

# Cultures Meet Via Novel Translations

BY SREYOSHI SUR  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A New Yorker at heart, Andrea Labinger gave a literary dimension to The Daily Refresher bar last Tuesday.

Labinger, a translator by profession, was invited for the “Reading the World Conversations series” organized by Open Letter, the University’s non-profit translation press.

She was there to present her translation of Argentine author Guillermo Saccomanno’s novel “Cámara Gesell,” or in English, Gesell Dome.

“This book in particular was difficult to translate,” she said. “The dialect is a jargon, a sociolect, pertaining to a particular area.”

She also faced the hurdle ***The novel is focused on Villa Gesell, a beach town south of Buenos Aires in Argentina, on the Atlantic coast [...] “Gesell Dome” is an episodic novel that circles back and forth describing the lives of the common people of Gesell.***

of Lunfardo, the Spanish dialect that is spoken in a small part of Argentina, mainly by its Italian immigrants]. Lunfardo gained popularity in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and even native Spanish speakers have a hard time deciphering it.

With the support of fellow Argentinian noir writer, Alicia Plante, Labinger finished the translation in two years

time. Seeing Labinger being awarded the prestigious PEN Helm Award in 2014 for her translation, Open Letter soon after decided to publish “Gesell Dome.”

Saccamanno, the author of “Gesell Dome,” also received numerous awards for his literary achievements, including the Premio Nacional de Literatura and the Dashiell Hammett Prize.

The novel is focussed on Villa Gesell, a beach town, south of Buenos Aires in Argentina, on the Atlantic coast. The author has resided there for several decades.

“Gesell Dome” is an episodic novel that circles back and forth describing the lives of the common people of Gesell.

Villa Gesell is a middle-class resort town whose primary revenue comes from tourism. In the off-season months, the town is filled with poverty, corruption, and crime.

The denizens most times are desperate during this time as their resources start depleting.

There are specific episodes in the book which are taken directly from the author’s personal experiences. One of the protagonists, Dante, shows different facets of Saccamanno, but there are also metaphors for the purgatory culture that the poet by the same name portrayed in his Divine Comedy.

Gesell Dome is written in mosaics, in which ads and newspaper articles are integral. The term “Neo-noir” is coined in order to describe Gesell Dome. This is not the noir genre which encompasses detective fiction—this neo-noir has a broader definition and, according to Labinger, represents the infernal society

that Gesell dome depicts.

“Noir in french means dark, as in murky—seamy side of life,” Labinger said while describing the neo-ness of this book.

“We put lot of trust in the translators,” Open Letter Editor Kaija Straumanis said.

Frequently, the editors don’t speak the language of the original book, but they have faith in the translator and believe that nothing is written without the consent of the author.

The mission of Open Let-

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ter is to make world literature more accessible to the English-speaking population. Over the years, it has published books translated from Spanish and French.

Additionally, the group is considered a pioneer in translating books from Bulgarian to English.

They are limited to publishing ten books a year, which is not a small number, relative to the size of the publishing house. Open Letter started the reading series to promote international books and dissolve cultural borders.

The next event in this series will be held again at The Daily Refresher on Oct. 11.

*Sur is a graduate student in the College of Arts & Sciences.*

‘CHANNEL SURFING’

# ULTRAVIOLET Meshes Hip Hop, Nature



BY JEFF HOWARD  
COLUMNIST

ULTRAVIOLET is a talented and up-and-coming young trap music producer from Ontario, Canada. His sound is characterized by moody, frozen synth melodies and clean, intricate trap drum beats. While his SoundCloud is blowing up more and more each day, his YouTube channel remains a hidden gem.

