

# Humanities Center

Annual Report 2012-2013

20th Anniversary Edition



*Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research*

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Humanities Center is to nurture interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary, and intradisciplinary work in the humanities and arts through competitions, conferences, discussion groups, and other programs for Wayne State's humanities and arts faculty and students, and for visiting scholars and artists.

The Center promotes excellence in research and creative endeavors through rigorous peer review of proposals submitted to it for funding. By sponsoring programs that involve community participants, the Center supports the university's urban mission. Through its various programs, the Center brings humanists of diverse talents and interests together for conversation and collaboration, and fosters innovation and creativity across humanistic disciplines.

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

# 2012 - 2013 OVERVIEW

I am happy to report that the Humanities Center has just completed a busy and successful year in which it continued its mission of promoting, funding and celebrating intra-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary works in the humanities and arts at WSU. All of our major programs did well. The Brown Bag program continued to be our most visible activity and the one which provides the most regular opportunity for cross-disciplinary fellowship among faculty and students. We hosted almost 60 talks given by faculty from 18 different departments and from five colleges. Concomitantly, our less visible programs also continued to serve the Center's mission well. One example is our Working Groups Program which brings together groups of scholars from different disciplines working on humanistic themes. This year, the Center funded eight groups that covered the following topics: Early Modern Studies, Fairy Tales, The History of the Book, Syntax and Semantics, Visual Culture, Science and Society, Politics Culture and the City, and Detroit's ethnic heritage. Some of these groups, including the group for early modern studies (GEMS) and the Science in Society group, have developed their own speakers' series in which intra-mural and extra-mural scholars make public presentations to faculty and students on topics related to the group's work.



Director, Walter F. Edwards

This year, we also had a very engaging group of resident scholars who were affiliated with a variety of disciplines in the humanities and arts: music, sociology, anthropology, art & art history, and languages (French, German, and Arabic). Predictably, their monthly round-table discussions provided each presenter with rich inter-disciplinary input to his/her project. I invite you to read their testimonials on pages 9-11 of this report to see how positively they characterized the value of their residencies.

Our two annual conferences, the Fall Symposium and the Spring Faculty Fellowship Conference, also provided public opportunities for inter-disciplinary conversations and explorations. Our Fall Symposium this year was on the theme "The Apocalyptic Imagination." This was in fact our first truly national and international symposium attracting as it did scholars from ten national and international universities, including The University of Toronto, Columbia University, Finlandia University, New York University, University of Wisconsin, and the University of Michigan. The topic itself was timely, since in 2012 our world was absorbed with apocalyptic fears including predictions of the end of the world and portents of horrible events in the near future. Our Faculty Fellowship Conference on the theme "Border and Intersections" provided a forum for recipients of our 2012 faculty fellowship awards to share the results of their research to date. Nine Humanities Center faculty fellows presented at the conference which ended with a keynote lecture by Federico Subervi of Texas State University at San Marcos.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

# 2012 - 2013 OVERVIEW

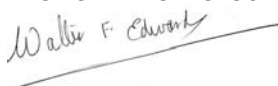
This year we also had our first annual Marilyn Williamson Distinguished Faculty Fellowship lecture. This event provided the Wayne State University community and the general public the opportunity to hear about the research being done by last year's recipient of this award, Dr. Richard Marback from the English Department. His lecture addressed the concept of *uBuntu* which is a general moral, political, and cultural principle in the South African socio-political milieu. Professor Jack Kay of Eastern Michigan University (a former WSU dean) was the respondent to the talk.

As I write this message, my Advisory Board, my staff and I are planning and getting prepared for the activities which will mark the Center's 20th anniversary on September 27 of this year. We are hoping to mark this significant milestone in appropriate ways. As a part of this celebration, we plan to have a book/publication/artistic exhibition that would display some of the work we have supported and we are inviting the entire Wayne State University community to view it. The celebrations will also include an all-day scholarly symposium on the theme *Truth*. The call for papers for this symposium attracted 24 abstracts. The Center's Advisory board has decided to accept them all, so as to provide an intellectual feast in celebration of the Center's 20th birthday. The final event of our anniversary program will be a gala reception with food and beverages and a keynote address by Dr. Srinivas Aravamudan, immediate past president of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes and Dean of the Humanities College at Duke University.

I am absolutely proud to be the Center's founding director. I have had the privilege of seeing the Center steadily grow in influence and credibility over the years until it has achieved its present status as a valued complement to the work of departments and colleges in the humanities and arts. Over the years, we have supported the research, scholarship and art of literally hundreds of Wayne State University faculty and graduate students whose research and creations have been published and disseminated widely and have enhanced the scholarly and artistic reputation of this university.

I am excited about the upcoming anniversary celebration, but also deeply humbled by the privilege I have been accorded of directing the Center for two decades. I have been helped by many individuals and groups over years. These include university deans, provosts, and presidents. The Center's Advisory Boards have provided excellent advice and services over the years. Consequently, the success of the Center is in large part due to the ideas and hard work of these bright university citizen, whose names are listed on pages 6 and 7 of this report. I have also been very fortunate to have had talented and dedicated support staff, including my current administrative assistant Jennifer Leonard who has been serving the Center excellently for ten years now. My thanks go out to all.

Sincerely,  
Walter F. Edwards





## ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS: 1993-2013

Throughout the history of the Center, the Director has been guided by the Advisory Boards. Board members are nominated by college deans and approved by the Provost. In addition to advising the Director on policy matters, Advisory Board members review proposals submitted to the Center and select award recipients. Below is a list of faculty and students who have served on the Advisory Board from 1993-2013.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Abbot, Philip	Political Sciences	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2008-2010
Abt, Jeffrey H.	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	1993-1994
Aguirre, Robert	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2012-2013
Apel, Dora	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2003-2005
Arnold, Judith	University Libraries	Library and Information Science	2011-2013
Aronson, Ronald	Interdisciplinary Studies/History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1994-1998
Atkin, Natalie	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1996
Baym, Nancy	Law	Law School	1998-1999
Beavers, Paul	University Libraries	Library and Information Science	2007-2011
Beckwith, Susan	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1999-2001
Beecher-Monas, Erica	Law	Law School	2007-2013
Boyd, Melba	Africana Studies	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1996
Brandell, Jerrold	Social Work	Social Work	2002-2003
Braunschweig, Karl	Music	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2005-2007
Bray, Tamara	Anthropology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2004-2008
Brockington, Frances	Music	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2008-2010; 2011-2013
Brumley, Krista	Sociology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2010-2012
Burgoyne, Robert J.	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1995
Burn, John	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2004-2006
Burningham, Bradd	University Libraries	Library and Information Science	2001-2003
Chandra, Sarika	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2011-2013
Cobbs, Alfred L.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2005-2007
Corvino, John F.	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2004-2006
Duggan, Anne E.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2003-2005
Edwards, Walter F.	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-2013
Faue, Elizabeth V.	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2011-2013
Fenton, Zanita E.	Law	Law School	1997-1999
Figueroa, Victor	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2008
Fitzgerald, Joseph M.	Psychology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2008-2010
Franklin, Margaret	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2001-2003
Garrett, Mary	Communication	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2002-2006
Giordano, Michael J.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-2000
Gottfried, Heidi	Sociology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2001-2005
Grabowski, Frank	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2000-2002
Grusin, Richard	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2009
Harris, William	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2005-2007
Herron, Jerry	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2000-2002
Hilgendorf, Suzanne	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2003-2005
Hock, Lisabeth M.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2002-2003; 2004-2005
hoogland, renee C.	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2009-2011
Hummer, Hans J.	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2005-2007
Huston, Mark R.	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-2000
Ibanez, Jose R.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1996-1998
Jackson, Ken	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2005-2007
Jackson, Marion	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	1996-1998
Johnson, Ollie	Africana Studies	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2011-2013
Kata, Lauren	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2001-2003
Killion, Thomas	Anthropology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2011-2013
Kitchens, Marshal	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-1999

\*Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

<b>Name</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>College</b>	<b>Years of Service</b>
Kohn, Thomas	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2009
Langlois, Janet L.	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1995
Likaka, Osumaka	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-2000
Locke, Nancy	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	1999-2001
Maguire, Katheryn C.	Communication	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2012-2013
Mahoney, Joan	Law	Law School	2005-2007
Mars, Perry	Africana Studies	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2009
Maun, Caroline	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2006-2008
McFarland, Marilyn	Nursing	College of Nursing	1993-1995
Miranne, Kristine	Social Work	School of Social Work	2002-2006
Mohamed, Rayman	Urban Studies & Planning	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2009-2011
Moxley, David	Social Work	School of Social Work	2003-2005
Neavill, Gordon B.	Library & Information Science	University Libraries	1996-1998
Ntiri, Daphne W.	Africana Studies	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1996-1998
Olmsted, Jennifer	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2010-2012
Onolemhemhen, Durrenda	Social Work	School of Social Work	2005-2007
Past, Elena M.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2010-2012
Patterson, Steven	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2002-2003
Peters, Christopher J.	Law	Law School	2000-2002
Piliawsky, Monty	Education	Education	1999-2001
Progovac, Ljiljana	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2012-2013
Rapaport, Herman	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1997-1998
Rawls, Anne W.	Sociology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1995
Ray, Ruth	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2009-2011
Richardson, John	Art & Art History	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2002-2004; 2008-2010
Risner, Douglas	Dance	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2007-2009
Ronnick, Michele V.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-2000
Roth, Brad	Political Science	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1999-2001
Rothe, Anne	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2012-2013
Roti, Maria R.	Anthropology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2003-2005
Rouchdy, Aleya	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2000-2001
Schindler, Roslyn	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2010-2012
Scrivener, Michael	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2002-2004
Shor, Francis	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1998-2000
Smith, Ed	Theatre	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2000-2002
Smith, Michael	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2000-2002
Sopory, Pradeep	Communication	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	2009-2011
Stern, Guy	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1993-1996
Stivale, Charles J.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2011-2013
Stulberg, Joseph	Management	Business Administration	1995-1997
Sybeldon, Diane	University Libraries	Library and Information Science	2003-2007
Thomas, James	Theater	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	1994-1996; 2006-2008
Trzcinski, Eileen	Social Work	School of Social Work	2007-2008
VanBurkleo, Sandra F.	History	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1995-1997
Vidal, Avis C.	Urban Studies and Planning	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2009
Vineberg, Susan	Philosophy	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2000-2002
Vlasopolos, Anca	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2007-2009
Vollendorf, Lisa M.	CMLLC*	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2001-2003
Wasserman, Renata	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1995-1998
Watten, Barrett J.	English	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2003-2005
Wellman, Vincent A.	Law	Law School	1993-1998
White, Monica	Sociology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2009-2011
Whitelaw, Susan	Social Work	School of Social Work	2001-2002
Whitman, R. Douglas	Psychology	Liberal Arts & Sciences	2006-2008
Wilkins, Kendra	Sociology; Community Medicine	Liberal Arts & Sciences	1995-1997
Wischusen, Mary	Music	Fine, Performing, & Communication Arts	1998-2000
Yaprak, Attila	Marketing & Supply Chain	Business Administration	1997-1998
Young, Alma (Dean)	Urban Affairs	College of Urban, Labor & Metropolitan Affairs	1997-1999

## SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS

### **BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES**

Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, literally hundreds of Wayne State humanities and arts faculty and students have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center now regularly hosts talks twice a week. During the 2012 - 2013 academic year most of the talks were held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Brown Bags talks were free and open to the public.

