

# THE 2010 BULLETIN OF THE AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

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**LETTER FROM THE ACLA PRESIDENT  
HAUN SAUSSY**

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

In the ACLA calendar, the annual conference holds the place of Christmas, Passover, New Year's, and July 4<sup>th</sup> (or other national day of your choice): a time for gifts, for gathering, for feasting, for spinning the collective tribal story, for promising even better things next year.

By that count, we are now in the doldrums of middle February, still picking up the bits of wrapping paper in the corners of the room and discovering holiday leftovers in the refrigerator. The 2010 ACLA conference in New Orleans was, I think I can say, a success. Over 1800 of you were there, so you can testify to the liveliness of the seminars, social events and panels, to the friendly but sharp criticism addressed to us by our plenary speaker Sheldon Pollock, to the way our population spilled out joyfully into the streets of the Vieux Carré in search of food, drink, and other things that are "good to think with," as the late regretted Claude Lévi-Strauss would have called them. Our "world of difference" (to quote another departed friend of our discipline, Barbara Johnson) was perfectly at home in this multilingual American city, born of exchange and contact, where architecture, food and music issue constant manifestoes against monoculturalism.

No conference is perfect; it is too much to expect that an event involving close to two thousand human beings will come off without some hiccups and mishaps. I apologize for any contretemps and urge any disappointed participants to come back next year: at the risk of sounding like a casino operator, I observe that repeated visits raise the odds in your favor.

Past conferences held in Mexico and Puerto Rico remind us to take the "American" in our association's title in the sense of "the Americas." We cross borders again in 2011. (Peaceably, of course.) Next year's conference, already in the planning, will be held March 31 to April 3, 2011, in Vancouver, British Columbia, under the auspices of Simon Fraser University, in downtown hotel spaces and in classrooms kindly made available to us by our academic hosts. Changing oceans and recalibrating the mix of languages, Vancouver will be for us a chance to explore the trans-Pacific domain of Comparative Literature, a discipline often and unfairly accused of subjection to European models. The theme of the conference will be "World Literature / Comparative Literature": a motto to live up to, even if it must remain in suspense whether the hyphen functions as an equal sign or a dividing line. For details, please see the regularly updated conference web page at <http://www.acla.org/acla2011/>. Proposals for seminars and panels may be submitted there starting in the fall.

The ACLA is beginning to talk with institutions desirous of hosting the Secretariat for the coming five-year period. We hope to have more definite news by the time of the Vancouver conference.

Together with our tireless Secretary-Treasurer Elizabeth Richmond-Garza and our Vice-President (and future President) Françoise Lionnet, I look eagerly forward to seeing you in Vancouver. In the meantime, let us wish each of you a delightful and productive summer.

**LETTER FROM THE ADPCL PRESIDENT, CAROLINE D. ECKHARDT,  
AND SECRETARY-TREASURER, CORINNE SCHEINER**

Dear Colleagues,

We're glad to have this opportunity to provide an annual update on the ADPCL, the Association of Departments and Programs of Comparative Literature, which is the ACLA's administrators' group for Comparative Literature. This year we continued with our main function, which is to provide a forum for those who have administrative responsibilities for Comparative Literature programs, departments, curricula, etc., in order to share common interests and issues. We also address questions of general professional concern, such as the job market, a topic for which we have again partnered with the Graduate Caucus of the ACLA. The ADPCL also has a continuing relationship with the MLA, where we are an affiliated organization.

At the December 2009 MLA meeting, the ADPCL sponsored a session in which editors of university presses discussed their expectations, and a session on how we teach the discipline of Comparative Literature itself. We would again like to thank the participants -- for the publishing session, which was chaired by Tom Beebee (Penn State), press editors Linda Bree (Cambridge University Press), Jennifer Crewe (Columbia University Press), Scott Paul Gordon (Lehigh University Press), Shannon McLachlan (Oxford University Press), and Jerome Singerman (University of Pennsylvania Press); and, for the session on teaching, which was chaired by Carey Eckhardt (Penn State), speakers David Damrosch (Harvard), Vilashini Cooppan (UC - Santa Cruz), and Haun Saussy (Yale).

