

Mediterranean Studies Academy Newsletter

California State University, San Bernardino

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The Mediterranean Studies Academy and its Mission

The Mediterranean Studies Academy at CSUSB has three goals. First, we seek to deepen student learning about the Mediterranean. The study across disciplines allows our students to make meaningful and provocative comparisons between regions of the Mediterranean and to reflect on developments and movements from antiquity to the present. Second, we seek to enrich student learning and campus life by partnering with the Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies (CIMES) and the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art (RAFFMA). Third, we seek to promote faculty research and scholarship because expertise and currency in our disciplines informs and elevates classroom instruction.

How we got started: An Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The Mediterranean Studies initiative was launched in 2015 by Jesús David Jerez-Gómez (Spanish) and Luz Elena Ramirez (English) following the success of two grant applications. The first was a mini-grant awarded by Terry Ballman, Dean of the College of Arts & Letters, to develop a team taught Humanities course entitled *Mediterranean Identities*.

The second was the Teaching Innovation Grant, awarded by Dean Lawrence Rose of the College of Business & Public Administration with the support of the College of Extended Learning, to establish the Mediterranean Studies Academy. Founding members of the Academy are Matthew Habich (Management), Ece Algan (Communication Studies), Dany Doueiri (Arabic), Jesús David Jerez-Gómez (Spanish), and Luz Elena Ramirez (English). This collaboration, in turn, has allowed the Academy to expand its membership.

Mediterranean Studies Academy

College of Business and Public Administration

Matthew Habich, Management

College of Arts & Letters

Ece Algan, Communication Studies

Dany Doueiri, Arabic, World Languages & Literatures

J. David Jerez-Gómez, Spanish, World Languages & Literatures

Eva Kirsch, RAFFMA

Allen Menton, Music

Ahlan Muhtaseb, Communication Studies

Luz Elena Ramirez, English

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Kate Liszka, History

Nerea Marteache, Criminal Justice

Academy Activities

We've had a productive year in grant writing, professional development, teaching, and study abroad initiatives. The first major collaboration was the NEH Humanities Connection grant application involving contributions of Kate Liszka, Ece Algan, Luz Elena Ramirez, Jesús David Jerez-Gómez, Matthew Habich and Eva Kirsch. The NEH proposal, "Mediterranean Currents from Antiquity to the Present" was co-written by Algan and Ramirez. If funded, this project will support student enrichment activities with RAFFMA and CIMES, cross college collaboration, and development of study abroad.

In December, Mediterranean Studies Academy faculty participated in the Teaching Resource Center's Principles of Program Design Institute led by Kim Costino and Davida Fischman. Professors Ramirez, Doueiri, and Jerez-Gómez collaborated to develop their proposal "*Interdisciplinary Study of Arabic, Spanish, and English.*"

Matthew Habich, mhabich@csusb.edu

Lecturer, Department of Management

With an MBA from University of Michigan and management experience in the water industry, Habich brings to the Mediterranean Studies Academy an important business perspective. In June, he was an essential faculty member in the cross-college application for the Teaching Innovation Grant.

This July, he presented "Globalization in the Mediterranean: One Approach for Teaching Business and Society" at the Diversity in Organizations, Communities & Nations Conference at University of Granada. Currently, he is working with Dr. Jerez-Gómez to develop a study abroad program in Spain.



Habich presenting his work at University of Granada

Ece Algan, ealgan@csusb.edu
Associate Professor of Communication Studies

Dr. Algan's areas of expertise include globalization and digital media, local and community media, and national, cultural, and youth identities. She presented "'News Watch Turkey' as peace journalism and activism" at the International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference in Leicester, England in July.

This November, she presented "The politicization of rape as a consequence of western modernity and religious conservatism: Competing media narratives in Turkey" at the Middle East Studies Association Conference in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Algan is a member of the Academics for Peace Initiative and she—along with fellow advocates—was recognized by MESA for her work in exercising and advocating for academic freedom.

Dr. Algan conducts research on Turkish youth and media use and is pictured below, in Izmir, Turkey.



Dany Doueiri, ddoueiri@csusb.edu
Associate Professor of Arabic

In 2016, Dr. Doueiri authored multiple grants on language learning and advocacy, in addition to training public school teachers to recognize and prevent violent extremism.

Dr. Doueiri was awarded the Startalk Teaching Effectiveness for Language Learning Grant, which serves teachers of critical languages. Currently, Doueiri is completing an online project to promote literacy development for Arabic language learners, a topic on which he presented at the College of Arts & Letters Fall Colloquium.



