

# Las Coordinadas

News from the Spanish and Portuguese Department at the University of Toronto  
Spring 2017

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*Upcoming events*

## **Reception in honour of Professor Manuela Marujo and 70 years of Lusophone Studies at University of Toronto.**

On June 30, Professor Manuela Marujo is officially retiring from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Toronto. To celebrate her teaching career, a reception will take place on May 24, from 6 to 9 p.m., in the Alumni Hall at Victoria College, 91 Charles Street West. This event will also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the undergraduate program in Lusophone Studies at University of Toronto (1947-2017). From May 10-31, there will also be an exhibit on the second floor of Robarts Library which aims to institutionally celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Lusophone Program at U of T.

## **50 Years of Magic and Beauty**

Ser inocultable y absolutamente colombiana, haber sido escrita en México, y que se haya publicado por primera vez en Argentina, hace de 100 Años de Soledad una obra que cada latinoamericano, cada latinoamericana, puede sentir como parte constitutiva de lo que le corre por las venas. Todo el cúmulo de maravillas que nos dio Gabriel García Márquez hace 50 años, y la lengua en la que podemos disfrutar lo que somos, y la identidad que nos vertebra, es lo que queremos celebrar contigo el 2 y el 8 de junio.

*Department news & activity*

### **New graduate courses offered!**

SPA2304 (Latin American Cinema) will be offered in the Fall 2017 semester and SPA1090 (Second Language Speech) will be offered in Winter 2018.

### **New Portuguese undergraduate courses offered!**

**PRT350:** Portuguese Language & Society (offered in Fall 2017)

**PRT332:** Introduction to Portuguese Linguistics (offered in Fall 2017)

**PRT455:** Lusophone Cinema (offered in Winter 2017)

**PRT458:** Learning Portuguese in a work context (offered in Winter 2017)

**PRT470:** Acquisition of Portuguese as a second language (offered in Winter 2017)

### **¡Apuntes, Hispánicos!**

The graduate student association at our department published the 13th volume of Apuntes Hispánicos; it includes some of the lectures from the [Levy-Wasteneys Symposium](#), which took place last year at our department.

### **A new Visiting Professor!**

Please welcome a new Visiting Professor to our department, Dr. Cátia Martins from the University Center of Brasília!

### *Announcements & awards*

#### **New book by Prof. Ana Teresa Perez-Leroux!**

Entitled “Direct Objects and Language Acquisition” and written by Dr. Perez-Leroux, Dr. Mihaela Pirvulescu and Dr. Yves Roberge, it will be released in June 2017.

#### **Congratulations to Soledad Zabalza on the defense of her thesis proposal!**

She defended “Encuadres de Representatividad del Hombre Blanco y del Indígena en el Discurso Político. El Relato Argentino de Viaje del Siglo XIX” on March 17, 2017.

#### **Congratulations to Tanya Battersby on her thesis defense!**

She defended “The speaker-oriented use of estar: Semantic variation in the [Copula+Adjective] context in Buenos Aires Spanish” on April 4, 2017.

#### **Congratulations to our alumnus Rebecca Janzen on her tenure track appointment!**

She is now an Assistant Professor at the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of South Carolina.

#### **Congratulations to our alumnus Alejandro Cuza on his new position!**

He is now a Full Professor at the School of Languages and Cultures at Purdue University.

### *Closing remarks on “Vidas que cuentan”, our project with Latin@s en Toronto*

Al finalizar el proyecto Vidas que Cuentan, llevado adelante por la organización comunitaria Latin@s en Toronto con el apoyo del Departamento de Español y Portugués de la Universidad de Toronto, se publicó en forma de e-book una compilación de las historias de vida, presentaciones, conferencias y debates que durante un año tuvieron como objetivo la promoción del diálogo intergeneracional y la introducción, en la agenda de la comunidad hispano-latinoamericana, de temas como retención lingüística, brechas generacionales y de

género, memoria, o identidad y participación social. La celebración de la finalización de Vidas que Cuentan, en la que se realizó un repaso de las actividades realizadas y se presentó la publicación digital mencionada, contó con la asistencia de Laura Colantoni y Juan Rocha en nombre del Departamento de Español y Portugués, de varias organizaciones sociales que han respaldado el proyecto, y de la Ministra de Seniors Affairs, Dipika Damerla, que expresó su interés en la promoción de emprendimientos de este tipo, capaces permear las fronteras entre lo comunitario y lo académico y entre diferentes generaciones. Dadas las características del proyecto financiado por la agencia federal New Horizons for Seniors, Latin@s en Toronto se propone publicar, en los próximos meses, un segundo volumen con los materiales que en esta [primera edición](#) no fueron incluidos.

*Past and future conference invites*

**Ph.D. candidate Oliver Velazquez Toledo** presented “Libro y nación: La tradición de la ruptura como criterio editorial en Poesía en movimiento” at the XXIII Annual Juan Bruce-Novoa Mexican Studies Conference at the University of California, Irvine from April 13-15, 2017.

