When we look at literature we tend to focus on individual authors and works and to subsume them in their national tradition. But this approach is unable to account for the complex web of interactions in the field of cultural production that actually constitute part of the conditions of emergence for the event of literature in general and for specific movements, modes, forms, styles, and trends. This is particularly true in the case of Modernism, where exchange and interaction both at the national and transnational levels play an essential role. Using the tools of social network theory combined with the sociology of Pierre Bourdieu, this presentation focuses on how the avant-garde became a global transitive phenomenon in the Spanish-speaking world and beyond.

Juan Herrero-Senés is Associate Professor of Spanish at the University of Colorado, Boulder. His main areas of research are Spanish avant-garde literature, early science fiction and modernist intellectual history. His latest book is Mensajeros de un tiempo nuevo: modernidad y nihilismo en la literatura de vanguardia (1918–1936) (Messengers of a New Era: Modernity and Nihilism in Avant-Garde Literature [1918–1936]). He has published critical editions and articles on Benjamín Jarnés and Miguel de Unamuno, among others.

It is important to discuss the main isms (paulism, intersectionism and sensationism) that Fernando Pessoa created between 1914 — when he gives “life” to Alberto Caeiro, Ricardo Reis and Álvaro de Campos — and 1915, when he writes numerous newspaper articles, sociological reflections, parts of the Book of Disquietude and some inflammatory letters, many of which he never gets around to sending. But is also important to include Portuguese modernist manifestations in literature and the visual arts in the broader spectrum of multi-continent Modernism or “Geo-Modernisms.” This suggests the need for a revisionary effort, especially if we acknowledge that Modernism encompasses a range of movements, positions and artists, and that it was open to contradictions and diversities in each country.

Jerónimo Pizarro is Professor at the Universidad de los Andes and holds the Camões Institute Chair of Portuguese Studies in Colombia. He has a PhD in Hispanic Literatures (2008, Harvard University) and a PhD in Portuguese Linguistics (2006, Universidade de Lisboa). He contributed eight volumes to the critical edition of Fernando Pessoa’s works. Together with Steffen Dix, he co-organized Portuguese Modernisms in Literature and the Visual Arts, which was published by Legenda in 2011. They also co-edited a special issue of Portuguese Studies (2008) and a book of essays, A Arca de Pessoa [Pessoa’s Trunk] (2007).

Both lectures will be given in English and will be open to the public.

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