
THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOPS IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SPONSORED BY



The West Virginia Consortium
for Faculty and Course Development
in International Studies

November 17-18, 1997

Lakeview Resort and Conference Center
Morgantown, West Virginia

**PROGRAM PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION
OF CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS**

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Program Planning: Sophia Peterson, Founding Director of FACDIS
(During Spring Semester 1997)
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Workshop Chairpersons

Brazil: Sandra Dixon (Foreign Languages, West Virginia University)
Germany: Gary Kappel (History, Bethany College)
India: Joseph Laker (History, Wheeling Jesuit University)

***Teaching World Cultures Through
Literature and Film***

***Brazil
Germany
India***

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Funded by the State College and University Systems
of West Virginia and
participating institutions in FACDIS

Teaching World Cultures Through Literature and Film

Introduction to Major Cultures of the World

The 17th Annual Conference & Workshops will focus on three countries, each containing a complex of cultures: Brazil, Germany, and India. Located on three different continents, these countries promise to be among the most important in the next century. The following brief background notes provide information that led us to select them.

BRAZIL

Brazil, the only Portuguese-speaking country in South America, is also the largest on that continent, bordering all but two nations. Its population of 160 million, the sixth largest in the world, includes more Roman Catholics than any other country. Its Gross Domestic Product of \$456 billion and annual real growth rate of 5% (1993) places its economy among the most dynamic in the world. Four major groups provide rich cultural diversity: the Portuguese who began colonizing in the 16th century; indigenous Indians; Africans brought to Brazil as slaves; and various European and Asian immigrant groups who have come since the mid-19th century. Brazil completed its transition to a popularly elected government in 1989 when the first direct presidential election in 29 years took place. In environmental terms Brazil is one of the most important nations in the world as the Amazon Basin is home of the largest remaining rainforest, often called the "earth's lungs."

GERMANY

In Europe, Germany ranks second only to Russia in area and population (82 million). Divided in 1948 into two countries (the Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic), Germany was reunited in 1990. Sometimes described as "the economic engine" of Europe, Germany ranks amongst the wealthiest in the world with a Gross National Product of almost \$2.5 trillion (1995) and annual growth rate of 2.5% (1994). Despite the substantial economic demands stemming from the reunification, Germany continues to maintain the strongest currency in Europe, one which may well serve as the standard for the European Union's common currency (the euro). While the population is primarily German, it also includes almost 7 million foreign residents. Germany has a rich cultural tradition in all the arts including literature, in which field they have had several Nobel Laureates.

INDIA

The people of India have had a continuous civilization since 2500 B.C.E., when the inhabitants of the Indus River Valley developed an urban culture based on commerce and sustained by agricultural trade. On August 15th of this year, India celebrated its 50th Anniversary of Independence. After a struggle for independence from British rule, which began in 1920 under the leadership of the world-renowned Mahatma Gandhi, India became a sovereign state in 1947 with Jawaharlal Nehru as the first Prime Minister. Today India is the largest democracy in the world with a population of almost one billion. With an annual Gross Domestic Product of approximately \$315 billion (1995), India's economy is growing at almost 4% annually, partially as a result of significant economic reforms instituted in 1991. India's size, population, and strategic location in South Asia give it a prominent voice in international affairs, and its growing industrial base, scientific and technical capacity provide added weight.

PROGRAM

Monday, November 17

(Guide to speakers/workshop leaders can be found at the end of the Program.)