**Prof. Ana Teresa Perez-Leroux** was invited to speak at the Language Research Center lecture series at the University of Calgary on March 24, 2017. She presented “Productivity, directionality and proficiency: Exploring L2 speakers’ difficulties with recursive NPs”.

**Ph.D. candidate Soledad Zabalza** was invited by Latin American Studies Association - LASA southern-cone to present her doctoral research at its Symposium, which will be held in July 2017 in Uruguay.

*Events: Winter 2017 semester*

- March 10: The Spanish Oscars
- March 30: Portuguese Program luncheon; Spanish & Portuguese Undergraduate Awards Ceremony
- May 12: End of Academic Year luncheon

*A chat with Prof. Manuela Marujo about her career at the department and the future of Portuguese at U of T.*

**1. How and when did you first become involved with Spanish and Portuguese at U of T? What were your first impressions?**

“I came from Portugal in 1985 to teach at the department. I was very impressed with the interest that students showed in our courses on language, literature and culture. Because there are so many Canadians of Portuguese heritage, I thought the majority of the students taking Portuguese would be of Portuguese descent. But I was proved wrong: there were students from every possible background interested in learning the language.”

## **2. Tell me a bit about some of the people you've met over the years.**

“I was lucky to meet people who would become very successful in their professional lives. Today I am so happy to meet in Toronto students of mine who are university professors, politicians, school principals, lawyers, doctors, artists and so on. Because the Portuguese community is so large, we are privileged to have the opportunity to create partnerships with and bring together professionals from many different fields.”

## **3. What are some of the changes you've seen at the university since you started at the department?**

“Times have changed. These days, the Canadian government is investing less and less in language instruction at all levels. I first arrived right after Pierre Trudeau left office. He believed in promoting language learning starting in kindergarten and elementary school. Since then, there have been a great many changes in the politics of education and language. I believe that the effects of these changes are felt most strongly at the university level. Language learning becomes something that is only for those who are better informed about the benefits of being bilingual or multilingual.”

## **4. What is your favourite memory in all these years at U of T?**

“I don't have one, but many incredible memories. U of T changed me; I have spent most of my professional life here and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to do so because I loved what I did.”

## **5. What would you tell to students who are interested in pursuing the study of Portuguese but unsure of the practical applications of studying this language?**

“You do not need to do a lot of research to learn about the relevance of Portuguese. Portuguese will never disappear, it is among the 10 most spoken languages in the world. It will be very useful, and it will open up to you great opportunities in just about any field you can name. Portuguese is the official language in eight countries.”

### *Student life*

#### **Graduate**

- February 10: CASTAD
  - The Canadian Spanish Teaching Assistant Dialogues (CASTAD) took place this year at the University of Western Ontario on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Graduate students Olga Nedvyga and Eduardo Villalobos attended from our University. The purpose of CASTAD is to gather Spanish Tas from Universities across Canada to share practical tips on how to teach effectively. This was our first gathering and we plan to have our second reunion in 2018 here at U of T.

- February 16-17: Intonation Workshop
  - The department hosted the second University of Toronto Intonation Workshop in February. The goal of the workshop was to promote a dialogue among local experts, including graduate students, faculty, alumni, and researchers from around the world. There were three presentations by invited speakers from international institutions, as well as members of the University of Toronto community. The workshop also included poster presentations by scholars from other communities.

### **Undergraduate student life**

A message from the UofT Portuguese Association:

The University of Toronto Portuguese Association (U.T. P. A.) is a club that represents Lusophone students across the University of Toronto campuses. Every year the U.T.P.A. hosts multiple events to promote the Portuguese language and culture. Through the U.T.P. A, students are given the opportunity to meet new people and participate in a variety of experiences. The U.T.P.A. organizes many Outreach initiatives like Adopt-a-Student Day, which allows local high school students to be paired up with university students for a day of mentorship. At the end of the school year, the U.T.P.A. distributes scholarships to Lusophone students who are studying at U of T. This year the U.T.P.A. has won the Program of the Year award from Student Life and an Outstanding Cultural Club award from the U.T.S.U. We welcome all students and hope to see you all at our upcoming events!

A message from the Spanish Students' Organization:

The Spanish Student Organization (SSO) serves as a social and academic resource for all students learning the Spanish language. We consistently offer successful conversation labs on a bi-weekly basis and help many of our members improve their Spanish oral and writing skills through these peer-to-peer workshops. We are one of the few campus clubs who offer our executive members and mentors co-curricular validation through the University, in return for their great efforts to improve our club with their individual contributions. We also target the greater student body by engaging and uniting them through cultural events like Latin Night, which we plan on hosting once again in February 2018. Students interested in getting involved with the SSO are encouraged to contact us at [spanishorganization.uoft@gmail.com](mailto:spanishorganization.uoft@gmail.com) to learn more about available volunteer and executive positions. To stay updated on all of our upcoming events and academic labs, make sure to join our mailing list either on our website (<https://utspanishstudentorganization.wordpress.com>) or Facebook page (you can find us under Spanish Student Organization - U of T).

Best, The SSO Executive Team

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