### **HUMANITIES CENTER DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

Since 2010, the Humanities Center and the Graduate School have been collaborating on funding a Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The fellowship also includes University health insurance coverage during the winter and spring/summer semesters. The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete all requirements, including the final defense, by the end of the academic year. The fellowship award is dispensed as monthly stipends between January and August. Up to three smaller awards of \$500 each can be made to other applicants at the discretion of the sponsors. The 2013 fellowship recipient was Adrea Silva of the English Department. Additional awards of \$500 each were given to Beth Fowler of the History Department and Maria Roti of the Anthropology Department.

### **FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS**

The Faculty Fellowship competition is based on an annual theme. The Humanities Center's Advisory Board selects the theme and prepares an explication. Awarded fellowships now average \$6,000. Recipients are expected to present papers on their projects at the annual Faculty Fellows Conference held in the winter of the following year. The fellowship theme for this year was **"Redefining Politics in a Monetary Age."**

### **FACULTY FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE**

The Faculty Fellows Conference is held in the winter semester. WSU Faculty Fellows Conference speakers are the recipients of fellowships in the previous year. The conference allows the fellowship recipients to present the result of their funded work and to receive feedback from the audience. In addition to fellowship recipients from WSU, the Center invites distinguished keynoters who are experts in the area addressed by the theme. The 2013 conference theme was **"Borders and Intersections."**

### **FALL SYMPOSIUM**

The Fall Symposium is held once a year in November. It focuses on a topic of contemporary significance in the humanities and arts. Internal speakers are chosen from abstracts submitted by WSU faculty members. In addition to speakers from WSU, the Center invites distinguished keynoters who are experts in the area addressed by the theme. This year's symposium theme was the **Apocalyptic Imagination.**

### **MARILYN WILLIAMSON ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP**

Thanks to a generous endowment provided by the late Dr. Marilyn L. Williamson, a former WSU Provost, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty in the humanities and arts. The award of this \$20,000 fellowship is based on the merits of the individual research project proposed for the fellowship term; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities; its potential for recognition, publication, exhibition or performance; and on two external recommendations in support of the project. This year's recipient was **Professor Dora Apel** of the Art and Art History department.

### **RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

One of the Center's oldest programs, the Resident Scholars Program is open to all full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. This program provides office space, basic office equipment, and clerical support from the Center's staff. Additionally, monthly "roundtable" meetings allow our residents to discuss their current research with their fellow residents and thus benefit from the interdisciplinary input of their colleagues. Resident scholars are also eligible for up to \$800 in support for travel and equipment or to pay for research assistance. Over the years, almost 60 faculty at WSU have taken part in this program. This year the Center hosted nine resident scholars.

### **TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

The Center budgets up to \$3,000 in the academic year to support travel to conferences for graduate students. Each award recipient is funded up to \$300. The Center supported 11 students travelers this year.

### **WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES AND ARTS**

The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among WSU humanities and arts faculty and students. Working Groups meet regularly for discussion, exchange, and planning for events such as guest lectures and colloquia. The Center provides up to \$800 to each group for speakers, supplies, and other organizational purposes. This year the Center supported 8 Working Groups.



## RESIDENT SCHOLARS

*The Humanities Center's annual competition for Resident Scholars in the 2012-2013 year attracted applications from across the university. Nine research projects were selected from a broad range of specialties. Resident scholars kept office hours in the Center and collaborated with each other for feedback and professional growth. Below are statements from each resident scholar describing his or her achievements during 2012-2013.*



**Right: Detroit Public Library**

### **Alina Cherry - Assistant Professor, CMLLC**

*"Writing Time: Toward an Aesthetic of Simultaneity in Claude Simon's Novels"*

During my year (2012-2013) as a Resident Scholar in the Humanities Center, I have made considerable progress on my book project that explores various facets of temporality in Claude Simon's novels. In addition, I wrote a journal article developed from material presented in one of the book chapters (the article is forthcoming in *Nouvelles Francographies*), completed three book reviews related to Claude Simon, and contributed three articles to the *Dictionnaire Claude Simon* that is slated to appear in 2013 (ed. Honoré Champion, Paris). I also gave a talk (on the aforementioned research) in March 2013 (Atlanta) and have a forthcoming talk in July 2013 (Lisbon). I gave two talks at WSU: a brown bag talk at the Humanities Center (with three of my graduate students, in March 2013), and a presentation at the Faculty Fellows Conference, "Borders & Intersections" (April, 2013).

Most importantly, I have enjoyed a very productive time in the office space provided by the Humanities Center. I have also benefited tremendously from the multiple interactions fostered by the Resident Scholars program that brought together academics from a variety of fields. The unique perspectives that each of the Resident Scholars offered at our monthly round table meetings (as well as during casual weekly interactions), were most enriching and profitable.

### **Wendy Matthew - Assistant Professor, Music**

*"Research the Ensemble Experience"*

My year as a Humanities Center Resident Scholar has afforded me the opportunity to further develop my research agenda and enhance my professional development. This program provided time and resources to collect and analyze data and to prepare two presentations on my collaborative qualitative study that examines the processes of group functioning within a collegiate-level marching band. Most importantly, as this project crosses the disciplines of psychology, education, and music, this residency provided the opportunity to collaborate with other faculty in the humanities center through weekly hours at the center and the opportunity to present my research to the resident scholars in a seminar. Additionally, initial data from this project was presented to the 2013 Michigan Music Conference Research Symposium, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the Forty-Third Mid-Atlantic Conference of the College Music Society, Longwood, Virginia.

For this project, fifty-five collegiate band members from

a large, urban university were interviewed, through focus group discussions, about their experiences in marching band. Results highlighted beliefs regarding ensemble cohesion around the marching band's ensemble goals and their relationships to each other. Students commented on the importance of energizing fans, supporting the student athletes, and entertaining through music and visuals. Further, participants' responses embodied acceptance, tolerance of differences, and the willingness for everyone to work hard for the group. Results affirm the place extracurricular activities can play in college retention as marching bands offer a strong connection to the university and a strong peer support group. The findings of this study may be useful for educators advising extracurricular activities and administrators interested in the retention of university students.

I would like to extend a heartfelt "thank you" to Dr. Walter Edwards and the Humanities Center for providing this wonderful opportunity.

### **Emery Stephens - Assistant Professor, Music**

*"Interdisciplinary education, public awareness and promotion of African-American art songs and spirituals across racial backgrounds"*

During my residency in the Humanities Center, I was offered a quiet, comfortable, and stimulating environment with fellow scholars to continue my work on the education and promotion of African-American art songs and spirituals. I developed my first draft of the teacher's curriculum guide, "Beyond Race," as part of an arts integration project to connect the study of music to a traditional subject of learning, i.e., history (slave trade), geography (migration), and literature (storytelling).

I conducted a music residency at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology last February. In March, I presented a workshop on spirituals and gospel music at Unity of Harlem in New York City, and I was invited to conduct an interactive session, "Widening the Circle: Creating Opportunities to Engage in the Cultural History of African-Americans through the Performance of Art Songs and Spirituals," at the Biennial Conference of the National Association for the Study and Performance of African-American Music in Birmingham, AL. Along with WSU colleagues, Drs. Wendy Matthews and Joshua Duchan, I submitted a conference abstract to the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning with WSU to propose quantitative and qualitative research on peer mentorship, community engagement, and student retention through music making activities across campus, i.e., community bands, a cappella groups, and gospel choirs.

....continued on next page

## RESIDENT SCHOLARS



*Resident scholars' "roundtable" meetings were held once per month in the Humanities Center. Each resident scholar volunteered to give a preview of a conference presentation or to informally discuss his or her research with colleagues. Resident scholars were able to invite two additional colleagues to the roundtable discussions to provide extra feedback.*

**Left: Detroit Institute of the Arts**

This spring/summer, I will create an online survey for teachers and students across racial backgrounds to discuss their process of studying and performing African-American music. I will also work on spiritual arrangements with my WSU jazz colleague (Russell Miller) for an upcoming CD project, and will produce a one-man show on the life and legacy of Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949). Finally, I plan to publish a book of essays, *Voices of Resilience: Engaging Diverse Communities in the Historical Significance of African-American Spirituals and Gospel Music in the 21st Century*.

### **Zachary W. Brewster - Assistant Professor, Sociology**

*"The sociological implications of tipping"*

Being a Humanities Center Resident Scholar has been a wonderful experience. The quiet, comfortable, and welcoming environment provided by the Humanities Center enabled me to make considerable progress towards advancing my research agenda. I spent the first semester of my residency developing a paper titled, "Consumer Racial Profiling in U.S. Restaurants: An Empirical Test for Subtle Forms of Service Discrimination." When I first started holding office hours in the Humanities Center this paper was merely an idea but by working diligently on this paper while in the Center I was able to submit it for review and possible publication in *Sociological Quarterly* shortly after the holidays. I am also scheduled to present this paper at the Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems in New York City this summer. In keeping with the spirit of the Resident Scholar program I, for the most part, only worked on this paper while in the Center. The spatial/time demarcation provided by my residency allowed me to simultaneously work on another paper while in my main office, which is also currently under review for possible publication in a scholarly journal. In the winter semester I turned my attention to another paper titled, "Scholarship on the Institution of Tipping: Where are the Sociologists?" While not yet ready to submit for publication, I recently presented this paper at the North Central Sociological Association Annual Meetings and at the Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series. Aside from being provided an environment conducive to writing being a resident scholar gave me the opportunity to develop relationships with colleagues in other departments and provide a venue to receive interdisciplinary feedback/insights on my work. Similarly, by talking with my fellow resident scholars and participating in roundtable sessions the resident scholar program facilitated professional development by providing the opportunity to learn about areas of inquiry outside of sociology. In short, being a Humanities Center Resident Scholar has been a great opportunity. It has allowed me to experience growth not only as a sociologist but as an academic more generally.

### **Mohamed El-Sharkawi - Assistant Professor, CMLC**

*"Modern Standard Arabic: History and Development"*

In the Fall semester of 2012 I started my residency as a fellow in the Humanities Center. I came into this period with a general plan and outline for my upcoming book "The Development of Modern Standard Arabic". I also had the detailed plan for the first two chapters: an introduction and a chapter on definitions. The period of my residency, achievement-wise, can be divided into three parts. The Fall semester was focused on the writing, reviewing, and editing of the first two chapters. I also made the outline for chapters three and four, where a discussion of the linguistic material of Modern Standard Arabic is carried out. The second phase starts with the Winter semester. In the beginning I went on a data collection trip to the national library in Cairo, Egypt. I collected linguistic data for chapters three and four from the end of the 19th to the end of the 20th centuries. During the rest of the semester, I finished the two chapters in writing and am now in the process of reviewing and editing. In addition, I am hoping to be able to obtain a residency in the Humanities Center for the academic year 2013-2014 in order to finish chapters five and six and to submit the manuscript for the publisher.