9:30 am-1:00 pm **REGISTRATION: Governor's Ballroom Foyer**
BOOK DISPLAY: Governor's Ballroom 4

10:30 - 11:30 am **MEETING OF FACDIS STEERING COMMITTEE**

Travel Grant Selection: Ward Christopher Room

11:45 am -1:15 pm **LUNCH: Chestnut Room A & B**

Opening Remarks: Jack Hammersmith, Co-Director, FACDIS
Luncheon Address: William R. Haden, President
West Virginia Wesleyan College
"Internationalizing West Virginia Wesleyan College"

1:30-2:30 pm **KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Governor's Ballrooms 2-3-4**
"Global Flows, Open Cultures"

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, Krieger/Eisenhower Distinguished
Professor of Anthropology & Director, Institute for Global Studies in
Culture, Power & History, Johns Hopkins University

2:30-3:15 pm **PANEL DISCUSSION WITH KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**
Governor's Ballrooms 2-3-4

Moderator: Jack Hammersmith, Co-Director, FACDIS
Panelists: Heidi Byrnes, Professor of German, Georgetown University
Gerald Larson, Rabindranath Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures
and Civilizations, Indiana University
Peggy Sharpe, Associate Professor of Portuguese & Women's
Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

3:15-3:30 pm **BREAK: Governor's Ballroom Foyer**

3:30-5:00 pm **FIRST SET OF THREE CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Topic 1: ***Major Aspects of Brazilian Culture(s)***

Room: Governor's Ballrooms 5-6
Consultant: Peggy Sharpe, Associate Professor of Portuguese & Women's Studies,
University of Illinois (UIUC)

Chairperson: Sandra Dixon (Foreign Languages, West Virginia University)
Abstract: Brazilians often refer to the complexities of their cultural condition as a
realidade brasileira, or *Brazilian reality*. In this session we will contextualize
the many factors that constitute this complex network in order to lay the
foundation for our subsequent discussions on literature and film as

cultural critique. Focus on race, class, and gender, as seen from the perspective of the Brazilians themselves, will be central to our discussion of issues such as land reform, urbanization, national education, the Indigenous populations, the status of women, revolution and political dictatorship, and decolonization seen from 20th century perspective.

Topic 2: *Major Aspects of German Culture(s)*
Room: Governor's Ballroom 1
Consultant: Heidi Byrnes, Professor of German, Georgetown University
Chairperson: Gary Kappel (History, Bethany College)
Abstract: This session will sketch out major aspects of German culture(s) in line with Clifford Geertz's concept of culture as a system of beliefs and values that is interdependent with social structure. In such an approach, students' most important task is to learn to discover the patterned system of symbols according to which the members of a culture make meaning of their lives, to find the "webs of significance" that culture has spun. Such patterns can be uncovered and decoded only with an interdisciplinary approach. After an overview of aspects of German culture (e.g., perceptions of space and time, or public and private spheres, and of social, historical, and political structures), this approach will be further examined by looking at German perceptions of space in a variety of cultural productions (e.g., literature, painting, public and private spaces).

Topic 3: *Major Aspects of Indian Culture(s)*
Room: Oak Room (Lower Level)
Consultant: Gerald Larson, Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University
Chairperson: Joseph Laker (History, Wheeling Jesuit University)
Abstract: India is one of the oldest world-class civilizations known to history. Its origins reach back to the third millennium B.C.E. or earlier, to the time of ancient Mesopotamia, Sumeria, and Egypt; but whereas the cultures of Mesopotamia, Sumer and ancient Egypt are only fascinating historical memories, the civilization of India has survived through the centuries, maintaining a remarkable and resilient cultural continuity that endures as a major presence in our modern world. The population of present-day India is close to a billion, comprising some fifteen percent of the population of our planet. Using the media of art, music and slides, this first session will highlight the overall cultural characteristics of Indic civilization, focusing on both modern aspects (the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi) and ancient aspects (the practice of Yoga and meditation).

5:00-6:00 pm Film Screenings (same rooms as 3:30-5:00 pm)
Brazil: *Bye, Bye Brazil* (1/2" video, 1980, Portuguese with subtitles, 100 min., excerpts.) A young man loses his heart to the Queen of the carnival, Salome, when Caravan Rolidei comes to town. He takes his wife and joins the carnival, falling deeper in love with Salome, who cannot return his love.

