

## WISPS MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2004

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Many thanks from the Executive for so many valuable and constructive responses to the questionnaire on WISPS past, present and future. The results will be summarised in a brief report to appear on the website over the Summer, along with activities planned for 2004-5. Please keep suggestions and offers of help coming in.

### PROMOTIONS AND CHANGES IN JOB

- **Ann Davies** has taken up a post as Lecturer in Spanish Studies at Newcastle University.
- **Louise Haywood** has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Cambridge, with effect from 1 October 2003.
- **Kirsty Hooper** has been appointed Lecturer in Spanish at the University of Liverpool, with effect from September 2004.
- **Par Kumaraswami** is now a Lecturer in Spanish at Heriot Watt University.
- **María Manuel Lisboa** has been promoted to Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Cambridge.

### MEMBERS' RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

#### Manuela Cook (formerly at Wolverhampton)

- *Portuguese Verbs Explained: an essential guide*, Able Publishing, 2004. viii+264pp, ISBN 1-903607-53-1 - is coming out in July and is on the [Amazon site](#).
- 'The woman in Portuguese fado-singing,' *International Journal of Iberian Studies* 16/1 (2003). Based on the paper 'Women in Fado,' given at the WiSPS Third Annual Conference, held at the Institute of Romance Studies, U of London, 19-20 April, 2002.<sup>1</sup>

#### Ann Davies (Newcastle)

- *The Trouble with Men: Exploring Masculinities in European and Hollywood Cinema*, co-edited with Phil Powrie and Bruce Babington, is coming out with Wallflower Press in the autumn. Includes Ann's own essay on Carlos Saura's 'Carmen.' Available from [Amazon](#).
- 'The Spanish femme fatale and the cinematic negotiation of Spanishness,' appears in the inaugural issue of *Studies in Hispanic Cinema* (1.1, 2004).

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#### <sup>1</sup> Abstract

This article argues that the way in which women are portrayed in Portuguese fado singing can be shown to bear a significant relation to some important aspects of twentieth-century Portuguese cultural and political history. These include the reports that the Virgin Mary appeared before three children near the village of Fátima in Portugal and the ensuing development of a great Catholic pilgrimage centre at that location. Also to be considered is the establishment of the Estado Novo, the 'New State', the regime that, mainly under the leadership of Salazar, would govern Portugal for over forty years, during which time there were good Church-State relations. Fado became a regime-encouraged entertainment and was elevated to Portugal's national song. This article seeks to explain a particular image of woman that occurs in fado lyrics, in the context of the devotion to Our Lady of Fátima and the Estado Novo's general policy.

### **Vanessa Knights (Newcastle)**

- 'Modernity, Modernization and Melodrama: The Bolero in Mexico in the 1930s and 1940s' in *Contemporary Latin American Cultural Studies* edited by Stephen Hart and Richard Young (November 2003). Available from [Amazon](#).

### **María Manuel Lisboa (Cambridge)**

- *Paula Rego's Map of Memory: National and Sexual Politics*. Ashgate, 2003. Available on [Amazon](#).

### **Fiona Mackintosh (Edinburgh)**

- *Childhood in the works of Silvina Ocampo and Alejandra Pizarnik*. Woodbridge: Tamesis, 2003 (199pp.). Available on [Amazon](#) or from [Tamesis](#).
- ' "My Dreams are of a Field Afar" or Sonnets from the English: Silvina Ocampo's Relationship to British Poetry', *Symbiosis* 8.1 (2004) 91-107
- Forthcoming article in *Romance Studies*, jointly authored with Roberta Quance, QUB (and first given as a joint paper at WISPS 2003): 'Speaking / Seeing Saints: Norah Borges and Silvina Ocampo Collaborate'

### **Hilary Rollin (Oxford Brookes)**

- "Street Furniture in Urban Spain yesterday, today and tomorrow: for the authorities, the residents or the tourists?" *Interface*, Issue No. 7 Summer 2004

### **Dorothy Sherman Severin (Liverpool)**

- Forthcoming monograph: *Del manuscrito a la imprenta en la época de Isabel la Católica*, Kassel: Reichenberger, 2004. Available from [Reichenberger](#) (scroll down to see the book).

