
SDSU Department of European Studies| Fall 2021 Newsletter

 SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY
College of Arts and Letters

DEPARTMENT of EUROPEAN STUDIES

Fall 2021 Newsletter



Greetings,

The picture at the top of this first newsletter was taken in Modena, Italy, in January 2020 while I was on sabbatical. It features the entrance of the Teatro delle Passioni, an experimental space in the old warehouse district of the city. By the time I came back to the U.S., the pandemic was on our heels and the world hasn't been the same since. And yet, we accomplished so much in the past year and a half. All our faculty, staff and students stepped up to the challenge of teaching, working and learning remotely. We celebrated our department's 20th anniversary, we launched a new podcast, we hired a new faculty member, we produced a French play online, we congratulated our graduating seniors, we published outstanding research and we renewed our commitment to diversity and inclusivity by getting grants that will help us develop and strengthen our programs.

We have many more ideas and surprises in store for the coming year, so stay tuned and be well.

Clarissa Cl , Chair, Department of European Studies

Major News 2020/2021

In December 2020, the department celebrated its 20th anniversary through a wonderful and inspiring virtual celebration that featured a keynote speech by Professor Emerita **Edith J. Benkov** and drew a large number of attendees. Kudos go to the department chair **Clarissa Clò**, department administrative coordinator **Veronica Gonzalez**, and French lecturer **Susanne Forrayi** for organizing this terrific event! Watch the 20th anniversary montage video on our website at: <https://esdepartment.sdsu.edu/20years>.



The same dynamic team was responsible for creating and implementing a new departmental initiative, the Imagine Europe Podcast. The inaugural podcast features Professor Emerita **Edith Benkov** being interviewed about the history of the department by Professor **Clarissa Clò** with original music by **Holly Ransom Thomson**. The second podcast features lecturer **Rosamaria Ruggeri** being interviewed about the role of women in the 1940s Manifesto of Ventotene and her experiences growing up in Italy in the formative decades of the 1960s and 1970s. The podcasts are available on our website at: <https://esdepartment.sdsu.edu/podcasts>.

Faculty Highlights



New colleague in French, Assistant Professor Kylie Sago

The department is thrilled to welcome a new colleague in French, Assistant Professor **Kylie Sago**, in fall 2021. Dr. Sago received her Ph.D. in romance languages and literatures from Harvard University in May 2021. Her research focuses on race and colonialism in 18th and 19th century French Atlantic narratives. Her most recent publication is a book chapter, "Colonial Encounters of 'La Belle et la Bête,'" which was published this spring in the edited volume *Encounters in the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: Chance and Choice* (Bloomsbury Academic, 2021).

THE ALGERIAN WAR IN FILM FIFTY YEARS LATER, 2004–2012



ANNE DONADEY

Congratulations Anne Donadey!

Professor **Anne Donadey** (French and Women's Studies) is the 2021-22 College of Arts and Letters recipient of one of the major awards given at SDSU, the **Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Faculty Contributions to the University**. This award is bestowed annually to an outstanding faculty member from each of SDSU's colleges and the library. It is presented at the all-university convocation at the beginning of the fall semester. This award comes at the perfect time to help Anne celebrate her 20 years at SDSU – time sure flies!

A Look Back at Department Events

LE THÉÂTRE FRANÇAIS DE SDSU PRÉSENTE



FEU LA MÈRE DE MADAME DE GEORGES FEYDEAU

VENDREDI ET SAMEDI, 30 AVRIL ET 1ER MAI 2021

7:00 PM SUR ZOOM

Annual French Play "Feu la mère de Madame"

The French Play this year, "Feu la mère de Madame," was the department's first virtual play. It ran two nights and drew an audience of students, faculty and alumni to Zoom on a Friday and Saturday night! The pandemic presented challenges but the actors rose to the occasion and delivered exquisite performances. Check out our third podcast, where director and lecturer **Holly Ransom Thomson** discusses this year's play along with the history of the French play at SDSU, with department chair **Clarissa Clò**.



Imagine Europe

In spring 2020 and 2021, our **Imagine Europe Speaker Series** moved to an online platform. We've been fortunate to have had great lectures from visiting professors, both domestic and international in the midst of the pandemic. Speakers included Santanu Das, Professor of Modern Literature and Culture and Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College, University of Oxford as well as Stephanie Jed, Professor of Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of California, San Diego. We look forward to hosting an in-person series this coming spring 2022.