Germany: *The Nasty Girl* (1/2" video, 1990, German with subtitles, 94 min., excerpts.) Sonja, a young girl digging for the truth about her hometown in Germany during World War II, soon discovers that her small town has some big secrets they are trying to hide.
India: *India: The Empire of the Spirit* (1/2" video, 1991, 57 minutes.) Documentary looks at how ancient India is with us today in the living tradition of the Hindu religion, the basis of Indian culture.

6:00-7:00 pm SOCIAL HOUR WITH CONSULTANTS
(Cash Bar): Chestnut Rooms A&B

7:00-8:00 pm BANQUET: Chestnut Rooms A&B

8:00-9:00 pm Indian Dance Troupe
Jaya Mani and her students from Slippery Rock University

Tuesday, November 18

7:00 am INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES
BREAKFAST MEETING
Ward Christopher Room

7:30 am BREAKFAST: Reflections Room
Note: The West Virginia Committee and the National Council on US-Arab Relations would like to encourage former Malone Fellows and other FACDIS faculty interested in learning more about the Malone Fellowships to the Arab Middle East to join them at a large table set aside at breakfast for an informal discussion of the work of the National Council. (Maximum: 12-15)

8:30-10:00 am SECOND CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Topic 1: *How to Teach Brazilian Culture(s) with Film*
Room: Governor's Ballrooms 5-6
Consultant: Peggy Sharpe, Associate Professor of Portuguese & Women's Studies, University of Illinois (UIUC)
Chairperson: Sandra Dixon (Foreign Languages, West Virginia University)
Abstract: As foreign scholars, we view films from other cultures for various reasons, only one of which is to learn what those cultures consider important about themselves. However, our external—and often biased—perspective of other cultural realities can impede our ability to “see” the film through the eyes of its own producers/directors. In this session we will discuss aspects of Carlos Diegues' *Bye, Bye Brazil* (which will be available for viewing on Monday, November 17, 5-6 pm) to examine the evolution of the “New cinema” movement, the relationship between the cinema and the state, and the ways in which popular film contextualizes what Brazilians consider important about themselves.

Topic 2:	<i>How to Teach German Culture(s) with Film</i>
<i>Room:</i>	Governor's Ballroom 1
<i>Consultant:</i>	Heidi Byrnes, Professor of German, Georgetown University
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Gary Kappel (History, Bethany College)
<i>Abstract:</i>	Session will explore the opportunities for discovering cultural phenomena through films and will consider a sample film-course syllabus and its avenues for examining aspects of German identity formation in terms of the overall a-v material and through specific student tasks. The 1990 film <i>The Nasty Girl</i> (available for viewing on Monday, November 17, 5-6 pm) will be used to refer to specific issues and approaches.
Topic 3:	<i>How to Teach India's Culture(s) with Literature</i>
<i>Room:</i>	Oak Room (Lower Level)
<i>Consultant:</i>	Gerald Larson, Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Joseph Laker (History, Wheeling Jesuit University)
<i>Abstract:</i>	In maintaining continuity with the first session, the exploration of India's culture(s) continues with a focus on two fundamental literary texts, a modern and an ancient text: Gandhi's <i>An Autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth</i> ; and then, the famous "Song of the Lord" or <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> . Both texts deal with the practice of Yoga—for Gandhi the Yoga of political struggle in the world to attain "the uplift of all" (sarvodaya) through "non-violent non-cooperation" (ahimsa and satyagraha); and for the <i>Bhagavad Gita</i> the practice of Yoga in the midst of the great war described in India's massive epic, the <i>Mahabharata</i> ("Great India" epic).

10:00-10:30 am Break: Governor's Ballroom Foyer and Oak Room Foyer

10:30-Noon THIRD CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Topic 1:	<i>How to Teach Brazilian Culture(s) with Literature</i>
<i>Room:</i>	Governor's Ballrooms 5-6
<i>Consultant:</i>	Peggy Sharpe, Associate Professor of Portuguese & Women's Studies, University of Illinois (UIUC)
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Sandra Dixon (Foreign Languages, West Virginia University)
<i>Abstract:</i>	Literature and film can be interchangeable as objects of cultural study. However, we must consider the transference and modification of narrative in light of the shift in medium of expression between <i>genres</i> . In this session we will examine excerpts from Clarice Lispector's short novel, <i>The Hour of the Star</i> , which was later adapted to the screen by Susana Amaral, to explore the ways in which Lispector uses written language to construct an undeniable "engendered" critique of Brazilian patriarchy, and how the impact of her perspective changes when it is re-presented as visual image. By allowing the word and the visual image to dialogue with each other, Lispector's work reveals aspects of Brazilian culture that have not been the focus of earlier writers, filmmakers, and/or critics.