Part of the reason ULTRAVIOLET’s YouTube channel is so wonderful is because his videos are simple yet inspiring, just like his beats. An ULTRAVIOLET music video doesn’t have the quick cuts and special effects that other music videos in the trap genre, like Yung Lean’s “Hurt,” are so known for. Rather, ULTRAVIOLET’s music videos are meditative, and feature shots of wildlife and the beautiful Canadian landscape during wintertime. Take the video of the song “F R E E R U N,” in which the focus of the video is a goldenrod knot on a white tree in a snowy landscape. The snowy scenery matches the iciness of the beat perfectly, and the result is a video that’s quite entrancing and calming.

Another stunning music video on ULTRAVIOLET’s channel is “memories of her.” This is an earlier ULTRAVIOLET beat which harkens back to his days as “Yung Mosquito.” The beat cannot be found on ULTRAVI-

OLET’s SoundCloud anymore, which makes the song especially rare. The music video beautifully fits the vibe of the song. It doesn’t have nature scenery, but rather features anime shots. The non-reverbed high hats and snare, which have a sound I would describe as “cute,” interact with cute anime faces in a profoundly moving way.

ULTRAVIOLET’s videos strike a similar kind of inspiration in the up-and-coming music scene as his beats do. The genius

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of ULTRAVIOLET is in his simplicity. Just like the beats are recorded from free sample packs imported into a DAW, the music videos are free in the sense that all the scenery that is used is right in the world, free of charge. In this sense, ULTRAVIOLET touches on what it means to be an artist in the 21st century—there is so much inspiration all around, all free for the taking.

With all respect to ULTRAVIOLET’s work, I see his channel as an example of how brilliantly easy it is to be an artist today. With just a few tools for capturing sound and video, and a keenness on simplicity and creativity, anyone can effect change in this world. It’s as easy as pressing record and being yourself.

*Howard is a member of the Class of 2017.*

# ‘Atlanta’ Provides Comic Relief with Painfully Realistic Situations

BY ZEKE STARLING  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

“Atlanta,” FX’s new television show, stars Donald Glover as Earn Marks, a broke father in the titular town living off the hospitality of the mother of his child, Vanessa.

He works a dead-end job that he can’t afford to leave, dropped out of college for reasons as yet unknown, and is trying to figure out a way to provide for his daughter.

We learn that his cousin, Miles, has become popular in Atlanta recently as a rapper named “Paper Boi,” and Earn decides to become his manager.

In many ways, “Atlanta” is one of the first comedies that accurately represents the struggle of post-college adults trying to survive in the world. Marks isn’t a genius, and he doesn’t

have some magic charisma, but he still has to find a way to make ends meet, much like us. While he is a dreamer, he is, by all accounts, a regular person, and that is what makes the show as special as it is.

Viewers don’t see Marks put in impossible situations for the sake of a joke.

Instead, we are shown the comedic pitfalls of our real world. We see snapshots of anything from the prison system to the rise of an Internet troll who starts fights via Twitter, and it’s funny because of how Marks interacts with these real-world constructs.

“Atlanta” is a comedy for people who already understand that our world has its funny moments.

While Marks may at times seem clumsy and incompetent, which creates its own comedy,

you know that at the end of the day, he is trying to do right by his daughter.

Glover, who is also the show’s creator, has given us a fresh program that remains hilarious

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while giving its audience the ability to identify with its core characters.

Many shows feature an underdog, but “Atlanta” displays an underdog who may never be on the winning side.

Any progress made in Mark’s dreams will be because of hard work, and any obstacles standing in his way will be there because that’s just how the world

is. Nothing comes easy, and the show somehow acknowledges that but still makes you smile.

Despite being set in some of the poorer parts of Atlanta, where violence and crime rates are higher, the show retains a sense of hope.

It allows us to laugh at the scary realities of life.

If Marks fails, it means poverty, loneliness, and, most important, letting his loved ones down, much like it might mean for us when we venture out into the real world.

But Marks never loses his drive to try.

We see an average person standing up for what he believes in.

To us, it doesn’t matter if his knees are quivering—he is still standing, and at that, you can’t help but crack a smile.

*Starling is a KEY student.*

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