

Mediterranean Studies Academy Newsletter

California State University, San Bernardino

May 2017, no. 2

The Mediterranean Studies Academy and its Mission

The Mediterranean Studies Academy at CSUSB has four goals. First, we seek to deepen student learning about the Mediterranean. 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 and the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art. Third, we support and offer Study Abroad in the Mediterranean through the Center for Global Management. Fourth, we promote faculty research and scholarship because expertise in our disciplines 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 Arts & Letters Dean Terry Ballman to develop a team-taught Humanities seminar, *Mediterranean Identities*. The second was the Teaching Innovation Grant, awarded by Dean Lawrence Rose of the Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration with the support of Tatiana Karmanova, Dean of the College of Extended Learning, to establish the Mediterranean Studies Academy. Teaching Innovation Grant awardees and 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). Since our founding, we've expanded our Academy.

Mediterranean Studies Academy

College of Business and Public Administration

Matthew Habich, Management

College of Arts & Letters

Ece Algan, Communication Studies

Dany Doueiri, Arabic, WLL

Jesús David Jerez-Gómez Spanish, WLL

Eva Kirsch, Robert & Frances Fullerton Museum of Art

Allen Menton, Music

Ahlam Muhtaseb, Communication Studies

Luz Elena Ramirez, English

College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Yasemin Dildar, Economics

Kate Liszka, History

Nerea Marteache, Criminal Justice

Academy Activities

So far, 2017 has been a very productive year in terms of study abroad, research, events coordinated by CIMES, and curriculum development. In spring, Jesús David Jerez-Gómez, Matthew Habich, Eva Kirsch, and Luz Elena Ramirez convened the Academy and welcomed Dr. Yasemin Dildar.

Study Abroad Slovenia

Eva Kirsch and Luz Elena Ramirez will team teach "Museums as Models of Innovative Management and Creativity" at the Faculty of Economics, University of Ljubljana in July 2017. Their interdisciplinary course proposal was subject to a competitive review process and provided the foundation for this study abroad Slovenia program. Ten students from CSUSB will be participating and will study with peers from around the world at this Triple Crown Accredited institution.



Student Travel & Research Grant: Associated Students Inc.

The Academy is pleased to announce two Study Abroad Slovenia participants have been awarded ASI Grants and will work with their mentor, Dr. Ramirez. English major Faith Nevarez was awarded \$1000 to present her research on Slovenian Tourism and Video Blogging in July at the Faculty of Economics. Chemistry and Physics major Hannah Fejzic was awarded \$500 to study the transformation of the Hostel Celica in Ljubljana from one-time prison to chic boutique hostel. Her project on adaptive re-use provides a model for the transformation of Carousel Mall into housing. Deloren West in Graduate Studies provided guidance on how to apply.

Mediterranean Studies Academy Scholarships

The Academy awarded two Study Abroad Scholarships to students who best articulated their interest in studying in Slovenia and traveling to the Mediterranean region as well as their enterprising approach to funding travel. The Scholarship winners are Jenna Bozarth (English) and Tori Church (Graphic Design & Marketing and Art Education). Honorable Mentions were awarded to Russell Kapryn (M.A. in English Composition); Amy Becerra (English); and Christopher Cassadas (Psychology).

Study Abroad Spain

Professors Jerez-Gómez and Habich are collaborating to offer the Mediterranean Study Abroad Summer program in Granada, Spain, this July. Working with the Center for Global Management, their team has recruited 16 students who will study at the Centro Mediterráneo in Granada. A collaboration of the Colleges of Business and Public Administration and Arts & Letters, this interdisciplinary program will offer two courses: *Management 306: Advanced Expository Writing*, *Mediterranean Fortunes*, and *Humanities 340: Interpretation and Values: Mediterranean Identities from the Margins*.

Students will also visit the famous Alhambra, pictured below, the Albaicín, Córdoba-- the historic capital of al-Andalus--, the Mediterranean coast as well as the sierra of Alpujarra. Students who complete the two courses offered will also earn a certificate awarded by Centro Mediterráneo, Universidad of Granada.



Events of the Center of Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies

The Academy was pleased to partner with CIMES to support four campus events, coordinated by CIMES Interim Director Ahlam Muhtaseb. On February 21, 2017, was the Panel Discussion with Hussam Ayloush, Nahla Kayali, and Rmala Sahid, *Who Are the Refugees?*



On March 7, 2017 was the screening of *Oceans of Injustice* and *Today They Took My Son* and featuring writer/producer Farah Nabulsi. A panel entitled *Gender, Race, Sexuality & The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* was held on April 18, 2017 featuring Professor Abuldhadi of San Francisco State University and Professor Simona Sharoni of the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.



With an extraordinary events schedule this year which provides enrichment for our campus community, CIMES showed in May the Arabic language film, with English subtitles, *Theeb*.