The humanities Center provided me with both physical space for three days in the week, where I was able during my office hours to work on the book manuscript without any interruption from students and/or other obligations. It also granted me a mental space, where I was able to discuss with different colleagues from different disciplines the results of my research and methods of carrying it out. It is also through the various activities, meetings, and lectures I was able to attend that I managed to refine my research tools and look in directions that I was not able to before.

### **David Fasenfest - Associate Professor, Sociology**

*"Towards a Model of Social Sustainability"*

This year spent as a Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center has allowed me the space to get work completed and the opportunity to engage in interesting dialogues with fellow scholars across many disciplines. During that time, I completed a manuscript on Marx and Human Rights which was first presented at a Human Rights seminar at Columbia University and has become a chapter entitled "Marxist Sociology and Human Rights," in David L. Brusma, et al (eds) "Handbook of Sociology and Human Rights", Herndon, VA: Paradigm Publishers. In addition, the residency permitted me an opportunity to continue

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## RESIDENT SCHOLARS

*Each resident scholar established office hours at the Center where they were able to work on their research and meet with students and colleagues. Residents were each provided with a private office with a computer and office furniture; and received clerical support from the Center's staff.*

**Right: Detroit Science Center**



working on my core interest in social sustainability, first as part of an NSF funded network on Manufacturing Sustainability (RCN-SEES: Sustainable Manufacturing Advances in Research and Technology (SMART) Coordination Network), and more recently as a member of the NSF funded Integrated Network for Social Sustainability (INSS). I will be attending their first organizational meeting in Charlotte, NC May 28-29 where I will be presenting a draft of my research. In addition, I will be presenting a paper at the 3rd International Congress on Sustainability Science and Engineering, to be held in Cincinnati, OH August 11-15, 2013.

At its core, social sustainability is the process whereby outcomes of social, political and economic activities are coordinated to maximize what is commonly referred to as the Triple Bottom Line. That means constrained profit maximization (economic) in the context of optimal ecological results (environment) and beneficial community outcomes (social). This entails finding ways to incorporate renewable inputs into a production process that makes technical decisions more fully in tune with the well-being of the surrounding community.

The space and collegial interactions provided by my year at the Humanities Center were critical to my moving this project forward.

### **Yuson Jung - Assistant Professor, Anthropology** *"The Cultural Politics of Wine – Globalization and the Transformation of the Bulgarian Wine Industry"*

As a resident scholar in 2012-13, I have worked on my ongoing research project "The Cultural Politics of Wine: Globalization and the Transformation of the Bulgarian Wine Industry." I have processed some of the ethnographic fieldwork data that I have been collecting since 2008 and developed a peer-review journal article that would be part of a chapter for my book project based on this research. Based on ethnographic data from the Bulgarian wine producers, the article discussed the intersection of sensory experience and political economy and argued that the popularizing discourse of the "taste of place" was not so much about the uniqueness in the taste, but about how to communicate "differences" in terms of specific locales. Working on this article has also helped me to rethink and reframe the larger book project.

The monthly presentation of work-in-progress during my residency at the Humanities Center was intellectually stimulating and useful in sharpening my own arguments with the help of an engaging interdisciplinary audience. I particularly enjoyed and benefited from the collegial

interaction with fellow resident scholars across different colleges, many of whom I would not have met otherwise. I treasure the relationships that I have cultivated over the past year and feel very fortunate to be part of the 2012-13 cohort. The mix of senior and junior colleagues was an additional bonus for a second-year junior faculty to advance scholarship and professional development. The regular office hours proved to be vital in keeping the research project on track as they forced me to carve out time solely for the project. One thing that could be additionally helpful for this fellowship is perhaps to organize a regular brown bag lunch(es) or make resident scholars pick one of the suggested slots for office hours so that there could be more informal interactions and brainstorming opportunities among resident scholars. Undoubtedly, the experience at the Humanities Center has greatly aided in my professional career advancement as a tenure-track faculty member.

### **Felecia A. Lucht - Assistant Professor, CMLLC/ German**

*"Life after Language Death: Language Variation, Shift and Change in a German-American Community."*

As a resident scholar, I worked on my book project, "Life after Language Death: Language Variation, Shift and Change in a German-American Community". The theory of language shift that I explore in the manuscript is based on sociohistorical changes in communities and relies on not only purely linguistic data, but also sociocultural and historical data. Because of this, participation in the resident scholars program was especially helpful for me, as it allowed me to confer with and get feedback from my colleagues in other humanities and social sciences disciplines. The program also provided me with an office space which was especially useful during my sabbatical, and with the resident scholar funds from the Humanities Center, I was able to hire a book project assistant.

While the primary goal of this past year was the book manuscript, participation in the resident scholars program and the opportunity to strengthen my theoretical argument by interacting with other scholars in the program also furthered my research on the German immigrants of Detroit, in which I am applying this theory to language shift in urban immigrant communities. As part of this project, I gave two presentations in the Humanities Center: one on the immigrant language press in Detroit at the turn of the century and the other with my Humanities Center working group colleagues on using app technology to document and share Detroit's cultural history.



## THE APOCALYPTIC IMAGINATION 2012 FALL SYMPOSIUM



*The Humanities Center's Fall Symposium centered on the topic of "The Apocalyptic Imagination". More than a dozen scholars from across the USA and Europe presented papers at the symposium. Scholars from WSU served as moderators. The topic was discussed from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. Below is the explication of the general theme, followed by the abstracts of the talks presented at the symposium. The symposium was arranged into sessions according to sub-themes.*

**Left: Fox Theatre, Detroit**

### Explication of Theme

A focal point for the apocalyptic imagination in much popular discourse that the year 2012 provided an appropriate occasion to consider the way the idea of apocalypse functions within and informs our collective historical imagination. Numerous politicians, writers, religious groups, as well as works of literature, film, and the culture industry in general regularly deployed imagery of cataclysmic destruction and the end-of-the-world. This symposium explored a variety of inter-related issues in order to theorize and historicize the persistent fascination with apocalypse within the four sessions. The papers read examined the apocalyptic imaginary as related to topics including but not limited to the following: the "end of days" and popular fiction; religion and theology; disaster capitalism; economic, financial, and technological meltdown; global warming; disease and pestilence; media, war, terror, environment, millennial fantasies, and effects of apocalypse on political thought and organization.

### Session 1 - Environmentalism and Apocalypse

Julian Cornell, New York University. "*Cold Comfort: Global Climate Change, Disaster Capitalism and Apocalyptic Cinema*" This paper will contrast roundly pilloried disaster films – *The Day After Tomorrow* and *Waterworld* – and the acclaimed documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. All three films serve to delineate societal anxieties regarding the confluence of climate change and neoliberalism, configuring them as contemporary iterations of Biblical apocalypses and circumscribing them within a familiar, comforting template. Despite overt dissimilarities, the films emerge as paradigmatic disaster fictions, fulfilling the apocalyptic form's longstanding function as sense-making system through which historical events are filtered to discern their metaphorical significance. Such symbolic engagement with social crises through spectacles of destruction makes it possible to see apocalyptic narratives as political allegories. The transition from the requirements of the traditional apocalyptic tale, offering succor to the oppressed, to the conditions of the mass marketplace, demanding broad appeal and acknowledging hegemonic ideologies, engenders dialectical tensions between destruction and salvation, between history and its allegory. While simultaneously articulating a hope for a better future, and expressing a sense of despair regarding remedial social action, these films express deep dissatisfaction with free market ideology and contemporary geopolitics, while simultaneously affirming the very Social Darwinism and/or American values that sustain such formations.

Katie Hogan, Carlow University. "*Queer Green Apocalypse: Tony Kushner's Angels in America*" Tony Kushner's commitment to linking environmental deterioration, AIDS, and gay identity is prominent in his sprawling, lively, capacious play, *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes*. *Angels* includes environmental degradations such as global warming, the torn ozone layer, radon gas, Chernobyl, iridium in hot dogs, fluorocarbons in refrigerators, and a right-wing legal ruling on the environment—one based in the case of two women whose children were being blinded by smoke from a tooth-paste factory. These environmental citations are intertwined with rampant racism, homophobia, and the shameful mistreatment of people with AIDS, creating a queer ecological interconnectedness that characterizes the play's style and politics.

In contrast to Kushner's queer use of apocalypse is Family Radio founder Harold Camping and his followers, who view queer culture as the greatest evidence of social decline. As Camping argues, same-sex marriage and the gay movement are God's deliberate signs of the impending rapture and apocalypse. The "rapture" story around which Harold Camping's May 21 and October 21, 2011 doomsday language is organized uses apocalypse against queer citizens and the earth, and the focus is on departing the earth and targeting LGBT people as poisonous elements that must be purged through the earth's destruction.

This paper uses a queer ecofeminist interpretation of the play in order to examine Kushner's "queering" of the apocalyptic genre—a method that symbolizes his commitment to environmental concerns, to salvaging and healing the planet, and to debunking the ancient idea that LGBTs are "against nature." *Angels* specifically modifies left-oriented 1970s environmental crisis rhetoric and religious fundamentalist homophobic uses of the apocalyptic imaginary in order to enact a "reverse apocalypse"—or "queer" rapture—on behalf of queers, ecofeminist politics, and marginalized people and the planet.

Michael Young, York University. "*Blue Planet, Green Apocalypse: An Ecocritical Examination of Von Trier's Melancholia (2011)*" He justifies the use of this metaphor as a means of provoking action in order to forestall actual collapse. Planting this type of nightmare in the public consciousness has helped to avert environmental disaster in the past. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*, for example, was instrumental in banning DDT. Of course, Carson's warning of ecological collapse pivoted predominantly on the problem of pesticide use, providing her with (more or less) a clear villain to fight. In contrast, our modern sense of environmental doom is tightly interwoven with the social fabric of global cultures: the capitalist paradigm of unending consumption, an addiction to fossil fuels, a dependency on globalism, a vastly unequal distribution of global resources,

## THE APOCALYPTIC IMAGINATION

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and so on. In the face of overwhelming concern, does an apocalyptic deadline actually help to motivate environmental change or does it merely reinforce social malaise, environmental complacency and denial? This paper will examine Lars Von Trier's recent apocalyptic film, *Melancholia* (2011), as a representation of modern environmental despair. It will offer an ecocritical analysis of the film and consider what function the film could play in shaping environmental attitudes and practices. The paper will draw on the apocalyptic and millennial theory of Lee Quinby, Catherine Keller and Robert Jay Lifton, as well as the writing of environmental theorists, such as Cate Sandilands who has examined melancholia in environmental thought.

### Session 2 - Media, Science Fiction and Apocalypse

Melissa Ames, Eastern Illinois University. "*The Legacy of 9/11: Analyzing the Television Programming of the 'Apocalyptic Decade'*"

That the much anticipated year of 2012 follows almost immediately after the ten year anniversary of the September 11th attacks is, of course, a coincidence. However, that the two events are temporally aligned is not unimportant. Although previous dates have sparked mass paranoia concerning the end of the world (e.g. the millennial Y2K scare), in many ways the decade following 9/11 especially predisposed American citizens to "feel" a certain way and more easily buy into the rhetoric surrounding the year 2012. In fact, the extended decade spanning from September 11th, 2001 (the terrorist attacks) to December 21st, 2012 (the so-called "end date") might aptly be titled the "apocalyptic decade." This presentation studies the television programming of the past eleven years through the lens of affect theory, showcasing how televisual narratives trace (and to help explain) this turn to the "apocalyptic."

