Video Addresses Immigration Tensions in Spain

By Jo Kadleck

These are unsettling times for immigrants around the world. The borders are being crossed, cultures are clashing, and national identities are being challenged in ways that few could have imagined a few years ago. More and more refugees and immigrants make new homes in foreign lands, they often feel a moral obligation to preserve their traditions, but for one Columbia professor, artistic expression might just be the tool to help.

Coco Fusco, associate professor in the School of Visual Arts, explores such tensions between the Catalan and Spanish cultures in Barcelona, Spain, in her latest video installation, “Els Segadors.”

Fusco saw the tension as an opportunity to explore the artistic and cultural implications in a way that would make sense to the local residents and lead to a light-hearted video that the audience would love.

Fusco then placed four video installations in Spain, which she called a part of her “Els Segadors” project in Hamilton Hall where Fusco, a native New Yorker and internationally recognized artist, discussed the project.

“Barcelona, identity tends to be organized around language as opposed to race like it is here in the U.S.,” Fusco said.

Along with other cities in Europe, Barcelona has experienced dramatic demographic changes, declining birthrates among Spaniards and growing immigration from other parts of the world. Consequently, anxieties are rising regarding the immigration issue in Europe.

The film was the audition,” Fusco said. “I was looking for people who considered themselves Catalan and who would be willing to display that sense of identity before a camera.”

What happens is that the twenty minute video fusion of differing but engaging perspectives on cultural diversity and national identity surfaces. Half of the video is in black and white, the film crew— including Fusco herself— makes appearances within the video, and a frame and a moral duty to fight for.

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The film “Els Segadors” premiere at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Rotterdam in December 2001 as part of the “Unpacking Rotterdam” exhibition sponsored by Rotterdam European Cultural Capital of 2001. The work was then screened at the Project Rooms in Madrid’s ARCO Museum and the Amsterdam Museum of Contemporary Art of Barcelona.

Study Aims to Decrease Unsafe Sexual Behavior and Tobacco Use

Professor Vincent Guilamo-Ramos, of Columbia’s Social and Political Science and the Department of Population and Family Health, has received a five-year, $3.1 million grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to study ways to reduce unsafe sexual behav-

The study will include students in grades 6 through 8 living in the Bronx, Guilamo-Ramos and his team will work with approximately 1,500 children in the sexual risk behavior and 1,500 children in the tobacco intervention.

“During the course of the study, there will be continuous evaluation of these interven-

Finding ways to reduce these behaviors and that also complement existing school-based programs. Effective methods will be includ-

Dr. James Devitt

Awn: Revivalist Thinking Not Limited to Islam

(Continued from Page 1)

groups, and movements, said:

“In Islam, the classical vision is—we are the com-

Awn said that many Muslims feel a moral obligation to fight for a perceived threat and sometimes offer their lives, it is a moral duty to fight.

“Thus the violence is not just an attack on the enemy, and they see this enemy as more and more dehumanized,” Awn said.

Those who embrace religi-

Wannenmacher: Press conference

Online Journalism Award (OJA) judges scrutinize Web sites October 5 at the Graduate School of Journalism. Left to right are Laura Miller, New York editorial director; Salon; Bill Mitchell, editor, Poynter.org; Richard Stengel, editor and publisher of Time.com; Bob Arnold, editorial director, Salon; and Bobo Bonhota, editor, Poynter.org. The judges are industry leaders who serve as final judges and determine finalists and winners from a set of entries narrowed by more than 110 countries around the world. Judges do not participate in evaluating those categories for which their own sites are a contestant.

Online Journalism Finalists Picked


The winners will be announced at the OJA Awards Banquet during the second national conference of the Online News Association on Oct. 26 in Berkeley, California. More information on the two-day conference October 25-26 is available at http://www.journal-

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Online Journalism Finalists Picked

BBC, Beliefnet, CNET News.com, CNN.com, MSNBC.com, The New York Times on the Web, PBS.org, Salon, Slate, USA Today.com, Washington Post.com, The Wall Street Journal Online, The Judges are industry leaders who serve as final judges and determine finalists and winners from a set of entries narrowed by more than 110 countries around the world. Judges do not participate in evaluating those categories for which their own sites are a contestant.

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