

MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative

0111101010001011000101101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011
1101010001011000101101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110
1010001011000101101000101010000101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100
0010110111101010001011000101101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001
0110111101010001011000101101000101010000101101111010100010110001010000101101111010100
0101100010110100010101000010110111101010001001011010001010100001011011110101000101100
0101101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010
1101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110
1000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100
0101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100010
1010000101101111010100101000010110111101010001011000101101000101010000101101111010100
0100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100010101000010110111101010
0010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100010101000010110111101010001
0110001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100010101000010110111101010001011
0001011010001010100001011011110101000101100010110100010101000010110111101010001011000
101101000101010000101101111010100010110001011010001010100001011011110101000101111

EXPLODING
THE (GENDER) BINARY

1
0 1
· ...
-

0
- 0
 1
[] .
 ?
 ...

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 4TH, 2020 2:30 PM (EST)

KIKI KOSNICK – VERA GHENO – JOY LADIN – JOÃO NEMI NETO

Register in advance for this meeting:

https://fordham.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0sce2hqDsoHdDib2N7T5w_U_2TLm2UzmXF

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email
containing information about joining the meeting.

*This series is generously supported by
The Office of The Chief Diversity Officer and the Deans of Fordham University*

OUR SPEAKERS



Kiki Kosnick

A former first-generation college student and a queer human, Kiki Kosnick holds a PhD from The University of Wisconsin. They are currently an Assistant Professor of French and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois where they teach courses on French language, francophone literary and cultural studies, and queer theory. Kiki won the 2019 Florence Howe Award for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship from the Women's Caucus of the MLA for their article "[The Everyday Poetics of Gender-Inclusive French: Strategies for Navigating the Linguistic Landscape.](#)"



Vera Gheno

Vera Gheno is a sociolinguist, a digital ethnographer and a literary translator from Hungarian to Italian. She teaches as a contract professor at the University of Florence and has an ongoing collaboration with the Zanichelli publishing house. She also hosts a daily radio show on Italian language with journalist Carlo Cianetti on RadiolRai. Her main interests are digital communications, gender issues in language and linguistic divulgation with the goal of a democratic linguistic education, as stated by linguist Tullio De Mauro in the late sixties. The eight books she has published so far explore the relationship between Italian language and its speakers from different points of view.

MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative



Joy Ladin

Joy Ladin holds the Gottesman Chair in English at Yeshiva University, and, in 2007, became the first (and still only) openly transgender employee of an Orthodox Jewish institution. A poet, memoirist, and essayist, she long worked at the intersection of gender identity, religious tradition, and literature. Her memoir, *Through the Door of Life: A Jewish Journey Between Genders*, was a finalist for a National Jewish Book Award, and prompted conversations about trans and Jewish identities around country. Her most recent book, *The Soul of the Stranger: Reading God and Torah from a Transgender Perspective*, a Lambda Literary Award and Triangle Award finalist, is the first book-length work of trans theology from a Jewish perspective. Recognized as a founding exponent of trans poetics, she has published nine books of poetry, including two Lambda Literary Award finalists and, most recently, *The Future is Trying to Tell Us Something: New and Selected Poems*. Her work has been recognized with a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship, a Fulbright Scholarship, and an American Council of Learned Societies Research Fellowship, among other honors. Links to her writing are available at joyladin.wordpress.com.



João Nemi Neto

João Nemi Neto (PGO: he/him/his) is a Senior Lecturer in the Latin American and Iberian Cultures Department at Columbia University. His research focuses on queer theory, queer pedagogy, Brazilian culture and visual media. His latest publication “Queer Pedagogy: Approaches to Inclusive Teaching” deals with LGBTQA+ inclusion in the foreign language classroom. He has also published articles on foreign language textbooks, the representation of effeminacy in Brazilian telenovelas, and activist, writer and literary critic Herbert Daniel. He is currently writing a book titled “Anthropophagic Queer: Brazilian Contemporary Cinema” (forthcoming Wayne State University Press). João is also a poet who writes and performs as João Maria Cícero, www.joamariacicero.com

*This series is generously supported by
The Office of The Chief Diversity Officer and the Deans of Fordham University*

MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative

About the MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative

In response to the death of George Floyd and a call for action around the world the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures with generous support from Rafael Zapata, Chief Diversity Officer and the Office of The Chief Diversity Officer, proposed a collaborative overhaul of our language syllabi over the summer and a series of roundtables this fall to address the systemic racism, classism, and sexism that arise from vocabulary and its representation.

How does language, and the way we and our textbooks present and represent language/vocabulary in the classroom, create, reinforce, and normalize certain forms of bias, stereotype, and prejudice? For example, what is the vocabulary that we provide to students to discuss “the family” or “professions”? Why are only certain entities represented, how are they presented, what is the message implicitly being conveyed to students about the societies and cultures they are learning about? How have these groupings of words and their representations changed at different historical moments and in different regions where these languages are studied?

- This fall semester, courses 1001-1502 in all languages will begin to address these problematic issues of language vocabulary teaching with the Vocab Diversity Initiative.
- This initiative, which is funded by the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer, Rafael Zapata, integrates classroom vocabulary activities, readings, talks, and workshops throughout the semester that examine questions of diversity and inclusion regarding race, gender, class, sexuality, and disability (among other topics).
- With this initiative, we aim to build a collective lexicon and knowledge base that enable our students, at all levels and for all languages, to discuss and reflect on the diverse world our languages are used in as well as the histories of some of these words.
- The classroom component is built directly into the common syllabi for 1001-1502 courses.
- The specific vocabulary topics and classroom implementation vary somewhat across languages, instructors should consult their language coordinators for more in-depth details on the classroom components of this initiative for their course.
- Workshops and talks are intended for students in all languages and levels. Further information will be shared throughout the semester.

*This series is generously supported by
The Office of The Chief Diversity Officer and the Deans of Fordham University*

**October 28: Representations of Anti-Blackness and
White Supremacy in Languages**

(Allison Blakely, Isabelle Boni-Claverie,
Tanya Hernández, Avishai Yeganyahu Mekonen)

November 4: Exploding the (Gender) Binary

(Vera Gheno, Kiki Kosnick, Joy Ladin, João Nemi
Neto)

November 18: Food: Colonial Legacies

(Suzanne Cope, Isaie Dougnon, Pierre Thiam)

December 2: Do You Have an Accent?

(Elaine Chun, Evangelia Manatou, Yossi Zabari)

Each roundtable starts at 2:30pm (EST) and lasts one hour. All students from classes 1001 through 1502 are asked to attend. The event is open to the public through registration. The event will be recorded.