This essay highlights how the events of 9/11 have been "remediated" (replayed, repackaged, and revisited) in contemporary programming. This discussion focuses on how certain televisual genres responded to the national attack both immediately and years after (e.g. the news industry with their quasi-apocalyptic domestic doomsday predictions); how the post-9/11 climate contributed to the rise of certain genres (e.g. infotainment programming such as Comedy Central's *The Daily Show* which served as a counter narrative to the mainstream news and the reality television genre which provided escapist relief from such content); and how the thematic concerns surrounding 9/11 influenced the fictional programming of the past eleven years (e.g. the wave of "rescue" programming – *24*, *Alias*, *The Unit*, *Lost* – and the revitalized popularity of "dystopian" narratives – *Heroes*, *FlashForward*, *Fringe*, *The Event*).

These trends indicate that larger cultural or generational climates (structures of feeling) influence the television programming of any given epoch. In short, this essay claims that there is an important reciprocity at play between collective (national) affectual states and textual production/reception. This reciprocity helps to explain the proliferation of apocalypse-inspired narratives that have surfaced throughout the past decade and the overall "culture of fear" that has surrounded them.

Nicole McCleese, Michigan State University. "*Reading the Performance of Sadomasochism against the Apocalyptic Backdrop*"

The apocalypse is a backdrop to science fiction's staging of the erotohistoriographic performance of sadomasochism. Elizabeth Freeman, in *Time Binds*, argues that "it is inescapably true that the body in sadomasochistic ritual becomes a means of invoking history—personal pasts, collective suffering, and quotidian forms of injustice—in an idiom of pleasure. If in the foreground sadomasochism stages a collective history, then what role does the apocalypse play in the background? By historicizing the apocalypse in the context of erotic science fiction like that of Samuel R. Delany and Pat Califia, I think specifically about the post-apocalyptic settings of their novels, and then question the necessity of an end-of-days setting for representing queer sexualities. Delany's experimentation with gender, sexuality and temporality as performances of history in *Stars in My Pocket like Grains of Sand* is part of a genealogy of SM discourse in the 1980s and 1990s. Likewise, Califia's fiction, including *Doc and Fluff*, and non-fiction on sadomasochism are a key part of that discourse. By comparing authors who foreground erotohistoriographic fantasy, I argue that the experimentation with gender and sexuality in contemporary erotic fiction performs the temporality of masochism against the backdrop of the apocalypse.

Andrew Cole, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "*'Which Side of the Door do you Want to Be On?': Proselytizing the Apocalypse through Participatory Media.*"

This essay focuses on the co-option of apocalyptic vernacular rhetoric utilized by online apocalyptic communities by the Vivos Group Corporation, operators of a network of underground survival shelters. Vernacular rhetoric serves to maintain the ideology of online apocalyptic communities by not allowing for disagreement in interpretation within central tenants of the community ideology. An analysis of tweets concerning current events from the Vivos Group's three Twitter feeds suggests the company co-opts the closed approach towards apocalypse ideology and the vernacular rhetoric of online apocalypse identified communities. In appropriating the vernacular of online apocalyptic communities, Vivos also utilizes the traditional Christian apocalyptic narrative as a selling method. Within the Christian apocalyptic narrative structure, Vivos rhetorically frames itself as a savior-like figure and its audience of potential shelter buyers as chosen survivors.

Through rhetorically reinforcing an eschatological worldview based in a traditional religious narrative including an artificial Rapture, Vivos constructs a sense of agency in audience members restricted to the decision to purchase a shelter from Vivos. As social networking tools like Twitter continue to grow in influence, future research would do well to recognize how organizations co-opt community vernacular, such as religious and apocalyptic rhetoric, for use as a persuasive strategy.



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### Session 3 - Representation and End Times

Robert Martinez, Eastern Illinois University. " 'No Language, Just Sound' : Apocalyptic Realism and the Winter of Discontent in Britain."

An often overlooked feature of dystopian or apocalyptic works is the function of realism. From Darko Suvin's Positions and Suppositions in Science Fiction to Keith Booker's The Dystopian Impulse in Modern Literature, critics of dystopian literature primarily focus on the genre features of "estrangement" or "defamiliarization" that serve to construct distant or alternative universes to the author's own world. However, the socio-political and economic climates of the 1970s and 1980s galvanized writers and musicians as diverse as J.G. Ballard to punk instigators the Sex Pistols to engineer a new kind of realist expression to actualize traditional dystopian and apocalyptic themes into the everyday. In this paper, I will argue that the ingredients of worsening socioeconomic conditions, the advent of the Falklands War, and the mounting hysteria surrounding nuclear war tensions instigated a widespread explosion of artistic reworkings of the apocalypse in the social imagination. In particular, I will discuss how British post-punk music can be understood as a specific expression of a realist, apocalyptic imagination that finds ultimate display in *Threads* (1984), a British TV drama about nuclear holocaust that literalized dystopic, apocalyptic themes into a refashioned kitchen-sink realism to stimulate social awareness about the dangers of brinkmanship politics and the new Tory right under Margaret Thatcher.

Mark Lounibos, Finlandia University. "William Godwin and the Philosopher's Stone, or Romanticism After the Apocalypse" William Godwin's last published work, *The Lives of the Necromancers* (1834) has been generally read as either a straightforward encyclopedia of reputed magicians and alchemists or a rationalist commentary on "the credulity of the human mind" in pre-Enlightenment Europe.

In this paper, I read the *Lives* as apocalyptic literature. Taking as a starting point his daughter Mary Shelley's *The Last Man* (1826), which depicts a global plague that annihilates all but one human life, I argue that Godwin's *Lives* is an attempt to inscribe counterfactual forms of knowledge within an increasingly monolithic public discourse. As a remnant of both the rationalist energies of the late 18th-century and the high romanticism of the early 19th, Godwin is, in many respects, a "last man," whose survival is linked to this narrative of magical acts. Drawing on Sara Guyer's work on testimony and Romanticism as well as Giorgio Agamben's philosophical work on "bare" or "naked" life, I contend that *Lives* posits apocalypse as a fundamental feature of historical progress, one which may be countered through the alchemy of imagination.

Shane McGowan, Georgia State University. "The Sublime Working of History: Travel, Ruins, and the Romantic Origins of the Post-Apocalyptic Aesthetic"

My presentation discusses the role that eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century British travel writing played in shaping modern post-apocalyptic literature as a genre. For eighteenth-century British travel writers and historians, the ruins of the Classical world and the Orient confirmed not only Britain's status as the historical apex of civilization, but also its destiny as a revitalizer of decrepit colonial lands. When the post-apocalyptic genre first emerged during the latter half of the British Romantic period, texts like Anna Barbauld's poem, "Eighteen Hundred and Eleven" (1812), and Mary Shelley's novel, *The Last Man* (1826), consciously drew upon contemporary travel writing and the aesthetics of ruin-gazing found therein. However, these appropriations subvert the typical ideological implications of ruin-gazing. By depicting post-apocalyptic travelers' encounters with uncanny scenes of ruin and desolation within Britain itself, these early post-apocalyptic texts compelled readers to view their homeland as they would some distant colonial landscape. The unexpected presentation of the homeland as the object of ruin-gazing in turn necessitates a reassessment of Britain, its current domestic situation, and its place in the world. This function of the post-apocalyptic continues today in novels like *The Road*, films like *2012*, and television shows like *Life After People*, which use travel or sightseeing as a central trope.

Katrina Newsom, Wayne State University. "The End of Work: Apocalyptic Imaginings in the Age of Work Crisis"

Work, in apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fiction, no longer exists - at least in the way it did before the end of civilization. What then emerge in the fiction are depictions of human energy being used for the purpose of survival. Thus, the vernacular of work in these fictions implies the direct correlation between exerted human energy (labor) and consumption of items constructed from discarded material or found (subsistence). Such articulations suggest that work in the present stage of civilization does not function in that capacity. The question that emerges, then, is if the current vernacular of work fails to show the direct correlation between work and subsistence, what exactly is the vocabulary of work in this current stage of civilization? In other words, how is work defined? Moreover, what does the genre of apocalyptic fiction tell us about our vernacular of work? In my paper, I examine McCarthy's *The Road* and Butler's *Parable of the Sower* to explore these questions. Both novels provide fruitful landscapes to examine new meanings and understandings that materialize with the imaginings of the absence of work. Such imaginings in a time when work is in crisis suggest a need for new considerations of the vernacular of work.

### Session 4 - Imagining Socio-Political Crises

Timothy P. Cross, Columbia University. "A Civic Millennium: Urban Dimensions of the Apocalyptic Imagination"

Addressed to seven cities of Asia Minor, warning of a dangerous Babylon, and promising a New Jerusalem, the Book of Revelation is replete with urban imagery. And some of history's most dramatic millenarian movements have taken place in cities: Savonarola's Florence, the Anabaptist takeover of sixteenth-century Münster, radical groups in the English Civil

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War. More recently, new religious groups—such as Mormonism, the Jehovah's Witnesses, and Pentecostalism—have either urban origins or aspirations. Despite a few pioneering efforts, historians of apocalyptic belief have not focused on the correlation between the apocalyptic imagination and the rise of cities. Does an urban environment affect the character of apocalyptic belief and millennial activity? Can an apocalyptic belief system address specific urban concerns or values? What, if anything, do historical examples suggest about trajectories for the apocalyptic imagination in world that is now more than half urban? Using examples from Western Europe and North America, this paper will explore the interrelationship between apocalyptic belief and the urban environment. Through the prism of urban life and values, the paper will examine a continuum of apocalyptic belief and action, not simply radical millenarian movements, but also those new sects (Mormonism, Pentecostalism) and millennial fringe groups (the People's Temple, Heaven's Gate) that have either grown up in or made their homes in cities.

Valentina Fulginiti, University of Toronto. "*The Social Corpse: or, The Italian Way to Post-Apocalyptic Imagination*"

If the parallel between political organizations and bodies is commonplace since Antiquity, and if the sovereign body identifies itself with a Leviathan in authoritarian times, can also the apocalyptic dissolution of the State also be equated to a rotting social body? And to what extent does the specific imagination of dystopian and/or post-apocalyptic body cultures (including enslaved, sexually reified and post-human bodies) mirror the collapse of the social body on a wider scale?

In my paper, I will apply these research questions to the field of contemporary Italian fiction, marked by an increasing interest in post-apocalyptic and dystopian narrative. It is my contention that Italian culture, obsessed by its own "anomaly" (Carrera 2011; Luisetti 2010) and haunted by a politics of obscenity, provides an exemplary case for understanding this key issue. Indeed, the politics of obscenity (with specific reference to the ostentation of Berlusconi's body) is one of the features that Slavoj Žižek has listed among the signs of apocalyptic thinking in his *Living in the End Times* (2010), in a mounting spiral of ideological regression.