At the April 2010 ACLA meeting in New Orleans, the ADPCL held a breakfast meeting for program and department chairs, and co-sponsored, along with the Graduate Caucus, a Round Table on "Navigating the Current Job Market." Organized and presided over by Attia Sattar (Penn State) and Chandani Patel (University of Chicago), the two elected student representatives on the ACLA Advisory Board, the Round Table presented a realistic picture of the types of jobs that may be available now, as seen by participants Carl Fisher (California State University, Long Beach), Lois Parkinson Zamora (University of Houston), Ignacio Infante (Washington University in St. Louis), Nicole Sparling (Central Michigan University), James Ramey (Metropolitan Autonomous University at Cuajimalpa in Mexico City), and Antonio Barrenechea (University of Mary Washington). We are glad to report that Atia Sattar will follow up her service on the ACLA board in a similar capacity at the MLA, as she has been appointed to a three-year term on the MLA's Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession.

A final note on conferences: at the upcoming MLA meeting in January 2011, the ADPCL will sponsor a session on "Collaborative Strategies for Hard (and Good) Times: Local, Regional, International Options." This session, chaired by Corinne Scheiner, will address topics such as international joint doctoral degrees, teaching across institutions, and local and international collaborative research.

One of our projects over the last few years has come to a conclusion: the annual listing of Comparative Literature departments and programs in the September printed Directory issue of PMLA. We worked with MLA personnel for several years to ensure that our discipline, along with several others, would be represented in this way, and we supplied the listing that the MLA then printed. The MLA has now decided to discontinue

printing the Directory issue, and information about departments and programs will instead be available in a database on the MLA website. For some of us there will surely be gains in convenience in this arrangement, as it won't be necessary to remember which shelf the printed Directory is on, but we have decided to also maintain our own listing of departments and programs in Comparative Literature, so we can supply mailing labels and send out institutional email communications to one another. Thus if you are a Comparative Literature chair, director, etc., you may still be asked to update your entry on the ADPCL list, and, in the other direction, please let us know if you want to be able to communicate with other administrators in this way, via an institutional ACLA/ADPCL membership.

As the topic of our upcoming MLA session suggests, and as all of us know, these are indeed challenging times, both for graduate students and recent Ph.D.'s seeking jobs and for Comparative Literature academic units institutionally, as we are again in a cycle of program compressions that are affecting many humanities (and other) fields. We cannot make these problems go away, but sometimes it helps to tell each other what, and how, we are doing, as sometimes the strategies that work in one institution can also work in another. We encourage all Comparative Literature departments, programs, or other structures to become institutional members of the ACLA, which includes membership in the ADPCL as well. Membership forms are available on the ACLA website (<http://www.acla.org>).

