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Speaker on Spanish Civil War

Feb. 26, 2014

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.— As a part of the Re-Centering the Humanities initiative, Illinois Wesleyan will welcome guest speaker Sebastiaan Faber, an expert on the Spanish Civil War, at 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28 in Beckman Auditorium of The Ames Library.

To coincide with the event, students in Professor of Hispanic Studies Carmela Ferradans' class, *The Legacy of the Spanish Civil War*, recently produced an interactive exhibit at The Ames Library. The exhibit, *Fighting the "Good" Fight*, features documents about and from the international brigades who volunteered in the war. The documents will be on display from Feb. 24 through March 7.

The Spanish Civil War, which began in 1936 and ended in 1939, was a battle between Republicans loyal to the government, and Nationalists, a fascist group that led by insurgent generals. In support of the Republicans, nearly 40,000 people worldwide formed International Brigades that traveled to Spain to fight and volunteer. The United States volunteers were referred to as the Abraham Lincoln Brigade.

As a researcher of the war, Faber serves as chair of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives (ALBA), which is named after the estimated 2,800 American volunteers. Located in New York University's Tamiment Library, ALBA includes a variety of artifacts from the volunteers and, as an educational non-profit organization, the archives aim to endorse social activism and protect human rights.

Faber's research on the Spanish Civil War is focused on the internationalization of the conflict and the war's legacy in modern-day Spain. He has published works about different aspects of the war, including the book, *Anglo-American Hispanists and the Spanish Civil War: Hispanophilia, Commitment, and Discipline*, in 2008.

At Oberlin College in Ohio, Faber serves as professor of Hispanic studies, director of the Oberlin Center for Languages and Cultures and is chair of Latin American studies. He earned a doctorandus from Universiteit van Amsterdam in 1995 and a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of California, Davis in 1999.

Sponsored by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the event is part of the Unraveling Inequality course cluster and is free and open to the public.

For additional information, contact Sherry Wallace, director for news and media relations, at (309) 556-3792.

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