**Mario Santana, University of Chicago**

**Iberian Studies: The Transatlantic Dimension**

The emergence of Iberian Studies in the last decade as a challenge to the paradigm of Hispanism has not only forced a revision of the cultural and linguistic relations within the Iberian Peninsula, but also raised some questions (and anxieties) about the significance of the transatlantic dimension in our field. For some critics, Iberian Studies may be understood as a strategic move to revamp the old-fashioned Peninsularism, an attempt to return to the good old days when the European side of the Hispanic Atlantic could envision itself as relevant on its own without the need to resort to the allure of the Americas. If the surge of Latin Americanism within our field had pushed Peninsular studies aside, at least within certain institutional frameworks, Iberian Studies could be the white knight arriving to save the day —or so that reasoning goes.

There is no question that both institutionally and intellectually, most programs of Spanish and Portuguese (or Iberian and Latin American Studies, Hispanic Studies, etc.) are grounded on a much touted “community of language,” and for as long as Peninsular Hispanism remains bound to monolingualism, its close association with the literatures of the other side of the (Spanish-language) Atlantic seems secured. Iberian Studies —with its emphasis on a multilingual and cultural federalism— puts in motion a series of forces that put into question the centrality of language as the main core of the discipline, and thus may lead to its dilution (if not its dissolution).

This essay will interrogate the validity of these claims, and argue for the need, on the one hand, to retain a close institutional, intellectual, and programmatic alliance between Iberian and Latin American studies, and on the other, to revisit and rethink the nature of the connections between both areas.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Mario Santana** is Associate Professor of Hispanic Literatures at the University of Chicago, where he teaches contemporary Spanish and Catalan literature and film, and is the director of Graduate Studies in Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian Studies, in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Deputy Dean for Languages in the Division of Humanities. He is the author of *Foreigners in the Homeland: The Spanish American New Novel in Spain, 1962-1974* (Bucknell UP, 2000), and his most recent publications include essays on the history and institutionalization of Hispanism in the US (“El hispanismo en los Estados Unidos y la ‘España plural’,” 2008), the role of translation in Iberian interliterary relations (“On Visible and Invisible Languages: Bernardo Atxaga’s *Soinujolearen semea* in Translation”, 2009), the novel of historical memory (“Jaume Cabré: *Les veus del Pamano* i la novel·la de la memòria històrica,” 2011), literary production in Spain (“Los mercados de las literaturas en España,” 2012), and Iberian Studies (“Implementing Iberian Studies: Some Paradigmatic and Curricular Challenges,” 2013).