Best regards,  
Carey Eckhardt and Corinne Scheiner

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<http://www.adpcl.org>

Join or Renew Membership

Contact the ACLA



## An Invitation to Join the ACLA

### Why join the ACLA?

- We keep you informed about the latest developments in the discipline and the profession through our journal, *Comparative Literature*, the ACLA Bulletin, our website, and regular emails to the membership.
- Our annual meetings are collegial, intellectually stimulating, and rewarding. They combine intimate conversation within seminars with defining disciplinary presentations. In 2011 we will meet in Vancouver, Canada. We also sponsor a panel and co-host a social event with the School of Criticism and Theory at the annual MLA meeting.
- Our website, [www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org) is the primary resource for the field in North America and internationally. It provides an up-to-date and dynamic virtual resource and meeting place for scholars and students in the field. We hope you will let us know at the Secretariat ([info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org)) how we may enrich it and make it even more useful.
- ACLA members receive a subscription to *Comparative Literature* and membership in the International Comparative Literature Association (ICLA), which meets triennially in cities around the world. Members may subscribe at reduced rates to additional Comparative Literature journals: *Comparative Literature Studies*, *World Literature Today*, *Yearbook of Comparative & General Literature*, and *Symploké*.
- When you become a member, you become a part of our database which will ensure that you receive timely email notification of important events, publications and opportunities in the field both in North America and elsewhere.
- When your department or program becomes an institutional member of the ACLA/ADPCL, you and your colleagues will help to define and support the discipline and will be able to nominate your students for the Bernheimer Award.
- The ACLA is defined by the commitment, intellectual energy and scholarly distinction of its members. We need your presence, contribution and support to continue to thrive and to become an ever more crucial voice in shaping our field and the humanities. We hope you will join us!

#### **Please Note the New ACLA Fee Schedule:**

**Students:** \$25 ACLA membership only/ \$35 including ICLA membership; does not include *Comparative Literature* subscription  
Student members have the option of adding a *Comparative Literature* subscription for an additional \$25.

#### **Regular/Faculty, Part-Time, Emeritus, Currently Unemployed:**

Income under \$40,000: \$35 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income \$40,000-\$80,000: \$55 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income \$80,000-\$100,000: \$65 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

Income over \$100,000: \$75 ACLA/ICLA membership; includes *Comparative Literature* subscription

**Institutional/Departmental:** \$100 ACLA and ADPCL membership

Please make or renew your membership online at: [www.acla.org](http://www.acla.org)

Or write to us at: ACLA Secretariat, The University of Texas-Austin

Program in Comparative Literature

1 University Station B5003

Austin, TX 78712-0196

Questions? Please contact us at [info@acla.org](mailto:info@acla.org) or 512-471-8020.

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PRESIDENTIAL PRIZES

### **The Presidential Master's Prize**

In support of its mission to promote the discipline of Comparative Literature, the American Comparative Literature Association is proud to announce the establishment of two new prizes recognizing student accomplishment in Comparative Literary study. The President's Awards for Best Master's Thesis and for Best Undergraduate Essay on a Comparative Topic together honor comparative work broadly construed at these important stages of educational achievement. Work will be judged based on theoretical rigor, comparative breadth, and lucidity of exposition. Though not a formal requirement, especially for the Undergraduate essay prize, work that engages in comparison across linguistic boundaries will be especially valued by the committee.

The Presidential Master's Prize goes to the best thesis, report or substantial essay nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. The project must be completed by July 1, 2010. Each institutional member may nominate one student in the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$500 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, complimentary ticket to the banquet and a travel grant of \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the 2011 conference in Vancouver at which the prize will be awarded.

Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated project to the ACLA Secretariat, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza. Copies of the nominating letter should also be sent, along with copies of the work, to each member of the committee.

The prize committee for 2010-11 is Helmut Illbrucke (chair, Texas A&M University), Brenda Machosky (University of Hawaii), and Linn Cary Mehta (Barnard College).

Further information on the Presidential Undergraduate prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/presidentialmasters.html>

### **The Presidential Undergraduate Prize**

In support of its mission to promote the discipline of Comparative Literature, the American Comparative Literature Association is proud to announce the establishment of two new prizes recognizing student accomplishment in comparative literary study. The President's Awards for Best Master's Thesis and for Best Undergraduate Essay on a Comparative Topic together honor comparative work broadly construed at these important stages of educational achievement. Work will be judged based on theoretical rigor, comparative breadth, and lucidity of exposition. Though not a formal requirement, especially for the Undergraduate essay prize, work that engages in comparison across linguistic boundaries will be especially valued by the committee.

The Presidential Undergraduate Prize goes to the best substantial essay nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. The project must be completed by July 1, 2010. Each institutional member may nominate one student in

the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$250 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, and a complimentary ticket to the banquet to facilitate the recipient attending the 2011 conference in Vancouver at which the prize will be awarded.