Doueiri at the College of Arts & Letters Fall Faculty Colloquium

In addition, Dr. Doueiri has presented at conferences on topics such as building sustainable language programs, mental health, and bullying and legal challenges faced by minority communities in the U.S.

Doueiri reaches out to Inland Empire communities by giving lectures and fostering partnerships with local educational and non-profit organizations.

Jesús David Jerez-Gómez, jdjerez@csusb.edu
Associate Professor of Spanish

Dr. Jerez-Gómez is the Director of the Mediterranean Studies Academy and focuses on study abroad and curricular development.

An active scholar, he presented “Cervantes y Shakespeare en los Estudios Mediterráneos: al rescate de las Humanidades” at *The Cervantes Symposium of California* at University of California, at Santa Cruz in April. In May, he delivered “Cervantes y la poesía ante el desastre de la Invencible” at the *Shakespeare and Cervantes 1616-2016 27th Sederi Conference* at University of Valladolid in Spain. In June, he presented “Queen Elizabeth I on the Spanish Satirical verse: ‘Gezabel descomulgada’” at the *Renaissance Conference of Southern California* at the Huntington Library in San Marino.

In order to enrich student learning at CSUSB, Jerez-Gómez is working with Matthew Habich, in Management, as well as Vipin Gupta and Frank Lin, Co-Directors of the Center for Global Management, to develop a cross-college study abroad program in Spain. Proposed for July 2017, this program will bring together faculty and students from the College of Arts & Letters and the College of Business and Public Administration.



Habich and Jerez-Gómez in Spain

Eva Kirsch, Ekirsch@csusb.edu
Director, Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art

Eva Kirsch comes to the Mediterranean Studies Academy with expertise in curation and management as the Director of the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art (RAFFMA).



Eva Kirsch in the Herculaneum, Italy

RAFFMA holds the largest permanent collection of Egyptian antiquities in Southern California. This year, Kirsch curated the RAFFMA exhibition, *Journey to the BEYOND: Ancient Egyptians in the Pursuit of Eternity*, which began in October 2016 and runs until June 2019. In November, she was a panelist at the 8th Annual Archaeology Weekend: *A Man’s World? Queens, Goddesses, and Mothers in the Ancient Near East* at La Sierra University, in Riverside, California. Kirsch was also re-elected for a third term as the President of the Southern California chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE-OC).

In addition, Kirsch was a partner in designing: “Models of Innovative Management and Creativity.” This course uses the museum as a focal point to bring together the study of business and the humanities. It will be team-taught with Luz Elena Ramirez (English) from July 3 to 21, 2017 in Slovenia. CSUSB students who register for the course will study abroad at the Faculty of Economics at Ljubljana at University of Slovenia, an institution accredited by the AACSB.

Kirsch also continues research for an historical novel set in Egypt and the Mediterranean during the initial eight regnal years of Ramesses III.

Allen Menton, amenton@csusb.edu
Associate Professor of Music Theory and Composition

Allen Menton comes to the Mediterranean Studies Academy with doctorates in comparative literature and in music composition. His compositions reveal a diverse range of influences, including Medieval and Renaissance polyphony as well as the music of the Middle East.

In spring 2016, he presented at the College of Arts & Letters Faculty Colloquium, "Musical Theater or Theatrical Music: an examination of the Collaborative process in writing music for the theater." His presentation focused on his original music for the CSUSB theatrical presentation of *The Arabian Nights* (Winter 2016), a production on which he collaborated with Theatre Arts professor Kathryn Ervin.



Menton at the Spring College of Arts & Letters Faculty Colloquium

Dr. Menton also regularly teaches interdisciplinary courses such as Humanities 340. In this class, Menton uses Homer's Greek epic *The Odyssey* as a framework for students to explore the concept of travel in other literary texts such as Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*.

Ahlam Muhtaseb, amuhtase@csusb.edu
Professor, Communication Studies
Interim Director, Center for Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies

Dr. Muhtaseb is Interim Director of the Center for Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies and is Graduate Coordinator of Communication Studies at CSUSB.

This year, she completed *1948 Creation & Catastrophe: A Documentary about the Israeli and Palestinian Conflict*. She and co-director Andy Trimlett were recently interviewed about the film by KPBS (San Diego) for the Cinema Junkie Podcast. It may be accessed at: <http://www.kpbs.org/news/2016/dec/09/podcast-episode-102-1948-doc-looks-israeli-palesti/>.