Coordinated by Ahlam Muhtaseb, the showing included a question and answer session with the film's co-Producer Laith Majali.

The Mediterranean Studies Academy thanks Dr. Bibiana Díaz, the Spanish Theater Student Club Acto Latino, and Club Los Amigos from the World Languages and Literatures Department, for bringing to campus the Sephardic Music group "La Mar Enfortuna" on May 22.



Quarter to Semester Conversion

In May, three members of the 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.*" They are now expanding this proposal to develop a Mediterranean Studies Certificate and Mediterranean Studies Minor for the Quarter to Semester conversion.

Teaching Resource Center and Academic Technologies and Innovation Spring Faculty Showcase

In April, Professors Ramirez and Jerez-Gómez presented the innovations and highlights of their team-taught course, HUM 340, *Interpretations and Values, Mediterranean Identities* at the Faculty Showcase. One of those highlights was the visit of Thomas Davis, chair of the World Languages and Literatures Department. Dr. Davis said of his class visit in April: "... it was a pleasure to see ... students were engaged in so many different ways, and your tandem presentations offered the kind of cross-expertise that really gives the students a sense that this course is something special."

Matthew Habich, mhabich@csusb.edu Lecturer, Department of Management

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

This spring, Professor Habich was honored with the Outstanding Lecturer Award from the Jack H. Brown College of Business and Public Administration. As noted above, he is working with Dr. Jerez-Gómez on the Study Abroad Spain program. He has designed a new course, *Management 306, Expository Writing: Mediterranean Fortunes: Culture and Commerce*. As well as being a gifted teacher, Professor Habich is also developing an interdisciplinary research agenda. His current research is on the intersection between study abroad and employability.

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

Ece Algan's area of expertise includes globalization and digital media, local and community media, and national, cultural, and youth identities. This academic year, Dr. Algan is a visiting professor at Loughborough University, London where she is working on her manuscript, "*Accessing the Center, Surviving the Periphery: Participatory Media and Affective Social Networks in Southeast Turkey.*"

Algan is an active member of the Academics for Peace Initiative and served on the organizing committee for its conference on Academic Freedom, Authoritarianism and Turkey, which took place at Birkbeck College in London in March. In May, she presented a paper entitled "Resisting the Turkish State: Kurdish Nationalism and Pressures on Local Broadcasting" at the Politics and Society in Contemporary Turkey: State, Constitution and Media International Conference at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin in Germany. Also in May, Algan was invited to deliver a lecture entitled "An Ethnography of Affective Social Networks via Old and New Media in Şanlıurfa" for the Anthropology of Turkey and Beyond public series at London School of Economics' European Institute.



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

Dr. Doueiri teaches the immensely popular HUM 375 *World of Islam* and was awarded funding from the Teaching Innovation Grant to redesign this course with attention to the Mediterranean. This course has served as an important venue for CIMES events (see above) as well as a recruiting mechanism for study abroad. In his redesign, he developed several learning outcomes, which heighten global perspectives, intercultural awareness, critical thinking, and empathy. Activities include discussing images published by the French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* and analyzing a Pew Research report about Islam's growth in Europe due to high migration rates from countries such as Turkey, and Syria.

In addition to teaching, Dr. 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**

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



An active scholar, he has recently presented four scholarly papers related to the Mediterranean. In January, he presented “*Poetry and Espionage in the Spanish Armada’s Enterprise*,” at the Modern Language Association Convention in Philadelphia. In March, Professor Jerez-Gómez delivered “The *Book of Good Love* and Mudéjar Literature: Iberian Contribution to the Renaissance” at the Renaissance Conference of Southern California at the Huntington Library. Next, he presented “Estelas mediterráneas en el *Persiles*: Cervantes y las raíces de la tradición narrativa” at the Cervantes Symposium of California, at University of California, Berkeley. In May, he delivered a paper on the representation of female empowerment in folklore, “*Seducción guerrera en el Quijote*: la tradición mediterránea de la mujer disfrazada” at the symposium *Laughter, Seduction and Companionship in Early Modern Spain*, in honor of Professor Adrienne L. Martín, at University of California, Davis. In May he is invited to present “Captain Alonso de Contreras’ Memoirs: Mediterranean Identity as a literary genre” at the International Mediterranean Studies Association in the University of Malta, Valletta.