To nominate a student's work for the 2011 Presidential Prizes, please notify both the ACLA secretariat, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, and the chair of the committee by November 15, 2010. Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated dissertation. Copies of the nominating letter should be sent, along with copies of the student's work, to each member of the committee.

The prize committee for 2010-11 is Claire Huot (chair, University of Calgary), Vilashini Cooppan (University of California at Santa Cruz), and Karla Mallette (University of Michigan).

Further information on the Presidential Undergraduate prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/presidentialundergraduate.html>

**MLA ANNUAL MEETING**  
**January 2011, Los Angeles**  
**ACLA ALLIED ORGANIZATION SESSIONS**

The ACLA and ADPCL sponsor panels at the MLA Convention in Los Angeles. The convention will begin on Thursday, 6 January and end on Sunday, 9 January.

**241. Comparative Modernism(s)**

*10:15-11:30am, Friday, 07 January 409B, LA Convention Center*

Presiding: C. P. Haun Saussy, Yale University

1. "Comparative Modernism vs. Comparative Modernisms," Eric Hayot, Penn State University. Is the era of omnipluralization over? This paper explores the conceptual and literary historical stakes of the "one country, many systems" approach to the organization of the modernist polity.

2. "Facing the World: Against the Comforts of Comparison," Chris Hill, Yale University. Over decades the view of European modernism as a response to the realist "old regime" was reified as a theory of literary development that prompted the search for comparable teleologies in other regions. The result is a new historiography of multiple modernisms accompanying the fashion for alternative modernities. The quest for comparability is comforting for a critical establishment largely unwilling to step outside the North Atlantic. It safeguards Europe as the site of the prototypical modernism and more fundamentally preserves the paradigm of internal evolution that remains the basis of much literary theory. Even in the North Atlantic, however, modernism and the avant-gardes were transnational phenomena born of migration and empire. The transnational character of modernism is still more abundantly evident elsewhere in the world, where multiple histories intersect. In Japan writers like Yokomitsu Riichi responded simultaneously to literary trends in Europe; the history of Japanese naturalism (the result of earlier transactions with European fiction); and the transformation of East Asia by European, American, and Japanese empires. The transnational lineages of modernism in Japan overwhelm comparative models searching for parallel teleologies. The time has come to give up the comforts of comparison and face the complexity of the world.

3. "Only Connect: Tagore, Anand, and Modernism's Linguistic Limits," Madhumita Lahiri, Duke University. Rabindranath Tagore and Mulk Raj Anand were influential not only within Anglophone modernism but also within the formulation, respectively, of modern Bengali and modern Hindi-Urdu literature. Yet Rabindranath's writings in Bengali are different in syntax and in content from his work in English, and Anand's involvement with the Progressive Writers' Association coexists uneasily with his engagements in Bloomsbury. As these discrepant literary strategies demonstrate, modernism is a response not only to the experience of modernization within the medium of a particular language but also to the modernization, both colonial and anti-colonial, of the language itself. I will argue that this creates, particularly in the subcontinent, modernisms that are disjunctive even when they are historically interconnected.

4. "Comparing American Modernisms," Steve Yao, Hamilton College. Focusing on different articulations of expressly "modern" verse from the early twentieth century by writers of African, Asian, and European descent in the United States, this paper will show the importance of comparative methods for further deepening our understanding of "modernism," even within a nominally "single" national context.



**CFP: ACLA ANNUAL MEETING 2011**

“World Literature, Comparative Literature”

Vancouver, Canada

March 31- April 3, 2011

“Left to itself,” Goethe wrote, “every literature will exhaust its vitality, if it is not refreshed by the interest and contributions of a foreign one.” The same is true of literary-critical approaches.

To Vancouver — a city where fifty-two percent of residents speak a first language other than English — we invite you to a discussion of world and Comparative Literatures.

