



Katherine Sherwood, "After Ingres" <https://www.katherinesherwood.com/#/venuses-of-the-yelling-clinic/>

Image: painting depicting a nude dark-skinned woman reclining on her left side on a patterned surface, seen from the back. Her round back is visible. The posture is reminiscent of classic Venus paintings. The background consists of squares of linen, each containing the name of a famous artist. Her face consists of composed black and golden yellow shapes (a scan of the brain of the artist); she is wearing an elaborate hairdo filled with a pink and golden yellow flowery pattern. Her right prosthetic forearm is a black and holds a fan with luxurious peacock feathers.

Vocabularies of Ableism

WEDNESDAY – MARCH 24 – 2021 - 2:30-3:30PM (EST)

Sarah D. PHILLIPS

Val VERA

Petra WATZKE

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://fordham.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcufuqtqT0vGdMEGGQ0NSDN41-K7c6MJ-zc>

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

OUR SPEAKERS



Image: Picture of a smiling woman with short brown hair, a red top, and red and blue earrings. The blurred green background appears to be trees.

Sarah D. Phillips

Sarah D. Phillips is professor of anthropology at Indiana University, Bloomington. She has been conducting anthropological research in Ukraine since 1995. Her areas of major inquiry have included the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl disaster on health and healing strategies, the symbolic fallout of Chernobyl, the role of women in Ukraine's civil society, and, most recently, the politics and poetics of disability. Here her research has focused on the Ukrainian disability rights movement (2002-present). In her investigations on the disability rights movement, she strives to understand the complex ways that historical processes, local conditions, and transnational interventions intersect to change people's self-perceptions, mobilize collective strategies for social and political change, and create new social hierarchies. She is the author of *Disability and Mobile Citizenship in Postsocialist Ukraine* (2010), *Women's Social Activism in the New Ukraine: Development and the Politics of Differentiation* (2008), and numerous articles.

MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative



Image: Photo of a man with brown hair and eyes, a full beard, wearing a black top, with a light smile on his lips. In the background there's a brick wall.

Val Vera

Val Vera is a Disability Justice Activist, Speaker, Organizer and Writer. Originally from Chicago, Val earned his Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Purdue University; becoming the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Val began his Disability Justice career in San Diego where he worked in community relations, employment education and legal rights advocacy.

Val has served on several impactful committees including the President's Committee on Persons with Disabilities. He currently serves as the Co-Founder and Director of Disability Inclusion Society; a grassroots organization committed to empowering Disability Culture and Inclusion.

Val's intersectional experience as a Disabled Latinx coupled with his Disability Justice work are evident by the imagery and passion in his writing. His work has been published by New Mobility Magazine, Latino Rebels, Rooted in Rights, and the National Coalition for Latinxs with Disabilities.

Val currently lives in Denton, TX where he organizes, educates and serves with and, on behalf of, the local Disability Community.

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

MLL Vocab Diversity Initiative



Image: photo of a woman with brown, curly hair, glasses, and a broad smile. She is wearing a red lipstick, a black top, and burgundy pants. She is sitting in a wheelchair and looking at her audience, whose silhouette is visible at the sides of the photo. She is gesturing her right hand palm up. Her left hand is resting on her lap.

Petra Watzke

Petra Watzke is an Assistant Professor of German Studies at Kalamazoo College in Michigan. She teaches German classes at all levels of the curriculum, always with a focus on multiliteracies, transnational perspectives and inclusivity. Her research interests include: disability in higher education and the intersection of Disability Studies and German Studies, the representation of industrialization in 19th-century German literature by women, the roles of objects in 19th century literature, and women directors of early German cinema. She is author of numerous articles and book chapters including most recently “Disrupting the Norm: Disability, Access, and Inclusion in the German Language Classroom.” *Diversity and Decolonization in German studies*. Regine Criser and Ervin Malakaj., editors (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020) and “Out of Order: A Personal perspective on Academic Ableism.” *Feminist German Studies* (vol. 34, 2018).

*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)

February 17: Race and Translation

(Joshua Jordan, Amara Lakhous, Barbara Ofosu-Somuah, Candice Whitney)

Each roundtable starts at 2:30pm (EST) and lasts one hour. All students from classes 1001 through 1502 are asked to attend. The events are open to the public through registration. The events will be recorded and posted to our YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ_onwmjnM_ihs0r4-k73pQ/