Topic 2:	<i>How to Teach German Culture(s) with Literature</i>
<i>Room:</i>	Governor's Ballroom 1
<i>Consultant:</i>	Heidi Byrnes, Professor of German, Georgetown University
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Gary Kappel (History, Bethany College)
<i>Abstract:</i>	It belongs to the perceived truths of liberal education to consider the literary works of a culture to be one of the best windows into that culture. This session will provide some ways for uncovering the cultural presuppositions that give meaning to the actions, events, plots, and interrelationships between major players in literary works. We will use scenes from two literary works by Thomas Mann: (1) excerpts from his novel <i>Buddenbrooks: Verfall einer Familie</i> (1903) which allows us to capture critical aspects of 19th century German culture; and (2) "Mario and the Magician" (1929--the same year Mann was awarded the Nobel prize for literature, primarily for <i>Buddenbrooks</i>), a short story that is generally interpreted as an allegory of Italian fascism. Subsequent discussion will allow the group to explore the suitability of other literary works for uncovering particular German cultural dynamics.
Topic 3:	<i>How to Teach India's Culture(s) with Film</i>
<i>Room:</i>	Oak Room (Lower Level)
<i>Consultant:</i>	Gerald Larson, Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures and Civilizations, Indiana University
<i>Chairperson:</i>	Joseph Laker (History, Wheeling Jesuit University)
<i>Abstract:</i>	Numerous films and videos are available for helping students to understand the major aspects of India's culture(s). In this third session, attention will be given to three films: (1) an overview documentary, <i>India: Empire of the Spirit</i> (available for viewing on Monday, November 17, 5-6 pm); (2) a film on non-violence entitled "Ahimsa" (which means "non-violence" in Sanskrit); and (3) a short teaching video entitled "Puja: Expressions of Hindu Devotion." Short excerpts from these three will be shown, followed by a general discussion of how one can then speak about India's culture(s) in light of the content of the films.

ADJOURNMENT

SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOP LEADERS

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MICHEL-ROLPH TROUILLOT

Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
Krieger/Eisenhower Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Anthropology and
Director, Institute for Global Studies in Culture, Power & History, Johns Hopkins University

A leading scholar in the study of culture, race, and power, with special emphasis on the Caribbean and on his native Haiti, Dr. Trouillot has served since 1993 as Director of the Institute for Global Studies in Culture, Power, and History at Johns Hopkins University. He also serves as Chairperson of the Department of Anthropology and holds the Krieger/Eisenhower Distinguished Professorship in Anthropology. His many awards and fellowships include a recent Fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University, as well as Research Fellowships from the National Humanities Center, the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, and a fellowship as Guest Scholar at the Smithsonian Institution's Woodrow Wilson Center. Current research interests include the relation between historicity and power, with emphasis on the construction of public narratives as bases for power. The author of numerous books, articles, and monographs, Dr. Trouillot's most recent book, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* (Beacon Press, 1995) is an analysis of historical narrative with examples ranging from the Haitian Revolution to Columbus Day, in which Dr. Trouillot demonstrates how power operates, often invisibly, at all stages in the making of history to silence certain voices. Other major works include *Haiti: State against Nation. The Origins and Legacy of Duvalierism* (Monthly Review Press, 1990), and *Peasants and Capital: Dominica in the World Economy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988).