What is world literature? What is Comparative Literature? What can be gained from setting these concepts in dialogue? What scholarly methods can best account for the freshness, excitement and, yes, fear of experiencing the “foreign”? These questions will top the agenda of the plenary discussion between two preeminent theorists of world and Comparative Literature, David Damrosch and Gayatri Spivak, on April 2.

In 2011 the ACLA Convention will highlight the processes of cultural renewal that follow from contact with other cultures. Questions of transmission and translation, but also of interference and resistance, will be at the center of this conversation located in one of the world’s cultural crossroads.

We invite proposals and submissions that explore ideas, texts, films, and works of art that cross cultural, disciplinary, temporal, national, and ideological divides to speak, influence, and transform.

We invite proposals for eight or twelve person seminars as well as individual paper proposals, which should be submitted via the “Propose a Paper or Seminar” link at the ACLA conference website: <http://www.acla.org/acla2011>.

**Seminar Proposal Deadline: October 1st, 2010**

**Paper Proposal Deadline: November 1, 2010**

For more information, contact [conference@acla.org](mailto:conference@acla.org)

## MEMORIAL NOTICES 2009-10



**Barbara E. Johnson, 1947 – 2009**

Barbara E. Johnson, Frederic Wertham Professor of Law and Psychiatry in Society at Harvard University, died on August 27th, 2009 after a long illness. An outstanding comparatist and leading figure in contemporary literary theory, Johnson took her Ph.D. in French at Yale, where she taught before moving to Harvard in 1985. Her first book, *Défigurations du langage poétique*, (Flammarion 1979) focused on Baudelaire's prose poems, but she soon expanded her academic purview from French literature and literary theory to African-American literature, feminism, law, and cultural studies generally.

Barbara Johnson came to prominence in 1977 when, as a young woman about to begin as an assistant professor at Yale, she filled in at the English Institute for a senior scholar on a panel on literature and psychoanalysis and delivered a short version of "The Frame of Reference: Poe, Lacan, Derrida," a paper she had written as a graduate student. This tour de force was followed by incisive analyses of theoretical and literary issues which were collected over the years in a number of influential volumes: *The Critical Difference: Essays in Contemporary Rhetoric of Reading* (Johns Hopkins 1980), *A World of Difference* (Johns Hopkins 1987), *The Wake of Deconstruction* (Blackwell 1994), *The Feminist Difference: Literature, Psychology, Race and Gender* (Harvard 1998), and *Mother Tongues: Sexuality, Trials, Motherhood, Translation* (Harvard 2003). During her illness she continued writing under very difficult conditions and completed *Persons and Things* (Harvard 2008), a brilliant account of the complex relations of identification and personification, and the posthumously published *Moses and Multiculturalism* (California 2010). She was also the translator of Jacques Derrida's *Dissemination* (Chicago 1981) and Stéphane Mallarmé's *Divagations* (Harvard 2007) and an editor of the Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism.

She was a brilliant teacher. Her books, like her seminars, were characterized by a no-nonsense manner and powerful arguments. Master of the incredibly efficient, insightful short paper, she did not putter away filling in background and surveying the field but went right to the heart of the matter, reading key sentences of the crucial texts and producing elegant and definitive formulations. This made her critical writing a model for many, who found her, moreover, impossible to imitate. Her work is wonderfully varied and incisive. On almost any topic – deconstruction, feminism, psychoanalysis, rhetoric and figure, speech act theory, reader-oriented criticism, literature and law, even

cultural studies with essays like “Muteness Envy”—her essays were and still are the best thing to read.

-- Jonathan Culler



**Claude Lévi-Strauss, 1908 – 2009**

Never precisely a scholar of literature or a comparatist, Claude Lévi-Strauss, who died in October 2009 at the age of 100, left behind a body of work that inspired adaptations in numerous disciplines, including ours.