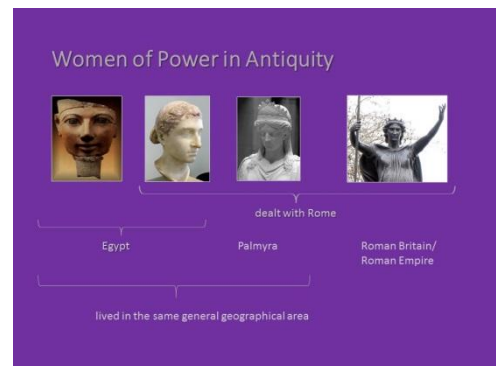
**Eva Kirsch, Ekirsch@csusb.edu
Director, Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art**

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. Kirsch has curated several Mediterranean-theme exhibitions, including two with objects on loan from the J. Paul Getty Museum, Malibu Villa, and this academic year, *Journey to the BEYOND: Ancient Egyptians in the Pursuit of Eternity* (Oct. 2016-June 2018). RAFFMA holds one of the three major California collections of Egyptian antiquities and a small collection of ancient pottery from the Italian Peninsula, and regularly exhibits art from the Mediterranean region. In May, Kirsch

was awarded the Vital and Expanded Technologies Initiative Grant at CSUSB for “Instructional Engagement at RAFFMA for ALL CSUSB Students.”



This spring, Kirsch was guest lecturer in Professor Ramirez’s English 385, *Literary Theory and Criticism* and delivered the presentation, “Women of Power in Antiquity” with a focus on Queen Hatshepsut, Queen Cleopatra, and Queen Zenobia. Kirsch addressed the strategies these women used during the epistemological ruptures of their attempts to gain power.



While in Slovenia to teach at the Faculty of Economics, Kirsch will also deliver two lectures in July, one for the Department of Archaeology, University of Ljubljana and the other one for the Slovenian Museum Society. She will then travel to Southern Italy, working (with her husband, Donat) on a historical novel set in Egypt and the Mediterranean during the early regnal years of Ramesses III.

Since 2014, Kirsch has served as the President of the Southern California chapter of the American Research Center in Egypt featuring “the premiere Egyptian lecture program in the U.S.” (John Adams). The monthly lectures are held at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana.

Allen Menton

Associate Professor of Music, amenton@csusb.edu

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 winter and spring 2017, Professor Menton taught Humanities 340 "Interpretation and Values" using Homer's *Odyssey* to explore the theme of travel in other literary texts. Assigned readings include Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, which can be read as taking place on a Mediterranean island, and Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises*, which takes place in Spain.

Allen Menton's latest original composition is "Five Laments for a Divided Nation", composed with text taken from the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*.



"Five Laments for a Divided Nation" was performed May 15 and 20 by the Contemporary Choral Collective of Los Angeles, which is part of a nation-wide network of Collaborative Choral Ensembles dedicated to performing new choral music.

Ahlan 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, Professor Muhtaseb has been finishing and promoting her documentary *1948: Creation & Catastrophe*, with co-director/co-producer Andy Trimlett. The film premiered at the Arizona International Film Festival in Tucson on April 23rd. The screening included a discussion with the filmmakers and Professor Charles Smith of the University of Arizona.

The documentary narrates the historic events of 1948, the year during which the state of Israel was created and resulted in the expulsion of more than half of the Palestinian population. The documentary was based on over 20,000

pages of research materials, including about 100 primary interviews with survivors, fighters, and the most well known historians on the region. The next film screenings will take place at the Left Forum in New York on June 3rd and the Palestine Center in Washington D.C. on June 5th.



In addition, Professor Muhtaseb presented two papers at the Islamophobia Conference of University of California Berkeley in April, titled "The 'Civility' War on Academic Freedom: Case Studies from 'California Scholars for Academic Freedom'" and "Are US Mainstream Media Having a Real Paradigm Shift in Their Representation of Muslims & Islam?". In March, she presented on her fieldwork in Palestinian refugee camps and her documentary at California State University, Fresno.

Luz Elena Ramirez, ramirez@csusb.edu

Professor of English

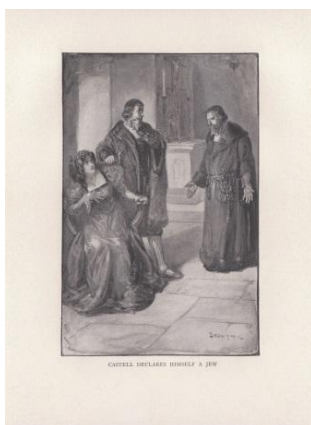
Luz Elena Ramirez specializes in Victorian literature, early twentieth-century British fiction, and the crossroads of imperial cultures. She teaches British literature, literary theory, as well as the Humanities 340 seminar, *Mediterranean Identities from the Margins*. Ramirez embraces in her pedagogy the mission of the Academy to integrate enrichment activities in the classroom. This spring, she asked students in *Literary Theory and Criticism* to analyze the representation of ancient Egypt in Agatha Christie's *Death Comes as the End*.