WORKSHOP LEADERS

HEIDI BYRNES

Ph.D., Georgetown University
Professor of German, Georgetown University

A noted scholar of German language and linguistics, Dr. Byrnes has been a leader in the field of foreign language learning, acquisition, methodology, and evaluation. In addition to focusing on the best ways to achieve foreign/second language competency, she is also committed to emphasizing culture and the use of authentic texts in the classroom. The recipient of numerous academic awards, she held a Mellon Fellowship at the Institute of Advanced Studies, the National Foreign Language Center at the Johns Hopkins University (1991), has received the Outstanding Educator Award of the American Association of Teachers of German (1989), and has been Georgetown University's nominee twice for the Professor of the Year competition sponsored by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). From 1993-1995, she served Georgetown as Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Byrnes is sought after as workshop/institute presenter and trainer to improve language instruction and the foreign language curriculum, including serving as faculty member at a four-week 1995 NEH Summer Institute on "Teaching German

Across the Curriculum," and at several two-week leadership institutes on "Current Issues in Foreign Language Teaching," sponsored by the Modern Language Association. Editor or author of eight books and more than 50 articles and reports, her recent book titles include *Languages for a Multicultural World in Transition* (editor, National Textbook Co., 1992) and *Foreign/Second Language Learning: Perspectives in Research and Scholarship* (editor, Modern Language Association, 1997 forthcoming).

GERALD J. LARSON

Ph.D., Columbia University
Tagore Professor of Indian Cultures and Civilizations and Director, India Studies Program, Indiana University

Prior to accepting the Rabindranath Tagore Professorship of Indian Cultures and Civilizations at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he also became Director of the India Studies Program (1995), Dr. Larson served as Chair of both the Department of Religious Studies and the Program of Asian Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), as well as serving for three years as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. A noted scholar, his primary teaching areas include the religions and philosophies of India, Hindu traditions, classical Sanskrit texts, Pali, and Vedic Sanskrit. The recipient of numerous honors and awards for both teaching and research, he has received fellowships for research from the East-West Center in Hawaii, the American Institute of Indian Studies, and the Indo-U.S. Subcommittee on Education and Culture. He has published six books and over 80 scholarly articles on South and Southeast Asian religion and philosophy, comparative religion and comparative philosophy. Professor Larson's most recent book, *India's Agony Over Religion* (State University of New York Press, 1995), is a study of India, its religions, and cultural influences. In progress is a volume for the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies on *Yoga: India's Philosophy of Meditation*.

PEGGY SHARPE

Ph.D., University of New Mexico
Associate Professor of Portuguese and Women's Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Over the past thirty years, Professor Sharpe has lived throughout Brazil where she has taught and directed graduate study at the Universidade Federal de Pernambuco and the Universidade Federal do Maranhão. Since joining the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 1986, she has worked to increase the sites for Latin American student and faculty exchanges and directed a study abroad program in Recife, Brazil. Currently, she also serves UIUC as Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Dr. Sharpe has published widely on the representation of women in the culture and literature of the Portuguese-speaking world, and has been the recipient of numerous research awards including the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian in Portugal, the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico in Brazil, the Fulbright Regional Research Grant, as well as several awards from the University of Illinois. She has published modern editions of the "forgotten" works of several 19th and 20th century Brazilian women writers, as well as publishing literary translations and critical studies of contemporary Brazilian writers. Current research interests include a project to recover literary works documenting the transformations of feminine culture over the past two centuries in Brazil.

FACDIS ORGANIZATION

FACDIS Office

Co-Directors:

Jack L. Hammersmith, Professor of History, West Virginia University
Michael J. Strada, Professor of Political Science, West Liberty State College

FACDIS Founding Director (1980-1997):
Sophia Peterson, Professor Emerita of Political Science, West Virginia University
Ann Levine, Assistant Director
Sharon Nestor, Administrative Secretary

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*Denotes membership of Steering Committee through November 1997
**Denotes membership on Steering Committee through November 1998

Membership on the Steering Committee also includes the FACDIS Co-Directors,
Dr. Jack Hammersmith and Dr. Michael Strada