Lévi-Strauss came to ethnography late, after studying law and philosophy and working for the Socialist Party. The visual arts, music, geology, Marxism, and psychoanalysis were other continual interests. His fieldwork in the Amazon region resulted in a thesis on the family and community life of the Nambikwara, as well as supporting the explorations of recursive structures in *The Elementary Structures of Kinship* (1949). His time in the field, his experiences as a wartime refugee, and some adventures in the new age of jet tourism are condensed in the memoir *Tristes Tropiques* (1955). His friendships with Roman Jakobson and Jacques Lacan, begun in the 1940s, helped precipitate the work on which comparatists have drawn for inspiration and critique: *Structural Anthropology* (1958), *The Savage Mind* (1962), and the four-volume transformational study of myths, *Mythologiques* (1964-1971). After his retirement from the Collège de France in 1982, he published more rarely: on masks, on the folkloric motif of a rivalry between pottery and basketry, and on the ecological crisis created by industrial society.

No stranger to polemic, Lévi-Strauss engaged Jean-Paul Sartre on the provinciality of the latter’s concept of history and found himself in his turn the target of younger thinkers who by their number and diversity gave him the best and most discreet homage. Many concepts in poetics and narratology current in literary studies bear his stamp. His defiance of ethnocentrism, by argument and by example, addresses the conscience of every would-be civilized person. Comparatists can find in him an uninterrupted meditation on comparability.

-- Haun Saussy

## **RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTORS TO THE ACLA ENDOWMENTS AND INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

The ACLA wishes gratefully to acknowledge the generous contributions made this year to our endowments: the Charles Bernheimer Endowment for Outstanding Graduate Research in Comparative Literature, the Haskell M. Block Endowment for the Support of International Students, and the general ACLA endowments. These funds, which honor the year's outstanding dissertation, fund graduate student travel to the annual meeting of the ACLA, and support the association's mission, assure and enhance the future of the field of Comparative Literature through our graduate students and colleagues by recognizing their achievements and assisting them to participate fully in the scholarly life of the association.

Particularly generous benefactors of the ACLA this year included: Ronald Briggs, Gail Finney, John Foster, Margaret R. Higonnet, Lilya Kaganovsky, Kathleen Komar, Michael Levine, Françoise Lionnet, Blake Locklin, Aldon Nielsen, Michael Palencia-Roth, Bill Patterson, Nancy Ruttenburg, Steven Yao, and Janice Zehentbauer. We also wish to thank the dozens of members whose contributions have made possible the enhancement and growth of our travel grant programs.

The ACLA would also like to thank our institutional members for their support. The ACLA's 2010 institutional members comprised:

Princeton University	University of Alberta
University of California- Los Angeles	Simon Fraser University
San Francisco State University	College of DuPage
Pennsylvania State University	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Duke University	Salahaddin University
University of Tennessee	Lund University
Reed College	University of Texas at Austin
Tulane University	University of Oregon
University of Washington at St. Louis	
Boston University	

## COMPARATIVE LITERATURE PRIZES FOR 2010

### The René Wellek Prize:

The René Wellek Prize recognizes an outstanding work in the field of literary and cultural theory. The 2012 René Wellek Prize comprises books published in the triennium 2009-2011, and the award will be presented at the ACLA Annual Meeting in 2012.

The winners of the 2010 René Wellek Prize were Anne-Lise François for her book, *Open Secrets: The Literature of Uncounted Experience* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2007), and Barbara Johnson for her book, *Persons and Things* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2008).

