Remapping Travel Narratives, 1000-1700

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AYGÜL AğIR is Professor of Architectural History at Istanbul Technical University where she also received her PhD (2001), master’s, and bachelor’s degrees from the Program in Architecture. Dr. Ağır specializes in the city and architecture of the medieval and early modern periods in comparative perspective. She participated in the International Palladian Architecture Course in Vicenza (1991), and research she conducted (1994–1995) at the Institute of Architecture in Venice (IUAV) focused on the Fondaco dei Turchi. Her publications include a wide range of articles and chapters concentrating particularly on Italian-Turkish cultural and architectural transitions. Dr. Ağır is the author of The Old Venetian Settlement of Istanbul published by the Istanbul Research Institute (2009 and 2013).

Elio Brancaforte is Chair and Associate Professor at Tulane University (New Orleans), specializing in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century German literature and culture. His scholarly interests include early modern travel literature, translation, cultural exchange, theories of representation, the history of the book, German baroque drama, and the history of cartography. The relationship between word and image informs his current book project: Europe Discovers Iran and Azerbaijan: Dutch and German Representations of the Safavid Empire (1635–1712). He is also organizing an exhibition on Britain and Azerbaijan (1561–1918) that is scheduled to be shown at the Royal Geographical Society in May 2019.

Ambereen Dadabhoy is an Assistant Professor of literature at Harvey Mudd College. Her teaching and research interests focus on cross-cultural encounters in the early modern Mediterranean, race, and religious difference in early modern English drama. Her research centres on the global and transnational scope of the early modern world and offers a challenge to the positioning of England’s centrality to global affairs in the period. In addition, her early modern literature courses interrogate how the English construct themselves and others in their encounters with racially different yet culturally superior civilizations. By using contemporary critical and social justice theory she encourages students to finds ways in which literature has contributed, positively and negatively, to the representations of identity.

Adriano Duque is an Associate Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Villanova University. In 2009 and 2016, he was awarded two Fulbright Scholarships to study Muslim–Christian relations in Syria and Morocco. He is also the recipient of two NEH Summer Institute Fellowships and research grants from the Spanish Ministry of Culture, and the Dumbarton Oaks Society. He has published several articles on Muslim–Christian relations, the Roman discovery of Africa and the Franciscan Expeditions to Mongolia, such as “The Carpino Mission to Mongolia in 1246,” in Travels and Travelogues in the Middle Ages: Essays on Symbolic Engagement in Early Drama. Ed. Jean Kosta Théphaine (New York: AMS Press, 2009).
MATTHEW V. DESING is an Associate Professor of medieval and early modern Spanish literature at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Desing’s research focuses on travel and gender in early Spanish texts, and most specifically those pertaining to the thirteenth-century mester de clerecía. Among others, he has published the article “Luciana’s story: Text, Travel, and Interpretation in the Libro de Apolonio” (Hispanic Review) and his book entitled Mester de Romería: Travel in the Medieval Spanish Imaginary is forthcoming. He co-organized the first international meeting of scholars of mester de clerecía, a conference entitled “The Cleric’s Craft: Crossroads of Medieval Spanish Literature and Modern Critique” in 2015. Dr. Desing teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in both medieval and early modern Spanish literature and is increasingly interested in issues related to social space and borders.

REBECCA GOULD is Professor of Islamic World and Comparative Literature at the University of Birmingham, UK, and Principal Investigator for the European Research Council-funded project “Global Literary Theory: Caucasus Literatures Compared.” She is the author of Writers and Rebels: The Literature of Insurgency in the Caucasus (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2016), which was awarded the University of Southern California Book Prize in Literary and Cultural Studies and the prize for Best Book by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. She is also the translator of After Tomorrow the Days Disappear: Ghazals and Other Poems Hasan Sijzi of Delhi (Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 2016), and The Prose of the Mountains: Tales of the Caucasus (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2015).

