



Polyvocal Perspectives

A Panel on Recent Research

Moderated by: Pascale Bécél, PhD, Chair of the Department of Modern Languages

Thursday, November 5th, 3:30 pm, MMC-Primeria Casa 432

Featuring:



Ferial Maya Boutaghou, PhD

In praise of comparative literature: Occidentalisms, Postcolonial Historical Novels and National Identities in the Nineteenth Century

Against a certain kind of orientalism, in my book, *Occidentalismes* (Paris, Honoré Champion, 2015) I compare different renaissances and national identities in construction as they emerge within the historical novel in the nineteenth century. In particular I investigate the ways in which the West is represented as an object of knowledge for the colonized.



Nicola Gavioli, PhD.

Untangling Depression in Contemporary Brazilian Literature

'Depression writing' appears today as a subcategory of the memoir genre. Radio programs and specialized magazines are dedicated to mental illnesses. Nonetheless, an extensive and well-informed debate is absent in much of the media, and academic institutions. Focusing on Brazilian contemporary literature, I reflect on the ways in which literary texts can contribute to new lines of inquiry into depression and anxiety, while implicitly criticizing popular, but misinformed stereotypes about mental illness.



Melissa Baralt, PhD.

Testing the hypothesis that bilingualism helps preemies

This talk shows how the unique field of linguistics can encompass research in both the humanities and STEM. Dr. Baralt reports on a study in which researchers at FIU are exploring the role that bilingualism may play in premature-born children's executive function.

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