

## Conferencias Plenarias

### Francisco Collado-Rodríguez

UNIVERSIDAD DE ZARAGOZA

#### “THE EXPERIMENTAL NOVEL IN THE NEW UNIVERSE OF FORCE: TIME, TRAUMA, AND TERROR IN FOER’S AND PYNCHON’S LATEST FICTION”

Francisco Collado-Rodríguez is Professor of English (American Literature) at the Department of English and German Studies of the University of Zaragoza. He graduated with honors in English, also receiving an academic award, at the University of Extremadura, subsequently obtaining a competitive national scholarship to carry on his doctoral studies at Extremadura and Edinburgh. He currently teaches a course on 20th-century American Literature and a more specialized course focused on recent narratives and the notion of the posthuman self.

Francisco Collado is also the current President of the Spanish Association for American Studies (SAAS) since March 2007. He was the Editor of *Miscelánea: A Journal of English and American Studies* from 1986 to 1990 and is presently associate editor of a number of academic reviews. He has written extensively on the influence of fantasy, myth, and scientific discourse on modernist and postmodernist English and American fiction. Professor Collado belongs to a competitive research team currently working on ethics and trauma in contemporary fiction written in English and has published numerous articles and essays on novelists such as Richard Adams, J. R. R. Tolkien, Thomas Pynchon, Bharati Mukherjee, Kurt Vonnegut, E. L. Doctorow, Russell Banks, Eric Kraft, and Jeffrey Eugenides, as well as on poets T. S. Eliot and Ezra Pound. He has edited two volumes of essays on contemporary fiction: *Del mito a la ciencia: la novela norteamericana contemporánea* (1990) and *Science, Literature, and Interpretation: Essays on twentieth-century literature and critical theory* (1991) and has also published a book on Richard Adams’s oeuvre (*The Frontiers of Mythmaking: Richard Adams’s Early Fiction*. Zaragoza: Universidad de Zaragoza, 1994). In 2004 he published a book on the complete works (so far) of Thomas Pynchon: *El orden del caos: literatura, política y posthumanidad en la narrativa de Thomas Pynchon* (Valencia: Prensas Universitarias) that was awarded the “Enrique García Díez” National Research Prize by the Spanish Association of Anglo-American Studies (AEDEAN). He has recently co-edited with Nieves Pascual and Laura Alonso the book *Masculinities, Femininities and the Power of the Hybrid in U.S. Narratives: Essays on Gender Borders* (Universitätsverlag Winter, 2007). Some of his recent publications include: “Ethics in the Second Degree: Trauma and Dual Narratives in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Everything is Illuminated*,” in *Journal of Modern Literature* (Forthcoming); “(North) American Studies in Spain: between eclecticism and politics,” in *The European Journal of American Studies*, EJAS 2006; “Of Self and Country: U.S. Politics, Cultural Hybridity and Ambivalent Identity in Jeffrey Eugenides’s *Middlesex*,” in *The International Fiction Review*, vol. 33 (2006); “Minimalism, Post-humanism and the Recovery of History in Bobbie Ann Mason’s *Zigzagging Down a Wild Trail*,” in *The Southern Literary Journal*, vol. 39.1 (2006), and “Back to Myth and Ethical Compromise: García Márquez’s Traces on Jeffrey Eugenides’s *The Virgin Suicides*,” in *Atlantis*, vol. XXVII, 2 (2005), also available in electronic format at <http://www.atlantisjournal.org>

## **Robert DeKeyser**

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

### **“ANALYZING THE COMPONENTS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE KNOWLEDGE”**

Robert DeKeyser is Professor of Second Language Acquisition at the University of Maryland. He has a B.A. in Romance Philology from the University of Leuven in Belgium, and an M.A./Ph.D. in Education with a minor in Linguistics from Stanford University. He has taught Dutch, French, Spanish and English to high school and college students and adults in Belgium and California. His research is mainly on second language acquisition, with emphasis on cognitive-psychological aspects. Some of his favorite topics are interlanguage variability, monitoring processes, automatization of second language grammar, the effect of age of learning and other individual differences, the linguistic effects of study abroad, and above all, as a unifying theme running through all the other topics, the relationship between implicit and explicit learning and knowledge. Robert DeKeyser is also interested in sociolinguistics and the sociology of language. He has published in a variety of journals, including *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, *Language Learning*, *Language Testing*, *The Modern Language Journal*, *TESOL Quarterly*, and *AILA Review*. He has contributed chapters to several highly regarded handbooks, and he recently published an edited volume with Cambridge University Press entitled *Practice in a Second Language: Perspectives from Applied Linguistics and Cognitive Psychology*.

