Cultures of Exile: Conversations on Language and the Arts
International Conference, University of New Mexico, October 23-25, 2013

Conference organizers:
Eleni Bastéa, Regents’ Professor of Architecture and Director of the International Studies Institute
Walter Putnam, Professor of French and Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages & Literatures

The conference “Cultures of Exile: Conversations on Language and the Arts” was inspired by the music of Georges Moustaki (1934--2013), especially his song “Le Métèque” (1969). In “Le Métèque” (music, lyrics) Moustaki dealt with outsiders, strangers, and all those who do not share one homogeneous place of origin. What does it mean to be a “métèque,” an exile, an outsider today? Although often associated with loss and victimhood, exile can also foster artistic freedom, creativity, renewal, and empowerment. What is the role of the new place in the development of one’s artistic oeuvre? How does the memory of original sounds, visual images, and physical places inflect one’s creative voice? Many of our New Mexico students have personal experiences of exile and relocation. Through presentations and discussions, we will examine how personal and national tales of loss and adversity, transformed through the artist’s medium, can become powerful testimonies of the human condition.

Distinguished speakers include the writers Shirley Geok-Lin Lim (from Malaysia, teaching at UC Santa Barbara), Kébir Ammi from Paris (originally from Morocco), Liana Theodoratou (from Greece, teaching at NYU), Karen Elizabeth Bishop (from the UK, teaching at Rutgers University), and historian Devin Naar, U. of Washington (with ancestors from Salonica, Greece). Speakers from UNM and the Albuquerque community include Diane Thiel, Vera John Steiner, Manuel Montoya and his panelists, Angus Fletcher and Constantine Hadjilambrinos. Commentators include Diana Rebolledo, Natasha Kolchevska, Les Field, Laura Matter and Walter Putnam.

The conference begins on Wednesday morning, October 23rd with a reading by Native American poet Luci Tapahonso and northern New Mexico poet Levi Romero, both UNM faculty. Later that day, an art exhibit opening, featuring work by UNM professor Yoshiko Shimano (originally from Japan) and others, will be followed by a lecture by Mexico City artist Silvia Gruner. Chinese artist Hung Liu, (Mills College, CA), will talk about “Summoning Ghosts” on Thursday afternoon. We will conclude on Friday, October 25th with a poetry reading by Diane Thiel and Shirley Lim.

Conference co-sponsors:
Offices of the Provost, Vice President for Research, Vice President for Student Affairs, and the President
Anderson School of Management; College of Arts and Sciences; School of Architecture & Planning
College of Fine Arts; Tamarind Institute; UNM Art Museum; University College
Departments of Art and Art History, English, Foreign Languages and Literatures, History, Spanish and Portuguese; Peace Studies Program; Feminist Research Institute; Latin American & Iberian Institute
Office of Graduate Studies; Global Education Office; UNM Foundation; UNM Bookstore
Alfonso Ortiz Center for Intercultural Studies
Colorado European Union Center of Excellence; Modern Greek Studies Association
Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce

For further details, please contact: Eleni Bastéa: ebastea@unm.edu
For conference updates, please check the International Studies Institute website:
http://isi.unm.edu/ or contact Jazmin Knight at the ISI office: (505) 277-1991 jkknights@unm.edu
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2013

9:30—10:00 am  Welcome: Eleni Bastéa and Walter Putnam (Hodgin Hall)
10:00—12:00 pm  Session I: In the poets’ words: Voices from the American Southwest
                  Luci Tapahonso, UNM, a reading
                  Levi Romero, UNM, a reading
                  Commentator: Diana Rebolledo, UNM

1:30—3:30 pm  Session II: Creativity, Exile, and Entrepreneurship (Hodgin Hall)
                  Organizer and commentator: Manuel Montoya, UNM
                  Marisol Encinias, co-director National Institute of Flamenco
                  Marisa Magallanez, director of Philanthropy, National Institute of Flamenco
                  Julia Gilroy, Santa Fe International Folk Art Market
                  Rudy WL Montoya, VP, Design and Creative Consulting, In Medias Res Consulting
                  Alice Loy, Tom Aageson, Global Center for Cultural Entrepreneurship
                  Heba Atwa-Kramer, Poetics Program Manager, International Business Students
                  Karen Schaefer, Micaela Brown, Rikki Quintana, Albuquerque Council for International Visitors

4:00—5:00 pm  Art Exhibit. Yoshiko Shimano, UNM (Location to be announced)
5:30—6:30 pm  Silvia Gruner, artist, Mexico City, “Inside Out,” Gale Memorial Lecture (Pearl Hall auditorium)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2013

10:00—12:00 pm  Session III: Language as home and exile (Hodgin Hall)
                  Angus Fletcher, CUNY, “Exile and Nostalgia”
                  Commentator: Natasha Kolchevska, UNM

1:00—3:00 pm  Session IV: Exile as a psychological and literary topos (Hodgin Hall)
                  Vera John-Steiner, UNM, “Cultural Legacy and Life Long Commitments”
                  Devin Naar, U. of Washington, "From Spain to Salonica and beyond: The Multiple Homelands and Competing Vernaculars of Sephardic Jews"
                  Commentator: Laura Matter, Albuquerque Academy

3:30—4:30 pm  Book signing (UNM Bookstore)
5:30—6:30 pm  Hung Liu, artist, Mills College, "Summoning Ghosts" (Pearl Hall auditorium)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2013

10:00—12:00 pm  Session V: The writer as private witness (Hodgin Hall)
                  Kébir Ammi, Paris, “My only country: Words and literature”
                  Liana Theodoratou, NYU, "Athens-Paris: Journals of Exile"
                  Commentator: Walter Putnam

1:30—3:30 pm  Session VI: The writer as political witness (Hodgin Hall)
                  Constantine Hadjilambrinos, UNM, “Exiled to the Homeland: The Changing Cultural Geography of Greek Diaspora”
                  Karen Elizabeth Bishop, Rutgers University, “New Cartographies of Exile”
                  Commentators: Les Field, UNM and Angus Fletcher, CUNY

4:00—6:30 pm  Poetry reading by Diane Thiel, UNM, and Shirley Geok-lin Lim, UC Santa Barbara and closing reception (UNM Art Museum)