11:00 am - 12:30 pm)

Moderator: **Benito del Pliego**

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- **Juliet Plue:** Latinx immigrants in the U.S.: history, legislation, and recent changes
- **Zekira Graham:** Deportation and Family Separation
- **Stephanie Corona Rico:** Education in the Latinx Community
- **Zahira Villa:** Sí se Puede, Sí se Pudo: Citizen College and Southern Colleges and Universities



Student Panel

Resistance, Travel and Stewardship in the Americas.

(1:00 - 2:30)

Moderator: **Catherine Fountain**

- **Sierra Sarver:** Heterogenous Time of Travel: The Permanent Pilgrimage of the American Nomad
- **Zoe Lebkuecher.** Muxe Resistance: Tradition, Identity, and the Struggle for Justice
- **Sydney Hudson:** Sustainability and Theistic Stewardship in the Cuban Context.



Panel

Coping with displacement in Culture and Health

(3:00 - 4:30)

Moderator: **Darci Gardner**

- **Benito del Pliego:** “Mom Is Non-UE”: Twenty-First Century Latin American Poets in Spain.
- **Adrienne Erazo:** “Mental Health Crisis and Maladaptive Coping Skills in Postwar Central America: An Exploration through Horacio Castellanos Moya’s Narrative”
- **Jewel Parker,** Lecturer, “The Transatlantic Slave Trade, African Medicine, and New Ideas of Health and Healing in America”



International Speaker Series

(L.S. Dougherty Room 113 & Zoom:

[https://appstate.zoom.us/j/99244099866?pwd=4WUiVKHnsVizMsQAaspetiami2PSrE.1\)](https://appstate.zoom.us/j/99244099866?pwd=4WUiVKHnsVizMsQAaspetiami2PSrE.1))

(5:30-6:30)

Moderator: **Irina Barclay**

Presenter: **Dr. Eren Tasar**

*Associate Professor of History at the University of Chapel Hill's Department of History.
Interim Director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian, and East European Studies,*

The Religious Cultures of the Silk Road

At the center of the Silk Roads connecting China to Europe, the steppes, deserts, and oasis towns of Central Asia have hosted all of the great religions of the past millennium. This talk will offer an introduction to the beliefs and history of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism,

Christianity, and Islam in the region. It will explore the points of overlap between these religions while tracing the responses of Central Asian societies to their beliefs. A particular focus will be the role of Sogdians, the people who inhabited the oasis civilizations of what is now Uzbekistan, as well as the nomads of the Kazakh steppe. Before becoming Muslim, these peoples had a long engagement with Christianity and Buddhism that has today largely been forgotten. The talk will also highlight the significance of trade as a vector for the transmission of religious ideas.

Thursday, March 27, 2025
Watauga River Room (PSU 102)

Panel

“Africa & the World: Gendered Migrations”

(9:00-10:30 am)

Moderator: **Stephanie Diane Tsakeu Mazan**

- **Stephanie Diane Tsakeu Mazan**: Exploration, immigration and biases
- **Liz Perego**: Warda, “The Algerian Rose”: An Artist and a Refugee in Service of the Algerian Revolution
- **Margaret Morley**: Aesthetic Colonization and the Egyptian Belly Dance Industry.



Student Panel

“Learning from others: Language Learning and Travels Vs. Prejudice”

(bilingual English & French)

(11:00 am-12:15 pm)

Moderator: **Alejandra Riveros**

- **Joshua N. Crouch**: A Summer in Japan - Forging Opportunity
- **Alexandria Dianne Young** - Confronting Cultural Bias: Russia
- **Sarah McCarroll**. “Est-ce que l'Éducation est la clé de l'égalité entre les sexes?”



Panel

Worlds & Words: Travels, Language and Literatures

(1:00-2:30)

Moderator: **Stephen Young**

- **Paul Sebastian**: The Camino de Santiago Norte and Primitivo Routes as Semiotic Isolates

- **Jeanne Dubino:** *Faithful Ruslan: Dogs in the Changing World of Post-Soviet Russia*
- **Irina Barclay:** The Silk Road from Russia to India.



Panel

“Worldly Views: Reflexions on travel and cultures”

(3:00-4:30 pm)

Moderator: **Misa Yamamoto**

- **Kevin Kennedy**, *Pilgrimage to Paradise: The Marketing of Jamaica as a Travel Destination*
- **Kinji Ito**, *Seeing the World Anew: A Cultural Glimpse into Japan and Beyond*
- **Christoph Schmitz**, “You Are Not A Sneaker: A Personal Teaching Reflection”.



Joint Presentation (panel) with interactive discussion

(6:00-7:30 pm, Zoom: <https://appstate.zoom.us/j/9780805779?omn=92381246361>)

Beyond Borders: Two Writers of Non-Japanese Origin and the Shifting Landscape of Japanese Literature

Presenter(s): Yang Yi and Li Kotomi, award-winning authors invited by Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Faculty organizers: Dr. Kinji Ito, Ms. Misa Yamamoto, Dr. Xiaofei Tu, Dr. Wei Xie

Interpreters: Dr. Kinji Ito (Japanese) Dr. Xiaofei Tu (Chinese)

The Akutagawa Prize, Japan’s most prestigious literary award, has historically reflected Japan’s literary and cultural landscape. In recent years, however, two writers of non-Japanese origin, Yang Yi and Li Kotomi, have won this coveted prize while writing in Japanese. Their recognition challenges traditional notions of national literature and cultural homogeneity in Japan.

This presentation by the author themselves will explore how the works of Yang Yi and Li Kotomi navigate themes of migration, identity, and linguistic displacement, aligning with the symposium’s theme of Travels, Nations & Cultures. By talking about their works’ narratives and reception, the panel will discuss the evolving space of transnational writers in Japan and how their success reflects broader shifts in Japan’s engagement with multiculturalism.