I will examine a corpus of post-apocalyptic novels published in Italy during the 2000-2011 decade: Laura Pugno's *Sirene* (Mermaids) (2008), Davide Longo's *L'Uomo verticale* (The Vertical man) (2010); Tommaso Pincio's *Cinacittà* (China-Town) (2008), Wu Ming 5's *Free Karma Food*, and two short stories by the collective author Wu Ming, "Arzestula" (2009) and "Pantegane e sangue" (2000). In these works, regression expresses itself through the violation of fundamental taboos, leading to a false primitivism that is, in fact, an invention of our present. The crumbling reality of our financial economies is thus replaced by a universal economy of rape and cannibalism (often deriving from a problematic definition of what is human, in a context of genetic mutations, unknown diseases and environmental disasters). Instead of providing a potential imagination for crisis scenarios, as most scholars are nowadays inclined to suggest (Paik 2010; Drezner 2011) the graphic violence of these catastrophic tales gestures at the collapse of our society: a "social corpse", closely recalling the swarming hordes of the undead or the mobs of cannibals – humans only by name – populating the new ruins of Rome.

Carleton Gholz, Northeastern University. "*Hurt, Baby, Hurt: Narrating Detroit's Apocalypse*"

The riot / rebellion that occurred during the summer of 1967 in Detroit has been written about from a number of largely sociological angles since the moment it made national and international headlines. The meaning of this historical event for Detroiters and non-Detroiters -- despite the work of authors like Thomas Sugrue who have argued that the riots / rebellion did not cause the demise of Detroit -- still largely signifies as an example / harbinger of Detroit's present apocalyptic universe of ruins and reimagining. Building off of geographer William Bunge's path finding work Fitzgerald, historian Heather Thompson's more recent *Whose Detroit?*, literary and art scholar Julian Meyers' critique allegorical art in his conference paper "Mirror Traveling," and forthcoming work by historian of queer Detroit Tim Retzlaff, I will attempt to reanimate the complicated allure of Detroit's apocalyptic 1967 moment. I will do this by describing and analyzing the rarely cited book *Hurt, Baby, Hurt* by William Scott III. Written in the years directly following the rebellion and published in 1970, the book is both apocalyptic allegory and poetic figuration of the highly creative and combustible world of late 1960s Detroit. This paper is part of a larger multidisciplinary humanities work on the cultural history of post-rebellion Detroit that I am currently organizing into my first book.

Anna Hellén, University of Borås, Sweden. "*The Spectacle of a Lost Future: Rick Moody's Suburban Apocalypse*"

Characters in representations of suburbia, in film as well as in fiction, typically share a chilling, almost paralyzing sensation of being left outside the passage time. Disconnected from the past as well as the future, indeed, from history itself, the suburbanite is in a perpetual state of limbo, marooned in a kind of anti-place where both roots and progress are rendered unattainable or at least strangely irrelevant. Rick Moody's novels *The Ice Storm* and *Purple America* explore suburbia as a post-historical phenomenon with the apocalyptic myth as narrative backdrop. In *The Ice Storm*, suburbia rushes towards its demise accompanied by escalating conflicts and portentous signs. The cataclysmic trajectory seems not only predetermined but also premeditated as the possibility of divine intent is suggested, if not established. In *Purple America*, by contrast, God is conspicuously absent and although the catastrophe has already occurred, the end somehow fails to arrive. This paper will read Moody's suburban landscapes as expressions of the apocalyptic imagination but also show how the novels represent widely different phases and facets of the apocalyptic myth.

## BORDERS AND INTERSECTIONS 2013 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE



McGregor Memorial Conference Center

*Each spring the recipients of the previous year's Faculty Fellowships participate in a conference based on that year's theme. The 2013 conference was on "Borders and Intersections". Below, are the explication of the theme that was published by the Center to invite proposals, and the abstracts of the talks presented by the speakers.*

### Explication of Theme

The Obama administration announced in January 2011 that it was cancelling the "Secure Border Initiative," better known as the "Virtual Fence," that was to separate 2,000 miles of the United States from Mexico. Despite the fact that the project has been terminated, it has reignited contentious debates about immigration, protectionism, and the permeability of national borders. These discussions of geographic borders demonstrate the continuing relevance of borders in framing our contemporary experience of day-to-day political reality. While borders protect, they also delimit and deny. Yet when borders and boundaries are disrespected or transgressed, it can lead to national security crises, international conflicts, and even war. How do we negotiate the need for borders and boundaries, while also acknowledging their troubling limits?

The "energy and space around a material are as important as the energy and space within," argues sculptor Andy Goldsworthy. His sculptures, which include rock walls, stone archways, and frozen gates of snow, create visual borders that recognize the intersections of things with the world around them. Linguists identify "language borders" or "language boundaries" in places where two languages, not mutually comprehensible, meet: on the U.S./Mexico border, for example, or on the European line separating Germanic language speakers from those who speak Romance languages. Yet these borders, too, are marked by their permeable nature, as shared terminology and bilingualism complicate any easily defined linguistic division. The lines of continuity in Goldsworthy's work or on language borders belie the neat divisions of the "Virtual Fence" project, calling into question our ability to cordon off nature from culture, one conceptual space from another.

Borders are of course not exclusively geo-political. They frame the way that we understand our existence, the way we structure our reality, and the way we categorize people, places, and things. When borders dissolve, when artwork defies the traditional notion of subject and frame, or when gender, race, or ethnicity challenge prevailing definitions, we are invited to reconsider the preconceived notions that guide our interpretation of the world. As borders become porous or dissolve, we often discover that rather than separating two distinct realms, they are actually spaces of convergence. These intersections are spaces of syncretism, multiculturalism, or hybridity.





# BORDERS AND INTERSECTIONS

## 2013 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE

*The conference was held in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center on April 5th, 2013. There were three sessions each with four speakers. The moderators were chosen from members of the Center's Advisory Board. In this report, the abstracts are presented alphabetically by the last names of the speakers.*



The Detroit Masonic Temple (interior).

### Speakers

#### Keynoter

Federico Subervi, Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of Latino Media & Markets at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Texas State University-San Marcos; and author of The Mass Media and Latino Politics.-Studies of U.S. Media Content, Campaign Strategies and Survey Research: 1984-2004 (NY: Routledge, 2008)

*The Porous and Complex Borders of Latino Identities and Media*

Latino identities are ever more porous and complex. New generations of Latinos/Hispanics are engaging in selective and hybrid identities that transcend factors related to their ethnic heritage. Latino-oriented media are also not only growing in number and audience outreach, but also complex in their ownership, content and potential effects on different groups of Latinos and non-Latinos, too. The presentation will discuss these realities and the implications they have on the current and future cultural, political and economic dynamics of American society.

#### WSU Speakers

Robert Aguirre, Associate Professor, English

*Crossroads of Culture: Representing Panama, 1821-1914*

Traveler and Tourist: The Yankee Strip in the Anglo-American Imagination

This presentation discusses the rise of a literature of travel and tourism in the area known as the Yankee Strip: a narrow swath of land between the Atlantic and Pacific that was home first to a trans-continental railroad and later to the Panama canal. In the mid 1850s the literature was dominated by concerns of exigency and speed. After the completion of the canal, a new literature arose that featured the values of the tourist—leisure and nostalgia. How these competing sets of values developed in Panama—a place of profound intersection—is the main subject of my talk.

Abdullah Al-Arian, Assistant Professor, History

*From the Margins to the Mainstream: American Muslim Politics (1960 – 2010)*

The evolution of American Muslim political institutions has been a process half a century in the making. It was not until the 1990s, however, that civic activism gave way to direct political engagement. This paper seeks to trace the most significant developments in American Muslim political engagement during the late twentieth century. It then takes into account the effects of 9/11 on American Muslim political participation by looking in particular at the sequence of national elections during the past decade. It concludes by highlighting the challenges that continue to face American Muslims and the future of the community's political engagement.

Eugenia Casielles, Associate Professor, CMLLC

*Defying linguistic borders: The hybrid voices of Latinos in the U.S.*

Despite the fact that bilingualism and language contact is the norm rather than the exception in this world, the particular contact between Spanish and English in the U.S. has been especially controversial among scholars, educators, and the general Hispanic and non-Hispanic public. While monolingual speakers of English in the U.S. are urging Hispanics to shift to English like other minority language speakers have done in the past, monolingual speakers of Spanish are urging them to maintain a "pure" Spanish and resist "contamination" from English. Even Spanish-English bilingual speakers often praise the ability to keep both languages separate and criticize those who do not. The goal of this paper is to bring together insights from linguistics, sociolinguistics,

.....continued on next page

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and anthro-political linguistics in an effort to better understand why Latinos in the U.S are embracing their hybrid voices, defying linguistic borders, and engaging in bilingual encounters.

Alina Cherry, Assistant Professor, CMLLC

*Temporal fusions, Impossible Encounters: Writing History in the Present Tense*

In this talk I will examine a complex textual phenomenon that could be designated as "narrative fusion," in the fictional works of French Nobel Laureate Claude Simon. Through various narrative techniques and writing strategies, Simon generates stories in which temporal and geographical barriers as well as markers that delimit the boundaries between fictional and non-fictional elements are systematically erased. By focusing on Simon's innovative use of the personal pronoun "he," I show how the textual (con)fusion generated by the adroit blending of discrete temporal strata, highlights, in fact, the formation of a textual apparatus whose sole aim is the internal movement and progression of the text, without regard for canonical chronological demarcations and borders.

Mohamed El-Sharkawi, Assistant Professor, CMLLC

*Migration, Urbanization and Language Shift: The Case of Egypt*

This paper suggests that the arabicization of the Middle East in the 7th and 8th centuries was made possible by the urbanization of the region. I discuss three relevant points: the conquests, the establishment of Arab urban centers, and the migration of Arabs and non-Arabs to these towns. I suggest that establishing garrison towns, the concentration of Arabs in these towns, and the subsequent migration of local populations to these towns established the Arabic language as a majority language of prestige. The Arabs' need to communicate for practical reasons enticed them to use simplified registers known in similar modern contexts of language contact as Foreigner Talk registers. Imperial migration policies permitted Arabs to migrate to the garrison towns only if they belonged to the same tribes that took part in the initial conquest of the province, which permitted only a limited number of Arabic dialects to mix for a long time in the new urban centers. Eventually, the differences among the dialects were leveled and the structures regularized. A new urban koine emerged in every garrison town that was both different from the original dialects of Arabic in the peninsula and from each other. The article suggests that these linguistic processes of simplification and koinization shaped the input that was learnt by the local populations, and caused the difference between the old dialects of Arabic and the new urban dialects in the Arab world.

Jennifer Hart, Assistant Professor, History

*Of Pirate Drives and Honking Horns: Mobility, Authority, and Urban Planning in Interwar Accra*

The evolution of American Muslim political institutions has been a process half a century in the making. It was not until the 1990s, however, that civic activism gave way to direct political engagement. This paper seeks to trace the most significant developments in American Muslim political engagement during the late twentieth century. It then takes into account the effects of 9/11 on American Muslim political participation by looking in particular at the sequence of national elections during the past decade. It concludes by highlighting the challenges that continue to face American Muslims and the future of the community's political engagement.