GREGORY B. KAPLAN is Professor of Spanish in the Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Tennessee, where he is also a Distinguished Professor in the Humanities. His field of specialization is medieval Spanish philology, and his books include Arguments against the Christian Religion in Amsterdam by Saul Levi Morteira, Spinoza’s Rabbi (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2017), La lingüística transdisciplinaria: El caso del origen del castellano (Vigo: Editorial Academia del Hispanismo, 2017), Valderredible, Cantabria (España): La cuna de la lengua española (Santander: Gobierno de Cantabria, 2009), and The Evolution of “Converso” Literature: The Writings of the Converted Jews of Medieval Spain (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2002).

NEDDA MEHDIZADEH is a full-time Lecturer in writing programs at the University of California, Los Angeles. She received her MA/PhD in English Language and Literature from The George Washington University in 2013. Her current book project, Translating Persia: Safavid Iran and Early Modern English Writing, centres on pre-modern fantasies of Persia within the early modern English imagination.

MONTSERRAT PIERA is Associate Professor of medieval Spanish and Catalan literature at Temple University. Her research is devoted to medieval Iberian literature and culture, particularly chivalry novels, moral treatises and women’s texts. Her publications include the book Curial e Güelfa y las novelas de caballerías españolas (Madrid: Editorial Pliegos, 1998), two forthcoming monographs (Spinning the Text: Women’s Textualities in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia and El texto imaginado), and four edited volumes as well as numerous scholarly articles. She has completed a critical edition and translation
of fifteenth-century Castilian author Juan de Flores’s Crónica incompleta de los Reyes Católicos. Her current project is a monograph on the ties between the cartographer Abraham Cresques and the royal court of Aragon in the fourteenth century.

**MARIA DEL PILAR RYAN** retired in 2013 as a Professor of History at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she was the Chief of the International History Division. Her research and teaching centred around Early Modern Europe, World Religions, and Iberian Colonization. Her published works include El jesuita secreto: San Francisco de Borja (Valencia: Biblioteca Valenciana, 2008) and Francisco de Borja y su tiempo: Política, religión y cultura en la Edad Moderna (Valencia and Rome: Albatros Ediciones, 2011).

**JULIA SCHLECK** is Associate Professor of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, specializing in English travel narratives. She received her PhD from New York University in 2006. Her book, *Telling True Tales of Islamic Lands: Forms of Mediation in Early English Travel Writing, 1575–1630*, was published by Susquehanna University Press in 2011. Her work on travel relations to the Near East has appeared in *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Prose Studies*, and a number of recent essay collections. She is co-editor of the book series Connected Histories in the Early Modern World at ARC Humanities Press. Dr. Schleck’s current book project investigates the East India Company archive, reading it as the place where global traders drew on the metaphorical resources of a gendered society to craft their vision of the global corporation and its place in the English nation.

**SEZIM SEZER DARNAL O** is an art and architectural historian. She received her PhD (1997) from Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul, Turkey and her master's degree from Istanbul Technical University. Her research focuses on cross-cultural artistic encounters/exchanges, with a particular emphasis on the Ottoman Empire and Europe. Dr. Sezer Darnault is the author of *Latin Catholic Buildings in Istanbul: A Historical Perspective (1839–1923)* (Istanbul: Isis Press, 2004) and co-author of *The Missak[ian] Ottoman Archives* ([s.n.], 2003). Dr. Sezer Darnault was a visiting scholar at Cornell University. She also taught at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University (Assistant Professor) and Benedictine University, Lisle, Illinois. Based in the United States, Dr. Sezer Darnault currently conducts research as an independent scholar.

**JANET SORRENTINO** is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Washington College on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. She obtained her PhD in Medieval History at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research explores intersections between ritual, and intellectual and social aspects of medieval civilization. She became fascinated with the way historical groups—whether kingdoms or religious groups—invested the very best of their resources into worship. Those very expressions of worship, however, because they usually represented specific dogmatic beliefs, also became the centre of social conflict with others who did not share those beliefs. Her early publications concentrated on the ritual of European monastic communities, particularly the Order of Sempringham in England, where liturgical innovation combined with an unusual community organization with women and men in the same order. Her research has taken new direction in the writings of medieval and early modern Muslim travel writers in order to examine their observations of ritual spaces and activities in the many countries they visited.