## **Maggie Gee**

NOVELIST, UK

### **“WRITING ABOUT DIFFERENCE: GIRL WRITES BOY, WHITE WRITES BLACK”**

Maggie Gee was born in Poole, Dorset, and educated at Oxford (MA, B Litt) and Wolverhampton (Ph D). She has written eleven novels and one collection of short stories, *The Blue*, Telegram Books 2006 (‘superbly assured, with a crystalline clarity and understated humour’, *The Times*). Her novels include *Light Years* (set in Poole and Bournemouth), *Where are the Snows*, *The Ice People*, *The White Family*, *The Flood* and most recently a comedy about cultural misunderstanding, *My Cleaner*, which the Scotsman said was ‘beautifully observed, intelligent and moving’. *The White Family* was shortlisted for the Orange Prize and most recently for the Dublin International Impac Prize. *The Ice People* is currently being adapted for television, and a new and revised edition was published by Telegram Books in June 2008. Maggie was the first female Chair of the Royal Society of Literature (2004-2008) and is now a Vice-President of the Society and Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at Sheffield Hallam University. Her work has been translated into 13 languages. In 2003, Cheltenham Festival sent her to Uganda on an exchange with a Ugandan writer, Ayeta Anne Wangusa. This was the beginning of a fascination with Uganda that inspired her novel *My Cleaner* and the sequel she has just completed, *My Driver*. She is also half-way through a memoir, *My Animal Life*, not a chronological account but an attempt to understand her family and to answer questions like ‘How do we forgive ourselves?’ Maggie Gee lives in London with her husband Nicholas Rankin and their daughter Rosa Rankin-Gee.

## **Gordon Henry**

WRITER, US

### **“RELATIVE DISTANCE AND THE MEMORIAL BEYOND IN AMERICAN INDIAN LITERATURE”**

Gordon Henry is Associate Professor of English at Michigan State University, where he also directs the Creative Writing Program. Since 2005 he has been Senior Editor of the *American Indian Studies Series* published by Michigan State University Press. He is the author of the novel *The Light People* (University of Oklahoma Press, 1994), which obtained The American Book Award in 1995 and two poetry collections, *Outside White Earth* (1986) and *The Failure of Certain Charms and Other Disparate Signs of Life* (2007). His fiction and poetry has also been published in *The Black Warrior Review*, *The North Dakota Quarterly*, *The Blue Cloud Quarterly*, *Raccoon*, *The Mid-American Review*, and *The Northeast Indian Quarterly*, among many other journals and anthologies. Gordon Henry has collaborated with Spanish universities and academics for a number of years. In 1994 he visited the University of Oviedo as Fulbright Lecturer and the University of León as an invited professor. His critical essays have appeared in works like *On the Turn: The Ethics of Fiction in Contemporary Narrative in English* (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007), *En/Clave de Frontera* (Oviedo: Universidad de Oviedo, 2007), *Voces de América* (Cádiz: Aduana Vieja, 2004), *Here First* (New York: Random House, 2000). Together with Nieves Pascual Soler and Silvia Martínez Falquina he is co-editing *Stories Thru Theories, Theories Thru Stories: North American Indian Writing, Storytelling and Critique*, a collection of critical essays which will be published shortly by Michigan State University Press.

## **M. Teresa Turell**

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

### **“THE TASK AND ROLE OF THE FORENSIC LINGUIST IN GIVING EVIDENCE”**

M. Teresa Turell is Professor of English Linguistics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), director of ForensicLab and Academic Director of the Master's programme in Forensic Linguistics (Institut d'Educació Continua/Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada (IULA) at this same university. She has conducted extensive research on Catalan, Spanish and English sociolinguistic variation, qualitative and quantitative studies of language contact and, more recently, analysis of forensic authorship attribution and plagiarism. Results of this research have appeared in *Language Variation and Change*, *Language in Society*, *Treballs de Sociolingüística Catalana* and *The International Journal of Speech, Language and the Law*. She is the author of *No One-to-One in Grammar* (1983) and *Elements per a la Recerca Sociolingüística a Catalunya* (1984) and the editor of collected works such as *Nuevas Corrientes Lingüísticas* (1990), *La Sociolingüística de la Variació* (1995), *Multilingualism in Spain* (2001), *Lingüística forense, Lengua y Derecho. Conceptos, Métodos y Aplicaciones* (2005) and *Plurilingüismo en España* (2007). She is the editor (with John Gibbons) of *Dimensions of Forensic Linguistics*, to be published by John Benjamins at the end of 2008.

As a forensic linguist, she is Associate Consultant of the unit Forensic Linguistics Advice, Investigation & Research (FLAIR), in the Centre for Forensic Linguistics at Aston University. She takes consultancy work for texts written in Spanish, Catalan, English and French. She has

provided linguistic evidence for more than 15 years in criminal and civil cases, specialising in a) detection of plagiarism; b) authorship determination (establishing among several candidates who is the author of a disputed text), c) authorship attribution (establishing if a disputed text can be attributed to a specific author) and d) trademark litigation. She has worked on many different forms of written documents: short texts, such as emails and faxes, medium-size texts such as informative reports in non-specialized magazines, and longer texts such as terrorist conspiracy documents, as well as text books, applying both qualitative and quantitative approaches to ensure reliability and internal and external validity of results.



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