The Department of Spanish and Portuguese, the Department of Comparative Literature, and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies present

“International Perspectives on Brazilian Literature: A Bilingual Reading and Discussion by Brazilian Author João Paulo Cuenca and Translator Elizabeth Lowe.”

Tuesday, February 25
4:30 p.m.
Maple Room, IMU Tree Suites

Abstract
Brazilian author João Paulo Cuenca and his English language translator, Elizabeth Lowe, will present a reading from the recent translation of Cuenca's book The Happiest Ending for a Love Story is an Accident (Tagus Press, 2013), featured at the 2013 Frankfurt Book Fair, where the honored country was Brazil. Set in Tokyo in a not-too-distant future, this novel tells the story of Shunsuke, a salary man, and his complicated relationship with his mad poet father, Mr. Okuda, whose hobby is spying on his son. When Shunsuke falls in love with Iulana, a maelstrom of jealousy is set in motion that culminates in abduction and death. In poetic and imaginative language, Cuenca subtly interweaves reality, and fiction, creating a dreamlike world whose palpable characters, including a silicone doll, leave a lasting impression. Written like a crime novel, full of odd events and reminiscent of Haruki Murakami's work, this disturbing, kaleidoscopic story of voyeurism and perversion draws the reader in from the first page.