Kathryn Maguire & Hayg Oshagan, Associate Professors, Communication

*Families without border: The maintenance of transnational immigrant family relationships*

The number of immigrants coming to the United States each year is growing. With the increase in immigration comes an increase in the prevalence of transnational families where families are geographically separated and often live in two or more different nations. Whereas family members find ways to cope with the challenges of maintaining family ties across a distance, a family member's departure from his/her home country still causes a disruption to these relationships. In this presentation, we will explore the challenges that transnational immigrant families (TIF) face as they attempt to defy geographic borders and boundaries to maintain connectedness with their families. Family members often use information communication technologies and the media to connect with family members who have been left in the



## BORDERS AND INTERSECTIONS

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home country, sometimes with varying results. One complicating factor of the TIF experience may be uncertainty: uncertainty about face-to-face visits with the family as well as uncertainty regarding whether the family will be reunited again in the same geographic region. In these situations, the family may suffer an ambiguous loss, wherein a family member is physically absent but psychologically present, as when a family member immigrates to a new country. This experience may impede efforts to maintain connectedness with distant family members. At the same time, it is possible that an individual's ethnic identity as well as how they define themselves in regards to their family group may influence experiences of ambiguous loss and efforts at family maintenance. We present the framework for a study to examine these issues and understand how communication and the media facilitate, or constrain, the maintenance of TIFs.

Sarah Swider, Assistant Professor, Sociology

*Building China and Re-Constructing Asia: migration, citizenship and development*

This article explores how China's new investment patterns are creating new forms and flows of migration and reshaping the relationship between migration and development in the Global South. This article builds on our understanding of South-South migration by examining how new investment patterns are creating in new flows and forms of migration and how they are changing the relationship between migration and development in the Global South. Specifically, it explores how China's increased South-South direct foreign investment (DFI) is associated with a rising form of economic migration, also known as "project contract migration." Finally, it explores how this new form of migration raises questions about the state and protection of migrant and worker rights.

Nicole Trujillo-Pagan, Assistant Professor, Sociology

*Subfederal Immigration Regulation and Enforcement in Arizona and Alabama*

Department of Sociology, Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies

The enactment of subfederal immigration regulations, state laws and local ordinances affecting immigrants, has concentrated in the U.S. South. This empirical observation has received little attention. This presentation discusses Alabama's HB 56, an example of what is increasingly referred to as a "Juan Crow" law. It draws from an analysis of legislative debate, historical evidence and legal commentary to discuss racial classification, the language of community preservation, and the drive for state's rights. This presentation argues HB 56 is patterned by historical experience with Jim Crow laws, but color-blind racism has shifted the ways claims about racial difference are advanced in relation to citizenship and national inclusion as an "American." It calls for revitalizing the civil rights movement.

# FACULTY FELLOWSHIP AND FALL SYMPOSIUM THEMES

Over the years, to encourage interdisciplinary thinking, research, and art, the Humanities Center has organized annual Faculty Fellowship Conferences and Fall Symposia on broad interdisciplinary topics. The following is an illustrated collage of these themes and the images on flyers that announced these events.

## FALL SYMPOSIUM THEMES 1999-2013



1999: The Question of Freedom



2000: The Humanities and Civic Engagement



2001: Beauty and Pleasure



2002: The Meaning of Citizenship



2003: Humanities and Social Change (10th Anniversary Symposium)



2004: Questioning Foundations and Methods in the Humanities and Arts



2005: Hope and Fear



2006: Immigration Interdisciplinary Perspectives



2007: Silence and Silencing



2008: Global Violence Impact and Resolution



2009: Representation of Health and Disease in the City



2010: *Bildung* in the 21st Century



2011: The Post-Industrial City

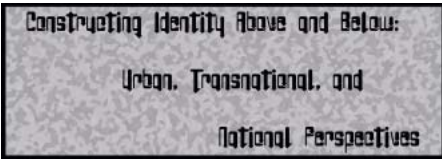


2012: The Apocalyptic Imagination



2013: Truth (20th Anniversary Symposium)

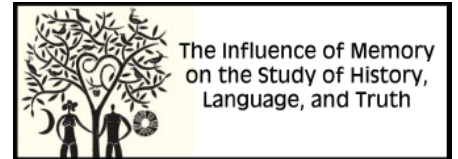
# FACULTY FELLOWSHIP THEMES 1993-2014



1994: Constructing Identity Above and Below: Urban, Transnational, and National Perspectives



1995: Technology in Culture / Culture in Technology



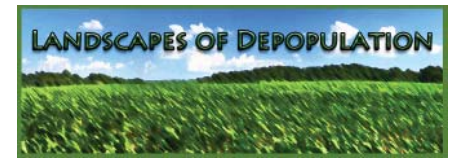
1996: The Influence of Memory on the Study of History, Language, and Truth



1997: The Humanities and the Millennium: Beginnings and Endings



1998: The Question of Freedom



1999: Landscapes of Depopulation



2000: Adults and Children at Play



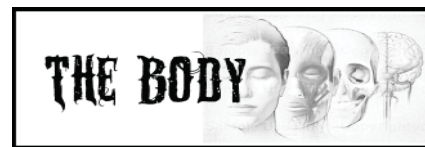
2001: Plants, Animals, & Insects in Human Culture



2002: The City & Civic Virtue



2003: The Religious and the Secular: Past, Present, and Future



2004: The Body



2005: Globalization and the Humanities



2006: Translation and Representation



2007: Sovereignty, Justice and the Law Across Disciplines



2008: Hauntings



2009: The Environment



2010: Gender and Sexuality



2011: The Post-Racial Era



2012: Borders & Intersections



2013: Redefining Politics in a Monetary Age



2014: Survival



## THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



Professor Bruce Russel presenting his Brown Bag lecture on "Jealousy and Envy."



2012-2013 Resident Scholars meeting. From Right to Left: Felicia Lucht, Alina Cherry, Yuson Jung, Walter Edwards, David Fassenfest, guest, Zach Brewster and Jennifer Olmsted.



Keynote Speaker Federico Suberv Professor and Director of the Center for Study of Latino Media and Markets at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Texas-State San Marcos. He is giving his keynote address at the Faculty Fellows Conference 2013.



Francis Brockington displaying her certificate of service at the final advisory board meeting for the 2012-2013 academic year. Left to Right: Walter Edwards, Francis Brockington, Kathryn Maguire.



Above: Professor Richard Marback, recipient of the 2012 Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship, presenting his fellowship lecture.



Panel members discuss the meaning of "The Apocalyptic Imagination" at the 2012 Humanities Center's Fall Symposium.

# THE YEAR IN PHOTOS



A meeting of the Center's advisory board in 2012-2013.



Partial audience at the 2013 Faculty Fellows Conference on "Borders and Intersections"



Dr. Edwards standing between Professor Alina Cherry (right) and her graduate students (left) after their brown bag talk on "Representations of Conflict as Fractured Reflections of Novelistic Tradition in Claude Simon's *The Flanders Road*".



Associate Professor renee hoogland giving her Brown Bag talk on "Becoming Queer/Queer Becoming: Art, Affect, and the Dissolution of Being (Human)"



Professor Norah Duncan IV and his students performing a recital on "The Musical Legacy of Moses Hogan" in the Schaver Music Recital Hall as part of the Humanities Center's Brown Bag Colloquium Series.



FALL 2012

## BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series presented 59 talks given mainly by Wayne State University faculty members. The talks covered a wide variety of topics in the humanities and arts. Abstracts for the talks are posted on the Center's Web site. Many Brown Bag presenters have expressed gratitude for feedback they received from the faculty and students who attended the talks. Speakers particularly benefited from the perspectives of faculty from other disciplines.*



Assistant Professor Felicia Lucht giving her brown bag talk on "Detroit's Immigrant Language Press at the Turn of the Century"

**September 11 - John Reed**

English, Distinguished Professor, "Maps, Mapping and Literature"

**September 12 - Marick Masters**

Director of Labor @ Wayne. "Is joining a union and collective bargaining a human right? "

**September 18 - Felicia A. Lucht**

CMLLC (German), Assistant Professor, "Detroit's Immigrant Language Press at the Turn of the Century"

**September 19 - Joan Beaudoin,**

Library and Information Science, Assistant Professor, "A Case Study of Visual Literacy among Library and Information Science Students"

**September 25 - Lauren Kalman,**

Art and Art History, Assistant Professor. "Spectacular: Images of the Body and Depictions of Illness in Recent Art Works"

**September 26 Mysoon Rizk,**

Department of Art, Associate Professor, University of Toledo. "SILENCE STILL = DEATH: The Hide/Seek Exhibition Saga"

**October 02 - Chera Kee,**

English, Assistant Professor, "Racialized and Raceless: Visions of Race After Death in Post-Apocalyptic Zombie Worlds"

**October 03 Krista Brumley,**

Sociology, Assistant Professor, "Worker Commitment over the Gendered Life Course at a Mexican Company"

**October 09 - Thomas Kohn,**

CMLLC (Classics), Associate Professor, "The 'Publication' of Roman Tragedy"

**October 10 - Michael K. Barbour,**

Education, Assistant Professor, "Opposing the Dominant K-12 Online Learning Narrative of Educational Reformers"

**October 15 - Robert A. Sedler,**

Law, Distinguished Professor, "The Supreme Court, the Health Care Act, and the 2012 Election"

**October 16 - George Parris,**

Education, Assistant Professor, "Poverty as Trauma: Impact on Children and Adolescents Psychosocial, Cognitive and Educational Development"

**October 17 - Kidada Williams,**

History, Associate Professor, "Lessons from Without Sanctuary"



Assistant Professor Abdullah Al-Arian and his audience. He is presenting his paper on "A Generation Revolts: From the 1970s Student Movement to the 2011 Egyptian Revolution"

FALL 2012

## BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series in 1998, literally hundreds of Wayne State humanities and arts faculty and students have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center regularly hosts talks twice or trice a week throughout the academic year. Brown Bag talks are free and open to the public.

### October 23 - Liette Patricia Gidlow

History, Associate Professor, "The 2012 Presidential Election in Historical Perspective"

### October 24 - Danielle Aubert

Art & Art History, Assistant Professor, "Thanks for the View, Mr. Mies — Representing Lafayette Park, Detroit"

### October 30 - Jazlin Ebenezer

Education, Professor, "Teacher Practical Arguments"

### October 31- Steve L. Winter,

Law School, Professor, "Down Freedom's Main Line"

### November 06 - Mary Cay Sengstock,

Sociology, Professor, "Not All Iraqi Immigrants Are Chaldean!"