Muhtaseb presents her research at the Fall College of Arts & Letters Faculty Colloquium

Dr. Muhtaseb also presented her paper "Solidarity with Palestine as Transnational Feminist Praxis" at the National Women Studies Association Conference in Montreal, Canada in November.

Luz Elena Ramirez, ramirez@csusb.edu
Professor of English

Dr. Ramirez specializes in 19th and early 20th-British literature and the crossroads of imperial cultures. In spring 2016, she team-taught HUM 340 *Mediterranean Identities* with Dr. Jerez-Gómez and will offer the course again in spring 2017. And Dr. Ramirez designed a new seminar, ENG 603 Tales of the Crypt: Archaeological Fantasies and worked with Eva Kirsch, Director of RAFFMA, to enrich student learning in that seminar. Kirsch gave the literature class a guided tour of the *Journey to the Beyond Exhibition*. Several graduate students then created multi-media presentations that incorporated images of the ancient Egyptian artifacts.

In November, she and Eva Kirsch worked with Vipin Gupta, of the Center for Global Management, to develop a course entitled "Models of Innovative Management and Creativity". CSUSB students who register for the course will study at the Faculty of Economics at Ljubljana in Slovenia, which is accredited by the AACSB. Students will study innovative management strategies, develop analytical and communication skills, and deepen cultural literacy through study of the museum and its collections. Integrating the humanities in business curriculum will give students an advantage in sustaining careers in the business and the nonprofit sector.

Ramirez also develops interdisciplinary faculty collaborations. She is pictured below with Dr. Laura Amador (Spanish, Pitzer College) during their tour of Centro Mediterráneo in Almuñécar, Spain. While in Spain, she also presented "Before and Beyond the Anthropocene: Humans and the Other in Lovecraft" at the *The Age of the Anthropocene Conference* at University of Granada. This paper contributes to her broader study of archaeological fiction.



Kate Liszka, Kate.Liszka@csusb.edu
Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Liszka is the Benson and Pamala Harer Fellow at CSUSB and she teaches classes on Ancient Egypt for the departments of History, Anthropology and Art.

Liszka directs the Wadi el-Hudi Expedition and has just returned from Egypt's Eastern Desert. Her archaeological and epigraphic project looks at ancient Egyptian mining activities, their organization, and individuals who participated in them, especially in light of ancient ethnicities.

This year, Liszka published "Scarab Amulets in the Egyptian Collection of the Princeton University Art Museum" in *Record: Princeton University Art Museum* (74:4-19).

She also published with joint author Bryan Kraemer: "Evidence for administration of the Nubian fortresses in the late Middle Kingdom: The Semna Dispatches" in *Journal of Egyptian History* (9:1-65).



Liszka conducting fieldwork in the Eastern Desert, Egypt.

Nerea Marteache, nmarte@csusb.edu
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice

Dr. Marteache comes to the Mediterranean Studies Academy with a LL.M. in Criminal Law from the University of Barcelona and a Ph.D. in Criminal Justice from Rutgers School of Criminal Justice. Her research focus is on crime prevention through opportunity reduction, and on the analysis and evaluation of criminal justice policy. She is currently working on projects on employee theft, crime in transportation systems, and wildlife crime. She has worked as a researcher at the Department of Justice of the Government of Catalonia in Spain, mainly in the areas of juvenile justice, corrections, and court performance evaluation. She offers, therefore, an invaluable comparative perspective on U.S. and Spanish justice systems.

An active scholar, Dr. Marteache presents her work nationally and internationally. In June 2016, she presented her research “Nuevos retos, nuevas oportunidades: Prevención del comercio ilegal de fauna y flora silvestres desde la perspectiva de la criminología ambiental” at the Spanish Society of Criminology Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain.

Dr. Marteache appears with fellow scholars in the picture below, and is third from left.



In November, Marteache finished co-editing the 2nd edition of the *International Handbook of Juvenile Justice*.

The Mediterranean Studies Academy wishes to thank:

- Dean Terry Ballman, College of Arts & Letters; Dean Larry Rose, College of Business & Public Administration; and Dean Rafik Mohamed, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences for their support of interdisciplinary and cross-college collaboration.
- The Office of Strategic Communication for making available photos of Dany Doueiri, Allen Menton, and Ahlam Muhtaseb.
- Kate Liszka and Nerea Marteache for their assistance with the newsletter.

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