### Announcing the 2011 Harry Levin Prize

The Harry Levin Prize, given in alternate years with the René Wellek Prize, is this country's most prestigious book award in the discipline of Comparative Literature. Those books eligible for the Levin Prize emphasize literary history or criticism as opposed to theory; in the spirit of Comparative Literature, they are engaged with more than one national literature or with issues of literary study in general. The 2011 Levin Prize comprises books published in the triennium 2008-2010. Please consult the ACLA website for additional information about the competition at:

<http://www.acla.org/levinandwellek.html>

### The A. Owen Aldridge Prize

The A. Owen Aldridge prize is awarded to the best graduate student essay selected from a competition. *Comparative Literature Studies*, at the Pennsylvania State University Press, publishes this annual prize-paper. The winner also receives a monetary prize as well as complimentary registration, a complimentary ticket to the banquet, and a travel reimbursement grant of up to \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the ACLA conference at which the prize will be awarded. The purpose of this competition is to encourage and recognize excellence in scholarship among graduate students and to reward the highest achievement by publication. This project is sponsored by *Comparative Literature Studies* in cooperation with the ACLA and supported by the Department of Comparative Literature at Penn State.

The winner of the 2010 A. Owen Aldridge prize was Belén Bistué (University of California at Davis), for her essay, "The Task(s) of the Translators: Multiplicity as Problem in Renaissance European Thought." The winning essay is determined by a panel of judges that is selected annually by the ACLA. The prize committee for 2010-11 is: Helmut Muller-Sievers (chair, Northwestern University), César Salgado (University of Texas at Austin), and Azade Seyhan (Bryn Mawr College).

Graduate students in a Comparative Literature department or program are encouraged to submit a polished paper in English, approximately 15-20 pages long (double-spaced), preferably following the Chicago endnote style (MLA-style papers will be accepted, but, must be converted for publication) and prepared for anonymous evaluation. The deadline

for the 2010 Aldridge prize competition is November 15, 2010. Further information on the Aldridge prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/aldridge.html>

### **The Charles Bernheimer Prize**

The Bernheimer Prize goes to the best dissertation nominated by a department or program that is an Institutional Member of the ACLA. Each institutional member may nominate one dissertation in the field of Comparative Literature, identified as the best without regard to actual departmental affiliation. The prize carries an award of \$1,000 and a certificate, as well as complimentary registration, complimentary ticket to the banquet and a travel grant of \$300 to facilitate the recipient attending the ACLA conference at which the prize is awarded.

The winner of the 2010 Bernheimer Prize was Elizabeth Young (University of California - Berkley), for her dissertation, "The Mediated Muse: Catullan Lyricism and Roman Translation." The prize committee for 2010-11 is: Ilya Kliger (chair, New York University), Kate Holland (University of Toronto) and Jonathan Abel (Penn State University).

To nominate a dissertation for the 2011 Bernheimer Prize, please notify the ACLA Secretariat, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, and the chair of the committee by November 15, 2010. In order to be eligible the dissertation must have been completed by July 1, 2010. Nominators should submit a letter or report of one or two pages, outlining the exceptional qualities of the nominated dissertation. Copies of the nominating letter should be sent, along with copies of the dissertation, to each member of the committee. Further information on the Bernheimer prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/bernheimer.html>

### **The Horst Frenz Prize**

The Horst Frenz Prize is awarded to the best paper presented by a graduate student at the annual meeting of the ACLA. The Horst Frenz Prize consists of a \$300 Amazon.com book coupon, complimentary registration, and a complimentary ticket to the banquet, and a travel reimbursement grant of up to \$300 to attend the following year's ACLA Conference to receive the award in person, as well as publication of the paper in the *Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature*.

The winner of the 2010 Horst Frenz Prize was Yi-Ping Ong (Harvard University), for her paper, "Towards a life View: Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and the Novel." Honorable Mention was awarded to Cecile Guédon (University of London), for her paper, "Poetic Gestures, Modernist Choreographies." The jury for the ACLA 2011 conference is: Eugene Eoyang (chair, Indiana University and Lingnan University, Hong Kong), Virginia Jackson (Tufts University) and Pericles Lewis (Yale University).