### **Monica Threlfall (Loughborough)**

- *Gendering Spanish Democracy*, co-authored with Christine Cousins and Celia Valiente, will be published by Routledge at the end of 2004.

### **Amanda JA Tozer (Exeter)**

- 'La identidad masculina en *Celestina*: la emasculación de Pármeno', *Celestinesca*, 27 (2003): 149-164.
- 'Tristán, Sosia and Centurio as Burlesque Figures', *La Corónica*, 32.2 (Spring 2004): 1-20.

## Claire Williams (Liverpool)

- 'A Paixão Segundo G.H.', Chapter 13 of the *Cambridge Companion to the Latin American Novel*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2004
- 'Telle Mère, telle fille: les généalogies maternelles dans quelques romans de écrivaines portugaises contemporaines', in *Actes du Colloque Internationale 'Femme et Écriture dans la Péninsule Ibérique'*, Paris: L'Harmattan, 2004.

## AWARDS AND FUNDING

**Vanessa Knights (Newcastle)** has been granted a British Academy joint activities award of £3000 for 2004-2006 in conjunction with Fernando Valerio Holguín (Colorado State University) for a joint project on Bolero and Literature. A series of seminars/workshops will be organised in Fort Collins (2005) and Newcastle (2006) leading to a monograph. See Popular Music Research Group website <<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sacs/POP>>.

**Par Kumaraswami (Heriot Watt)** has been successful in securing an Internal Research Grant (£2000) to enable her to embark on a collaborative post-doctoral project in Cuba on 'Literature, ideology and readership in revolutionary Cuba'.

**Hilary Rollin (Oxford Brookes)** has been awarded a fellowship in Teaching and Learning, with emphasis on fostering students' development of intercultural skills.

**Dorothy Sherman Severin (Liverpool)** has been awarded £300,000 over three years for an AHRB funded Resource Enhancement Scheme project with De Montfort University for a cancionero webserve using Collate software.

**Lesley Twomey (Northumbria)** has been granted a British Academy small research award of £4500 in the current round to enable technical support and travel for her project 'Immaculist liturgies in fifteenth century Spain'.

## NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS' PROJECTS

**Catherine Davies (Nottingham)** is co-organising the conference 'Unequal States: Race and Gender in Latin American Independence', Friday and Saturday, Sept 17th and 18th, University of Warwick, which includes a line up of UK/international star speakers! For more information, see the website at <<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/hrc/confs/us/>>

**Jan Gilbert (Cambridge) and Kirsty Hooper (Oxford)** have had a panel proposal, *Iberian Encounters between the Crescent and the Cross: New Perspectives*, accepted for the MLA Annual Conference in Philadelphia (December 2004). Speakers include Nabil Matar (Florida Institute of Technology); Jeffrey Scraba (Rutgers); Alison Ribeiro de Menezes (University College, Dublin); Simon Doubleday (Hofstra). A conference on the theme is planned for late 2005 - more information to be available later this year.

**Vanessa Knights (Newcastle)** is currently organising a major international conference on Popular Musics of the Hispanic and Lusophone Worlds (14-16 July 2006) in conjunction with Ian Biddle (Music, U of Newcastle), Mark Sabine (Portuguese, U of Nottingham) and the Sage, Gateshead. See conference website <[www.ncl.ac.uk/niassh/popularmusics](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/niassh/popularmusics)> for call for papers and further details. See also Vamos website

<<http://www.vamosfestival.com/>> for accompanying festival of Latin Culture (7th-16th July 2006) co-organised with NAME <<http://www.name-site.com/>> .

**Kathleen Mountjoy (Oxford)** is currently working with the [Royal Shakespeare Company](#) on their season of Golden Age plays, many of which are rarely performed, especially in English. She has been commissioned by the RSC to assist with the literal translation of *Pedro de Urdemalas* by Miguel de Cervantes and to act as script consultant for *The Dog in the Manger* and *Pedro, the Great Pretender*.

**Amanda JA Tozer (Exeter)**. I am currently working on a monograph entitled *The Art of Interiority in 'Celestina'*, which I hope to publish in the MHRA Texts & Dissertations Series (pending committee decision in October). I will be returning to Barcelona this August to begin research on a critical edition of the short 15th century allegorical novel by Francesc Alegre, entitled *Somni de Francesc Alegre recitant lo procés d'una qüestió enamorada*. I have been awarded the Beca Batista i Roca for postdoctoral research to complete this project.