Literary theory students toured the *Journey to the Beyond* Exhibit and studied artifacts such as the ancient Egyptian stela, pictured above, which made more real the cultural references in the novel. This activity allowed students to anchor their historicist approach in a material way and worked in conjunction with their study of ancient letters written by a funerary priest that Christie used as a source.

An innovative teacher who internationalizes the curriculum, this spring Professor Ramirez was honored with the Senate Award for Exceptional Service to Students. This award recognizes Ramirez’s development of the Study Abroad Slovenia Program to be offered in July 2017 at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Ljubljana. She will be team teaching with Eva Kirsch, Director of the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art.

Professor Ramirez maintains an active research agenda. In March, she presented “Profession and Concealment of the Jewish faith in H. Rider Haggard’s *Fair Margaret* (1907)” at the uCLadino Symposium at the University of California, Los Angeles.



Also delivered in March was Professor’s Ramirez’s presentation “Talismans and desire in Fin de siècle Archaeological Romance” at the Pacific Coast Conference British Studies in Victoria, Canada.

In June, she will present at the Phi Beta Delta Conference at California State University, Long Beach about the impact of her team taught course with Dr. Jerez-Gómez. In her paper entitled “*Mediterranean Identities: A Case study for Building Partnerships*” she addresses how team teaching inspired the founding of the Mediterranean Studies Academy, collaboration, and grant activities.

Yasemin Dildar, YDildar@csusb.edu
Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr. Yasemin Dildar is a newly hired faculty member of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2015; her dissertation is entitled “Structural Transformation, Culture, and Women’s Labor Force Participation in Turkey.” She earned her M.S.c. in Economics and her B.S. in Economics from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. Professor Dildar’s main research areas are development economics, macroeconomics, labor economics and feminist economics. She is currently working on a project related to women’s labor force participation and empowerment in Turkey.



Professor Dildar recently earned a Summer Research Grant from CSUSB to study the causes behind women’s changing fertility preferences in Turkey.

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

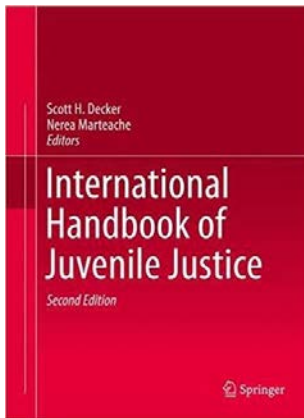
Dr. Liszka is the Benson and Pamela Harer Fellow at CSUSB and she teaches classes on Ancient Egypt for the departments of History, Anthropology and Art. In February, she was the guest speaker for the international honors society, Phi Beta Delta, and presented “Digging Ancient Egyptian Jewelry Mines.” Liszka directs the archaeological excavation at Wadi el-Hudi, in the Egyptian Eastern Desert. There, ancient Egyptians harvested amethyst and gold, which was used in some of their most famous pieces of ancient jewelry.

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 focuses on crime prevention through opportunity reduction, and on the analysis and evaluation of criminal justice policy.

In 2017, her co-edited book *International Handbook of Juvenile Justice* was published. The Handbook presents an in-depth comparative analysis of juvenile justice systems across the world.



In February, Marteache published, "Please refrain from locking your bags": theft from passengers' checked-in luggage at US airports" in *Security Journal* (1-27). Also in February, she organized a talk by an art law expert on "Art Crime and Cultural Heritage Vandalism and Looting", which was held at the Robert and Frances Fullerton Museum of Art, and prompted a collaboration to study thefts of sacred art in Spain.

Marteache presents her work at conferences nationally and internationally. She presented her project titled "The Effect of Train Station Design on Crime in the Surrounding Areas" at the Western Society of Criminology conference in February. In May, she presented her research on "Thefts from Churches in Spain" at the Criminal Justice Research Talk, CSUSB. In June, she will be presenting a project titled "Paga extra: Oportunidades para cometer hurto en el lugar de trabajo" at the Symposium of the Spanish Society for Criminological Research in Elche, Spain.

Dr. Marteache is a consultant for the course Spanish 316E, *Spanish for Criminal Justice* taught by Professor Carmen Jany. In winter, she delivered a guest lecture in this course, which focused on crime as a social construct, and how it differs across cultures and time.

The Mediterranean Studies Academy wants to thank:

Dean Terry Ballman, College of Arts & Letters;
Dean Larry Rose, Jack H. Brown College of Business & Public Administration;
Dean Rafik Mohamed, College of Social & Behavioral Sciences;
Dean Kirsten Fleming, College of Natural Sciences;
Dean Tatiana Karmanova, College of Extended Learning

for their collective support of interdisciplinary and cross-college collaboration.

We also thank Vipin Gupta and Frank Lin, Co-Directors of the Center for Global Management.

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Contact Dr. Jesús David Jerez-Gómez jdjerez@csusb.edu about the Academy