Inclusive Curriculum Awards



This year, four of our faculty members received awards in support of their projects to develop more inclusive curriculum practices.

Associate Professor **Emily Schuckman-Matthews** (European Studies) was awarded three units of assigned time from the College of Arts and Letters to develop inclusive curriculum for the European Studies program.

Lecturers **Sonia Brighenti** and **Silvia Kading** (Italian) received a 2021-22 team Equity Mini-Grant from SDSU's Center for Inclusive Excellence to make materials for first-year Italian courses entirely accessible (including captioning their many Italian video lecturers for asynchronous classes) following the principles of Universal Design for Learning.

Lecturer **Felicitas Jaima** (German) received a 2021-22 individual Equity Mini-Grant from SDSU's Center for Inclusive Excellence to implement the use of new textbooks and develop new syllabi for lower-division German classes that will present a more racially and culturally inclusive picture of Germany.

Other Honors, Awards, Grants, and News



Assistant Professor **Cecilia Benaglia** (French and Italian) was awarded three units of assigned time from SDSU's Division of Research and Innovation to enhance her Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) in Spring 2021.

Associate Professor **Emily Schuckman-Matthews** (European Studies) has been very active. She was fully funded to participate in a week-long Brussels study tour (sponsored by the EU, the University of Pittsburgh's European Studies Center, the Center for European Study at UNC, and the Eurasian Studies Program at Florida International University, to be held in summer 2022). She was also accepted to the 2021 Virtual Summer Research Laboratory on Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia at the University of Illinois. Finally, she joined the Campus Editorial Committee at *EuropeNow*, as online magazine/ journal published by the Council for European Studies.

As Director of the Language Acquisition Resource Center, Professor **Mathias Schulze** (German and European Studies) received major grant funding for three LARC projects: the National Language Training Center, STARTALK Teacher Camps, and the Southern Area International Languages Network (SAILN).

Administrative Coordinator **Veronica Gonzalez** celebrated her first year in our department and is now a permanent staff person, to the delight of each and every one of us!

Last but not least, **Diana Jimenez** (French) was selected as the department's Outstanding Graduating Senior. Diana is joining our MA in French in fall 2021. She selected **Holly Ransom Thomson** as her Most Influential Faculty member. This marks the eighth time in our department's 20-year history that Holly has been selected for this honor: 2002, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2020, and 2021--quite a track record!

Publications

Assistant Professor Cecilia Benaglia (French and Italian) published a single-authored book, *Engagements de la forme. Une sociolecture des oeuvres de Carlo Emilio Gadda et de Claude Simon* (Classiques Garnier, 2020).

Professor Clarissa Clò (Italian) published a book chapter, "Mondo Exotica: Ethnography, Eros, and Exploitation in Italian Cinema of the 1960s and 1970s" in the edited volume *Cinema of Exploration: Essays on an Adventurous Film Practice* (AFI/Routledge, 2021).

In 2020, **Professor Anne Donadey** (French and Women's Studies) published a single-authored book, *The Algerian War in Film Fifty Years Later, 2004-2012* (Lexington). She also published a chapter on "Postcolonial Feminism, Gender, and Genre in Rachid Bouchareb's *Just like a Woman*" in the edited volume *ReFocus: The Films of Rachid Bouchareb* (Edinburgh University Press).

Professor Mathias Schulze (German and European Studies) co-edited a special issue of the journal *Language and Sociocultural Theory* (2021) on "Conceptualization and Orientation in Concept-based Language Instruction," with B. White and G.A. Gánem-Gutiérrez. The special issue includes an introductory article on the topic by the three co-editors.

Professor Veronica Shapovalov (Russian and European Studies) published "Vilna Ghetto in Women's Memoirs" in the Proceedings of the 13th International Academic Conference of Russian Association of Researchers in Women's History dedicated to *Men and Women in Traditional and Contemporary Culture: Preservation, Fixation, Understanding* (Moscow: IZA-RAN, 2020).



For more details about the Department of European Studies and our events, please visit esdepartment.sdsu.edu and our YouTube page.