**Claire Williams (Liverpool)** is setting up an interdisciplinary seminar series for the Institute of Romance Studies (University of London) on the theme of Gender and Sexuality in the Romance Languages. The series will begin with a conference about 'Gender, Theory and Postcolonial Thought' in Liverpool on November 12th-13th and continue in the Spring with a seminar on Masculinities held at the IRS in London. I will be contacting Wisps members soon to find out further topics of interest and potential locations for future seminars.

## EDITORIAL NEWS

Tamesis would welcome publication proposals from WISPS members. There is a publication proposal form on the Tamesis website, <[www.tamesisbooks.com](http://www.tamesisbooks.com)>, and the new 2004 catalogue should shortly be up there too. The catalogue is also available on demand from Emma Aldous at [ealdous@boydell.co.uk](mailto:ealdous@boydell.co.uk). P O Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF or 01394 610600.

## BOOK REVIEW

Gisela Bock and Anne Cova (eds.) *Écrire l'Histoire des Femmes en Europe du Sud. XIXe-XXe Siècles / Writing Women's History in Southern Europe. 19th-20th Centuries. Oeiras, Portugal: Celta Editora, 2003*

This book originated in a conference on women's history in Southern Europe which was held in Arrábida, Portugal, in 1999. The volume is written in French and English and divided into two sections. The first part consists of the proceedings of the conference, with papers on the development of this area of study as an academic discipline in different countries, namely Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, and France. Some of these contributions are followed by extensive bibliographic lists. The second part of the book consists of a series of extended abstracts of recent research studies on Portuguese women's history.

The proceedings open with a paper by Mary Nash, who explores paradigm shifts in Spanish women's history in relation to changing political contexts, mainly the transition from dictatorship to democracy in the 1970s and 1980s. Previous invisibility of female issues gave place in the 1990s to excessive cross-national generalizations and debate centred on a bipolar view of women as either victims or heroines. The author argues for the need to move beyond this rigid binary categorization and to address difference and specificity as in the case of Catalan and Basque concerns.

The two subsequent papers focus on Portugal. Irene Vaquinhas argues that the 19th century was decisive in Portuguese women's history. The turning point came between 1850 and 1870, when there were some new developments which were unthinkable before. These included feminist movements, positive State involvement in female education and the establishment of a literary press led by women. Unfortunately, the progress made in this period was marginalized by the historiography of the Estado Novo (1932-1974), for this regime viewed with suspicion the 19th century notions of liberalism, socialism and democracy. Fortunately, however, the last quarter of the 20th century saw an encouraging surge in women's studies, above all in post-doctoral research.

Anne Cova highlights that the last decade of the 20th century accounts for over 65% of the total Portuguese scholarly publications on women's history so far. This is the fruit of a sustained effort. A milestone was the establishment of institutionalized support with the CIDM, Comissão para a Igualdade e para os Direitos das Mulheres, which was first created in 1977 under a different name (Comissão da Condição Feminina). There are now post-graduate courses on women's history, mainly in Coimbra and Lisbon. Portuguese research in this area of study has also developed links abroad and joined membership of the International Federation for Research in Women's History.

Michela De Giorgio illustrates the current state of women's studies in Italy with examples from various lines of academic investigation. The efforts of a small group of post-graduate and professional women in the 1970s have led to a well-articulated research programme which covers different chronological periods in women's history in Italy. Efi Avdela explains that women's history in Greece has not yet penetrated the academic system as a separate field of study. Although there is some research work on the woman in the labour market, women issues are still seen as a thematic of limited interest or as a preoccupation with political-ideological implications.

Françoise Thébaud outlines the evolution of women's history in France, from humble beginnings in interdisciplinary studies to the emergence of an independent discipline in its own right. Investigation has taken three main directions, namely women's work, feminist protest, and sexual themes (from motherhood to prostitution). Despite considerable progress, however, there is still a relative scarcity of methodological infrastructure in this area of study. Concluding this part of the book, Michelle Zancarini-Fournel discusses women's history in the socio-economic and political context of post-war France, from 1945 to the present day. This paper also seeks to demonstrate that the evolution of women's history is deeply entwined with changes in former conceptualizations on gendered roles in the home, workplace, sport, and society in general.