Nominations of a graduate student whose presentation at the 2010 conference in New Orleans was especially outstanding should be sent, with as much information as possible (name of presenter, paper title, e-mail, etc.) and an explanation of what distinguished the paper, to the ACLA Secretariat, Elizabeth Richmond-Garza. The deadline for nominations is May 10, 2010. Further information on the Frenz prize can be found at:

<http://www.acla.org/frenz.html>

## 2010 René Wellek Citations

### 2010 Prize Winner:

***Anne-Lise François (University of California at Berkeley) for her monograph, *Open Secrets: The Literature of Uncounted Experience* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 2007)***

Anne-Lise François's *Open Secrets: The Literature of Uncounted Experience* is an ambitious, beautifully written book, whose richly textured, original argument offers an important provocation to the current mores of literary studies. Enlightenment reason and especially literary criticism are dedicated to the idea that everything should count, and the most diverse schools of criticism train us to let nothing escape. But literature is full of moments that promote a different ethos: letting be. François explores works that summon what she calls the uncountable, or the unrecountable. Their open secrets ask to be treated lightly. They disarm our exegetical impulses by declaring there is nothing to hunt for or interpret. *Open Secrets* shows us affinities among critical traditions that would otherwise appear antagonistic. Its detailed, persuasive accounts are a pleasure to read and also a challenge, because the book often speaks with the "affirmative reticence" it describes. François's study thereby calls for a mode of theory that values what is visible and appreciable over what can be quantified and disclosed.

### 2010 Prize Winner:

***Barbara Johnson (Harvard University) for her monograph, *Persons and Things* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2008)***

The jury wishes to single out for special praise Barbara Johnson's *Persons and Things*, (Harvard University Press). Johnson's eighth book is a tour de force, a brilliant reflection on modes of animation, on the porous boundaries between persons and things, the contradictory roles of materiality, rhetoric, and desire in these relations, and the stakes of such pervasive rhetorical operations as apostrophe, personification, and prosopopoeia. Ranging widely over the most diverse cultural phenomena, from Supreme Court cases to literary works, *Persons and Things* explores such issues as how the dynamics of identification and personification are mediated by people's relations to things. This book epitomizes and offers a fitting memorial to Barbara Johnson's extraordinary talent.

Wellek Committee

Jonathan Culler, chair

Rita Felski

Gail Finney

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009**

<b>UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ACCOUNT</b>	
Balance Forward 01/01/2009	\$45,210.57
Income (Memberships)	\$95,421.86
Income (Donations)	\$1,145.00
Income (Conference Registrations)	\$147,985.00
Royalties	\$1,085.03
Total Income	245,636.89
Expenditures/Transfers (itemized below)	-\$156,680.57
<b>Final Balance</b>	<b>\$134,166.89</b>
<b>UT ACCOUNT EXPENDITURES</b>	
ACLA Professional Staff	-\$6,173.06
Journal Subscriptions	-\$5,195.10
ICLA/SCLA joint memberships	-\$6,700.00
Prizes	-\$2,303.88
Membership Dues (NHA and ACLS)	-\$2,239.00
Conference Expenses	-\$117,265.22
Joint Receptions	-\$2,149.78
Travel & Misc. Reimbursements	-\$2,252.23
Travel Grants (student and faculty)	-\$5,909.25
Office Expenses and Server Fees	-\$492.83
Bank/Credit Card Fees	-\$5,550.22
CPA Tax Filing Fees	-\$450.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES/TRANSFERS</b>	<b>-\$156,680.57</b>
<b>Highlander/Pershing Investment</b>	
Value 01/01/2009 (reflects actual market value)	\$126,766.03
Dividends	\$1,028.46
Value 12/31/2009 (reflects actual market value)	\$162,462.25
<b>University of Texas Contribution</b>	
Expenses (staff salaries and office expenses)	-\$43,385.36
UT Contribution	\$43,385.36
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$296,629.14</b>
<b>COMBINED BALANCES 12/31/2009</b>	<b>\$134,166.89</b>
COMBINED BALANCES 1/1/2009	\$45,210.57
<b>NET CHANGE</b>	<b>\$88,956.32</b>

Respectfully submitted by  
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, Secretary–Treasurer