The second part of the book focuses on the Portuguese scene and comprises a number of summaries of different research studies within the scope of women's history. Teresa Pinto examines industrial training for women in the 19th century. Maria Isabel Viegas Liberato analyses discourses on prostitution in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Virgínia do Rosário Baptista deals with women in the labour market from 1890 to 1940. João Esteves considers early 20th-century feminist organizations. Irene Flunser Pimentel evaluates OMEN, the institution for supporting mothers under the Salazar regime. Manuela Barbas explores the organization of female Portuguese youth from 1937 to 1945. Maria Antónia Fiadeiro investigates the pioneering work of Maria Lamas, a feminist journalist. Manuela Tavares ponders on feminisms in the 1970s and 1980s. Amélia Campos reviews female members of Parliament from the 1970s to the 1990s.

This book provides a comprehensive overview of the current progress in women's history in different Southern-European countries. It can be useful to new researchers approaching this field of study; and it will be of particular relevance to those interested in Portugal. The proceedings from the Arrábida conference, the bibliographical lists after each paper, and the abstracts of various dissertations are all sources of invaluable information on work done to date and on gaps still open to further inquiry.

Reviewed by Manuela Cook  
Formerly U of Wolverhampton (1970s-1990s)

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### **Revolucionarias: Conflict and Gender in Latin American Narratives by Women**

Nations suffer trauma and shock during and after conflict. In response, narratives are written, which, in turn, become fictional history and enter the imaginative store held by the peoples (pueblos) of that space. The significance of these fictional (and often not so fictional) accounts of war to the creative, social and political act that is post-conflict nation rebuilding cannot be under-estimated.

There has long been recognition for the narratives written by men of their and others' experiences of war, of historical re-interpretations and of imaginative constructions. Men's versions are privileged because men are seen as the actors both on the battlefield and in the grand decision making in war. In contrast, women's voices and words had been rarely heard or given the attention that they deserve. Women have fought in wars, controlled armies, charged in the frontline, nursed the wounded, smuggled arms, spied on enemy encampments, have been cooks and mothers, protected the home front and endured the hardships of trying to sustain life during turmoil. So, what of the writing? It is rich in detail, multiple in its perspectives and creative in form, style and language. In this book we would like to draw together essays which discuss women's representation of women and the war story in Latin American literature. Along the way ensuring that we acknowledge the convergences and divergences among experiences, historical contexts, and political and creative aims of the writers.

'This collection will therefore draw together for the first time a range of narratives of conflict and revolution as represented by Latin American women writers. Whilst certainly privileging the diverse roles and experiences of women in 20th and 21<sup>st</sup> century conflicts, and thus allowing for common threads to be found, it will attempt to do justice to the complexity of these experiences and their representations by embracing a broad definition of conflict and by engaging with a wide range of narratives of conflict. In this way, it will allow for both contiguities and differences, and will provide a space for the exploration of versions of subjectivity, writing and experience in conflict to co-exist.

Contributions might include (but not be limited to) the following areas of enquiry:

- Conflict in public and private experience
- Conflict as essential context for constructions and projections of subjectivity
- Conflict between genres and gender
- Conflict between national and gendered identities
- Conflict between and within genders

Depending on interest, the organisers/editors may organise a one-day conference in 2005 to enable potential contributors to discuss common theoretical/thematic threads and divergences. In the first instance, potential contributors are encouraged to express initial interest as soon as possible, and to **submit an abstract (300 words) by end-September 2004** to **Par Kumaraswami** or **Niamh Thornton** at the following addresses:

[P.Kumaraswami@hw.ac.uk](mailto:P.Kumaraswami@hw.ac.uk)  
[Nthornton@wit.ie](mailto:Nthornton@wit.ie)

## WISPS VTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### Report to the Executive Committee of Women in Spanish and Portuguese Studies

#### 1. Planning

The organizers would like to thank Jill Ingham and Claire Williams for providing copies of last year's publicity documentation, and the programme. This considerably facilitated the planning process.

The venue, Trinity Hall, was provisionally booked shortly after the AGM in 2002 approved our bid to host the conference. Accommodation for c. 30 is available on-site in the form of room with washbasin and shared bathroom: the quality is variable, with some rooms very modern and others rather quaint; however, the central site is compact and pleasant. We currently have the Graham Storey Room (seats c. 70, with all modern conference facilities) and the Lecture Hall (c. 100, audio-visual facilities) booked, and have arranged to use the foyer area by the Lecture Hall for registration, and coffee and tea. A soup and sandwich lunch will be available on both days, with a gala dinner (menu yet to be agreed) on the evening of 31<sup>st</sup>. We have an additional booking for the Leslie Stephen room (seats 30) for the third set of sessions on the 1<sup>st</sup>. We negotiated with local colleges to secure free rooms but were unsuccessful. The bar will be open in the evening.

Around Spring 2002, we approached Prof. Melveena McKendrick (now Pro-Vice Chancellor) to give one of the two plenary lectures, and she accepted. We asked for suggestions for a modern plenary, only one name from outside of Cambridge was forthcoming (the artist Paula Rego), and she refused. We chose not to ask a second Cambridge plenary. Finally, given that 2004 marks the quincentenary of the death of Spain's first Queen, we asked Prof. Barbara Weissberger (Minnesota) – an expert on Isabel I – to give the second plenary, and she has accepted. The delay in getting a second plenary in place meant that we missed AHRB/ BA grant application dates; however, we have raised £200 towards her costs from the Instituto Cervantes, and Trinity Hall has agreed to meet her local costs. I ask the Committee to agree to pay the final £200 we need to pay her fully, and which corresponds to a portion of her flight costs – she has agreed to speak for no fee, and to sit on the roundtable on gender and Medieval Studies.

#### 2. Programme

The Call for Papers elicited an excellent response: around 51 proposals, including two panels, and a large number of applications from abroad, particularly the US. We eliminated papers whose relevance to WiSPS' themes or whose quality, or both, meant there were objective grounds for exclusion. We then organized the sessions thematically, bearing in mind the number of slots available in the programme, and had to reject around 3 further papers, which we could not place thematically. We provided feedback to each speaker whose proposal we rejected. We hope that the programme as it stands is reflective of the range of interests of the association and its members: including papers in medieval, early modern, modern literature and drama, film, art history and history, sociology, Lusophone studies, and Latin America.

To date we have had four withdrawals. There is one other speaker who has indicated that she will only be able to confirm her attendance if she secures funding from her home institution. Due to these changes in delegates' attendance, we have had to amend the programme and would value feedback from the committee on this. We also invite members of the executive committee to volunteer to chair sessions or to nominate individuals whom we might approach. The following have already agreed: Manucha Lisboa, Willy Muñoz, and Erica Segre.

3. Budgeting (costs for hire are currently estimates)

	<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>INCOME</b>
Room hire, including coffee and tea	£690.00	
Total costs for plenarists	£495	
Conference fees		£910.00
From Instituto Cervantes for plenarist		£200
From Trinity Hall for plenarist		£95
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£1235</b>	<b>£1205</b>

There is a shortfall of £30, which will be wiped out if there is a further bookings. Around 5 speakers have not yet paid their registration fee or booked meals, and neither Jan nor I (along with some other members of the executive) have paid our costs or registration fee yet. There may be a small profit on all meals and B&B, which may soak up some of the shortfall. A reminder to speakers and to members to register before 21 February has been sent out. We would welcome either a contribution towards Prof. Weissberger's costs or a guarantee against loss.

We have offered to include flyers from Mary Starkey at Maney and Diane Black at Hodder Arnold for a flat rate of £50; but neither has yet confirmed they wish to go ahead. Elspeth Ferguson, commissioning editor for Tamesis, is attending. Anyone involved with a UP is invited to ask it to consider availing itself of these facilities.

4. Postgraduate Bursaries

We have had three applications for PG Bursaries:

Jennifer S. Fraser (Birkbeck); paper offer accepted ('Positively Patriotic: The *Novela Sociológica*, Citizenship and Family...').

Jennifer Doran (Liverpool); paper offer accepted ('The Influence of *Celestina* on *El Caballero de Olmedo*').

Kathy Bacon (Cambridge); paper offer accepted ('The Other *Rosalía*...').

JG / LMH, Trinity Hall