### November 07 - Jonathan Flatley,

English, Associate Professor, "Like Andy Warhol"

### November 13 Robert Weir,

Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Windsor, Associate Professor, "Galileo's Textbook?: A Journey in Time and Space from Venice to Windsor"

### November 14 - Abdullah Al-Arian,

History, Assistant Professor, "A Generation Revolts: From the 1970s Student Movement to the 2011 Egyptian Revolution"



Professor Steve Winter during the Q&A after his talk on "Down Freedom's Main Line"



Professor Jazlin Ebenezer giving her talk on "Teacher Practical Arguments"

### November 27 - Paul R. Dubinsky,

Law, Director of Graduate Studies, "Treaty as Contract, Treaty as Statute, Treaty as Executive Act, Treaty as Nothing at All"

### November 29 - Avis Vidal,

Urban Studies and Planning, Professor, "Anchor Institutions as Agents of Neighborhood Revitalization: The Case of Midtown"

### December 05 - May Seikaly,

CMLLC (Near Eastern Studies), Associate Professor, "The Arab Spring: A Catalyst for Democratic change in the Arab Gulf"

### December 11 - Jennifer Hart

History, Assistant Professor, "Of Pirate Drivers and Honking Horns: Mobility, Authority, and Urban Planning in Interwar Accra (Ghana)"

### December 12 - Mary Anderson

Theatre, Assistant Professor, "Writing from Memory"

### December 13 - Mohamed Tarek El-Sharkawi

CMLLC (Arabic), Assistant Professor, "Migration and the Development of Arabic in the Middle East"

WINTER 2013

# BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

**January 10 Frederic Pearson**

Political Science and Peace and Conflict Studies,  
Professor/Director, "Inter-Organizational Complexities  
in Humanitarian Interventions in World Politics"

**January 15 renée c. hoogland,**

English, Associate Professor, "Becoming Queer/Queer  
Becoming: Art, Affect, and the Dissolution of Being  
(Human)"

**January 16 Elizabeth Dorn Lublin,**

History, Associate Professor, "Iwaya Matsuhei and the  
Tobacco Advertising Wars of Meiji Japan"

**January 22 Bruce Russell,**

Philosophy, Professor, "Jealousy and Envy"

**January 23 Stephen Chrisomalis,**

Anthropology, Assistant Professor, "Greatness in the  
Math Corps Family"

**January 24 Anne E. Duggan,**

CMLLC (French), Associate Professor, "Queer  
Enchantments: Gender, Sexuality, and Class in the  
Fairy-Tale Cinema of Jacques Demy"

**January 29 Dennis J. Tini,**

Music, Distinguished Professor, "Global CD Project"

**January 30 Anca Vlasopolos,**

English, Professor, "Reading from *Work in Progress on  
Maps/Migration*"



Associate Professor Janine Marie Lanza giving her talk on  
"Laughing the Master Down: Emotions and Eighteenth Century  
Parisian Guilds."

**February 05 David Merolla,**

Sociology, Assistant Professor, "Re-Assessing the Role  
of Student Attitudes and Beliefs"

**February 12 Arthur F. Marotti,**

English, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, "The Poetry  
Nobody Knows: Rare or Unique Verse in Early Modern  
English Manuscripts"

**February 13 Zachary Brewster,**

Sociology, Assistant Professor, "Everyday Racism in  
American Restaurants "

**February 14 Richard J. Smith,**

Social Work, Assistant Professor, "Local Governments  
Welcoming Immigrants"

**February 19 Arifa Javed,**

Sociology, Lecturer, "Contemporary, Family Issues in  
America"

**February 20 Eugenia Casielles,**

CMLLC (Spanish), Associate Professor, **Roshawnda  
Derrick**, CMLLC, Ph.D Candidate, "Beyond 'Livin' la  
vida loca': The status of Spanglish in the U.S"

**February 26 Guerin Montilus,**

Anthropology, Professor, "Haitian Vodou and Cuban  
Santería: Acculturation of Catholic Saints in African  
Religions"



Katherine Quinsey Department Head University of Windsor  
giving her talk on "Joint Tenant of the Shade: Alexander  
Pope and Animal Rights"

# BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

## February 27 Norah Duncan IV,

Music, Associate Chair, "Lecture/Recital: The Legacy of Moses Hogan, Composer"

## March 05 Janine Marie Lanza,

History, Associate Professor, "Laughing the Master Down: Emotions and Eighteenth-Century Parisian Guilds"

## March 06 - Alina Cherry

CMLLC, Assistant Professor, "Representations of Conflict as Fractured Reflections of Novelistic Tradition in Claude Simon's *The Flanders Road*"

## March 19 Xavier Livermon,

Africana Studies, Assistant Professor, "Usable Traditions: Creating Sexual Autonomy in Post-Apartheid South Africa"

## March 20 Patricia McCormick,

Communication, Associate Professor, "Orbital Debris: Requiring A New Paradigm for Space Policy"

## March 27 Jorgelina Corbatta,

CMLLC (Spanish), Professor, "Sexuality and Gender Identity: A Psychoanalytic Reading of the film *XXY* by Lucía Puenzo"

## April 02 Katherine Quinsey,

English Language, Literature, and Creative Writing, Department Head, University of Windsor, "Joint Tenant of the Shade: Alexander Pope and Animal Rights"

## April 03 Martha Ratliff,

English, Professor, "History of Negation Marking in Hmong-Mien"



Brown Bag Talk on "'Layers' of Ethnic Cultures in Detroit: Creating Apps to Share Detroit's Cultural Heritage"



Dr. Edwards with Dr. Jose Cuello after Dr. Cuello's talk on "The Five Horses of the Western Apocalypse: The Predatory State, Conquest Christianity, Liberated Capitalism, Individualized Democracy, and Misapplied Technology"

## April 09 Roslyn Abt Schindler,

CMLLC (German), Associate Professor, "Holocaust Literature for Children: 'How Much Should We Tell the Children?'" (Eva Tal)"

## April 10 Jose Cuello,

History and Latino & Latina American Studies, Associate Professor, "The Five Horses of the Western Apocalypse: The Predatory State, Conquest Christianity, Liberated Capitalism, Individualized Democracy, and Misapplied Technology"

## April 11 Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan,

Director, Foreign Language Technology Center, "'Layers' of Ethnic Cultures in Detroit: Creating Apps to Share Detroit's Cultural Heritage"

## April 16 Frances Ranney,

English, Associate Professor, "When the Kitchen was Hot, and Women were not: Nixon Serves up the Capitalist View of Women"

## April 17 Elizabeth Faue,

History, Professor, "Everybody Lies: The Sexual Politics of Maids and Money"

## April 23 Judith A. Moldenhauer,

Art & Art History, Associate Professor, **Geoff Nathan**, Professor, English, **Tim Spannaus**, Senior Lecturer & Program Coordinator, Art and Art History, "The Visualization of Information"

## April 24 Caroline Maun,

English, Associate Professor, "The Complete Poems of Charlotte Wilder: Issues in Editing"



# MARILYN WILLIAMSON

## ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP



Above: Hilberry Theatre

*The Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship competition is open to all tenured faculty in the Humanities. It offers a grant of up to \$20,000 to the recipient. Interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all distinguished projects in the humanities are fully considered. The endowment provides funds to offer two fellowships every third year. This year's recipient was Associate Professor Dora Apel of the Department of Art and Art History. The title and abstract of her proposal are below.*

### Abstract:

#### Ruin Porn: Fear and Longing in Detroit

Detroit has come to represent a complex and contradictory phenomenon of urban deindustrialization as well as an idea about the future to which artists, photographers, filmmakers, entrepreneurs, and corporate advertisers have responded with a surprising variety of visual representations. *Ruin Porn* examines these competing representations of the city in the current political and economic climate in which Detroit has become the preeminent symbol of shrinking deindustrialized cities around the world; in the process, it also explores the sources of pleasure, horror, and fascination that these images of ruin and abandonment evoke, and examines their role in the visual narratives of a post-apocalyptic landscape. *Ruin Porn* argues that such images, which thrive on or sublimate ruination, reflect a sense of growing cultural and political pessimism even as they attempt to keep the effects of deindustrialization and neoliberal austerity from becoming a hopeless and unmanageable reality.



Dora Apel, Associate Professor,  
Art and Art History



# INAUGURAL MARILYN WILLIAMSON

## ENDOWED DISTINGUISHED FACULTY FELLOWSHIP LECTURE

*Dr. Richard Marback, English Professor, gave the first Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship Lecture on January 25, 2013. Dr. Marback was selected in 2012 as the first recipient of the fellowship. Dr. Jack Kay, Communication Professor from Eastern Michigan University, served as the respondent. After the presentation, members of audience were allowed to ask questions. Kay made remarks which supported Marback's ideas and pointed out the intellectual, moral, and political significance of the concept of uBuntu. Below is the abstract of Marback's talk.*



**Richard Marback,  
Professor, English**

### **Abstract:**

### **Appeals to *uBuntu* and the Ambition for Justice**

In the twelve years since publication of the Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of South Africa critics have increasingly decried the work of the commission as having purchased neoliberal economic reform with the perpetuation of apartheid-era disenfranchisement. For these critics the TRC's language of forgiveness and reconciliation evaded issues of redistribution and restitution that remain unaddressed and continue to both cripple South Africa's poor and challenge the country's government. In the years since publication of the Final Report even the staunchest advocates of the TRC must admit the persuasiveness of the language of reconciliation is fading into memory as poverty, corruption, and divisiveness persist. The extent to which the TRC's language of reconciliation is falling out of use in civic discourse can be measured by tracking the word ubuntu, a word which signifies the idea that a person becomes a person through interactions with others. A term that figured prominently in the Interim Constitution, a number of early rulings by the Constitutional Court, as well as the Final Appeals to uBuntu and the Ambition for Justice Richard Marback's Abstract Report of the TRC, ubuntu is absent from the final Constitution and all but forgotten in recent rulings of the Constitutional Court. uBuntu does, however, appear frequently in such places as business and advertising, humanitarian discourse, and educational debates. While a case can be made for seeing the shift in appeals to ubuntu as reflecting the coopting of human emotion for economic and political gain, I believe such a case misses what it is appeals to ubuntu reveal about the larger issue of how best to orchestrate in civic discourses the often competing appeals for reconciliation, redistribution, and restitution. Without reconciliation, redistribution and restitution are empty. Without redistribution or restitution, reconciliation becomes impossible. I argue the trajectory of appeals to ubuntu in South Africa does more than affirm the intractable difficulty inherent in competing appeals for reconciliation, redistribution, and restitution. Appeals to ubuntu point the way toward a reformulation of civic appeals so those appeals may productively coordinate ambitions for reconciliation, redistribution, and restitution. My approach to the argument is to work from two extremes toward a middle. At the one extreme of collective narrative I follow how appeals to ubuntu appeal to an individual sense of what it is to be human. At the other extreme of individual sense of self I follow how appeals to ubuntu cultivate the individual's sense of a collective humanity. Neither extreme stands alone, both collective narrative and individual sense of self intertwine with each other. My conclusion is that it is in comprehending and exploiting the intertwining middle of collective narrative and sense of self that appeals to ubuntu can be made most productive. To arrive at this conclusion I read the record of appeals to ubuntu in terms of recent research in rhetorical theory, human rights, African philosophy, philosophy of mind, and neuroscience.



## GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

*The Humanities Center annually budgets funds to help graduate students in the humanities and the arts present their research or artistic work at national conferences and exhibitions. To receive these funds, a graduate student must submit an application letter which includes a personal statement indicating how presenting his/her work will help his/her present academic and future professional career. Graduate students outside the humanities are also encouraged to apply if their presentations are of particular interest to scholars in the humanities and the arts. The Center offered up to \$300 in travel assistance to successful applicants.*

### **Fall 2012 Awardees**

Andrea Silva - English

Conference: Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society Conference

Elizabeth Ryan - History

Conference: Social Science History Association Conference

Michael Schmidt - English

Conference: First International Djuna Barnes Conference

Sherri L. Ter Molen - Communication

Conference: 9th Korean Studies Graduate Student Convention

Roshawnda Derrick - CMLLC

Conference: Conference of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest

### **Winter 2013 Awardees**

Jennifer Haskin- Sociology

Conference: Midwest Sociological Society

Kerin Ogg-English

Conference: Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Moira Saltzman-Linguistics

Conference: American Association for Corpus Linguistics

Tareq Ramadan- Anthropology

Conference: Society for American Archeology

### **Summer 2013 Awardees**

Julie Koehler - CMLLC

Conference: 16th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research

Josiah Rector - History

Conference: Labor and Working Class History conference, Vilnius, Lithuania



# WORKING GROUPS

## IN THE HUMANITIES & ARTS



Above: African American Museum

*The Working Groups program is designed to promote collaborative and innovative research among Wayne State University faculty members. Each group consists of faculty members from different disciplines or sub-disciplines and may include graduate students. Working Groups meet regularly throughout the year for scholarly interaction as well as to plan special events including guest lectures and colloquia. This year, the Center supported Working Groups by scheduling meeting space and awarding each group up to \$800 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational needs. The following reports were received from supported Working Groups. The names listed are the group leaders.*

### **Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS)**

Elizabeth Acosta, Grad Student, English

Eric Ash, Associate Professor, History

Simone Chess, Assistant Professor, English and Women's Studies

This year, the Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS) explored the theme of "risk/reward" in the early modern period (c. 1400-1800). A rotating slate of facilitators led monthly meetings centered on their current research. José Antonio Rico-Ferrer (CMLLC) shared a work-in-progress discussing how Spanish courtiers performed masculinity through authorship and swordsmanship. Meanwhile, Joelle del Rose (History) led a session on her dissertation, receiving valuable feedback on how to structure and articulate her project. The highlight of our year was our highly successful fourth annual symposium on "Risk/Reward in Early Modern Europe." The evening before the event, invited speaker Brian Cowan (Associate Professor, History, McGill University) presented a master class on "Making Publics and Making Novels: Post-Habermasian Perspectives" that was attended by faculty graduate students from a number of departments. The symposium itself featured two dynamic graduate student panels with presentations by students from Eastern Michigan University and WSU. In the morning, Elizabeth Acosta (English, WSU), Elizabeth Dieterich (English, EMU), and Ashley Voeks (CMLLC, WSU) gave papers in a session on "Taking Dramatic Risks" moderated by Anne Duggan (CMLLC). The afternoon graduate panel, entitled "Risky Business" and moderated by Lisa Maruca (English), featured papers by Joelle Del Rose (History, WSU), Michael Shumway (English, EMU), and S. P. Cooper (English, WSU). The capstone event of the symposium was a keynote talk by Professor Cowan entitled "The Scribbler and the Doctor: Daniel Defoe's Long Way with Henry Sacheverell." This year GEMS decided to solicit submissions from graduate students outside of Wayne State, a move that proved remarkably successful. Not only did the symposium itself feature two papers by students from EMU, but Michael Shumway subsequently decided to enter the English Department's doctoral program in large part because of his experiences at the symposium (as he later reported to the Director of Graduate Studies).

### **Politics, Culture, and the City**

Jennifer Hart, Assistant Professor, History

Tracy Neumann, Assistant Professor, History

Andrew Newman, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

In its second year, the Working Group on Politics, Culture, and the City continued to foster conversations among WSU faculty about emerging research on cities around the world. In addition to informal conversations among its participants, the working group sponsored two guest speakers using Humanities Center funding. In November, Joanna Grabski of Denison University screened her documentary, "Market Imaginary," which investigates Dakar's Colobane Market and its relationship to the surrounding neighborhood. Grabski held a Q&A after the film and was a guest speaker in an African history course. In April, Joshua Akers of the University of Toronto gave a talk called "The Production of Decline: Narrative and Practice," which focused on imagery and the political economy of abandonment in Detroit. Akers also held a methods workshop attended by graduate students from Wayne State and the University of Michigan. Working Groups members also participated in WSU's "Urban Disruptions" symposium, which brought together scholars from across the university who are engaged in research on urban topics. We are grateful for two years of funding from the Humanities Center, which allowed us to invite several speakers to campus and engage in interdisciplinary conversations about urban development, politics, and everyday life. The working group has accomplished an important goal: forming a solid foundation for ongoing interdisciplinary exchange on urban issues between junior and senior scholars at Wayne from multiple departments.

# WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES & ARTS

## **Syntax-Semantics Working Group**

Ljiljana Progovac, Director of Linguistics and Professor of English

Haiyong Liu, Associate Professor, CMLLC

Eugenia Cassielles, Associate Professor, CMLLC

Mohamed Tarek El-Sharkawi, Assistant Professor, CMLLC

Thanks to the generous support of the Humanities Center, The Syntax-Semantics reading group read five papers in the 2012-2013 Academic Year. For the semester of Fall 2012, following having adjectives as the theme of reading in 2011-2012, we made case-marking the theme of our reading collection. We read deHoop's very recent article in *Linguistics Inquiry* on the Strategies of Case Marking, which offers a review of case-marking cross-linguistically and an analysis from the perspective of the Optimality framework. Both faculty and graduate students, eight people in total, attended the heated discussion. Controversial as this paper is, it gave us a flavor of looking at case-marking from an alternative perspective. Seeking solutions to some of the unsolved questions related to case-marking we had in deHoops' paper, we read an older article by Carson on the Nature of Default Case. This proved to be a more popular read, giving us some background knowledge regarding what default case is and how it is decided and functions in different languages, with English data, for example, that are so commonplace and have been overlooked. The contrasts of these two papers gave the readers, students and faculty alike, a deeper understanding of the state of the art of research on case-marking as well as a review of common literature. For the second semester, Winter 2013, synchronized with the hiring process of a semanticist by the Linguistics Program, we read the writing samples of the three job candidates, i.e. Henderson, Bochnak, and Toosarvandani. Their topics range from English VP ellipsis, to adjectives in Mayan and Masho, both Native American languages. Graduate students and faculty in turn led the discussions. This proved to be very helpful in terms of preparing our linguists for the three job talks, eventually very vital for the evaluation of the job candidates. We are very proud of our graduate students in particular, who, after reading these articles and participated in the discussions, could be very well involved in the hiring process and gave us a lot of great insights.

## **Visual Culture Working Group**

Jonathan Flatley, Associate Professor, English (Russian and Soviet Literature)

renée c. hoogland, Associate Professor, English

Chera Kee, Assistant Professor, English and Film Studies (Film History)

The Working Group met two times in the Fall, once in the Winter semester. We spent most of our time planning the Spring events and discussed our ongoing efforts to strengthen graduate students outreach and participation. With the additional support of the Visual Culture Student Organization, coordinated by Kerin Ogg (Film & Media Studies) and Jonathan Plumb (English), the DeRoy Chair, Julie Thompson Klein, and the English Department, we were able to continue our tradition and host two separate Spring events. The first, on April 19, 2013, was a dual lecture under the overall title "Postcolonial Perspectives on Photography and Contemporary Art." Professor Pamela Pattynama, (University of Amsterdam) presented a paper entitled "Photographs of the Dutch East-Indies: Memory and Nostalgia," while Yamini Nayar (artist, New York) discussed her work in/on "Architectural Memory." The formal presentations were followed by a conversation with the two presenters moderated by Dr. Scott Richmond and q&a. It was a most inspiring event. The second event, on April 24, 2013, constituted the second combined faculty/graduate student symposium in Visual Culture at WSU. Under the title "More Than Meets the Eye: Multimodal Approaches to Visual Culture," six students (in Film, English, Drama) presented papers, clustered in groups of three, followed by a response by a faculty/working-group member, and general q&a. Like last year, the Symposium was a great success, enjoyed by participants and audience alike. We will definitely continue this annual tradition. The grant received from the Humanities Center has been used to cover part of one of the the keynote speaker's travel expenses. The group intends to continue its activities in future years, which will continue to include working toward expanding curricular offerings in Visual Culture across departments and programs.

# WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES & ARTS

## **Working Group on Science and Society**

Marsha Richmond, Associate Professor, History

William Lynch, Associate Professor, History

Barry Lyons, Associate Professor, Anthropology

Rayman Mohamed, Associate Professor, Urban Studies and Planning

This year the Working Group on Science and Society (WGSS) hosted a series of brown-bag lectures on campus. These were held, owing to the Fall 2012 sabbatical leave of the WGSS Coordinator, in the Winter semester.

In January, Dr. Leonard Lipovich (Assistant Professor in the Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics and the Department of Neurology) gave a talk entitled "Post-Genomic Biology: RNA and What Makes Us Human" to a packed room. (Dr. Lipovich and his lab are at the forefront of the long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) field, which offers great promise in understanding human uniqueness as well as developing novel therapeutics.) In March, Dr. H.C. Wu (Civil and Environmental Engineering) spoke on "Green Buildings and Green Construction Materials," in which he described his development of a new concrete that is more environmentally friendly than Portland. In April, we invited Dr. Alice Domurat Dreger (Professor of Clinical Medical Humanities and Bioethics at Northwestern University) to WSU, in collaboration with Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, to talk about her research on sex anomalies, conjoined twinning, and contemporary scientific controversies concerning sex and gender. Her lecture, entitled "Medical Activism and Sexual 'Normalcy,'" was well attended by members of departments on the main campus as well as the Medical School. Another talk that we planned to host in April (Dr. James Sears, Associate Vice President, Facilities Planning and Management) was rescheduled for September 2013.

### Funding:

This year we did not request any funding from the Humanities Center, since we had \$200 remaining from last year's account. Of this, we expended \$100 on an honorarium to pay for the travel expenses of Dr. Dreger (with another \$50 allocated by Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies).

### Participants:

The membership of the WGSS listserv currently stands at 139 and includes faculty and staff from units in many different colleges across campus.

## **"Layars" of Detroit: Creating Apps to Share Detroit's Ethnic Heritage**

Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, Director, Foreign Language Technology Center

Alina Klin, Senior Lecturer, CMLLC (Polish)

Laura Kline, Senior Lecturer, CMLLC (Russian)

The inspiration for our Humanities Center Working Group proposal, "Layars" of Detroit: Creating Apps to Share Detroit's Ethnic Heritage, came from the German Traces of NYC, a project created by the Goethe Institute of New York which features the German history of several landmarks in NYC. These stories can be accessed on their website, downloaded as an app on a smartphone for those doing a walking tour, and as augmented reality. We had a Skype videoconference with one of the German Traces NYC project leads, Brigitte Doellgast, Library Director and Regional Coordinator, Goethe Institute, NYC. She talked to us about the target audience, design, development, and implementation of their project, and gave us a detailed report with information about their timeline and budget. During the Skype meeting she shared information about what worked, what didn't, and lessons learned, which was helpful in planning our pilot project. We continue to seek input from her and keep her abreast of the progress with our project.

On April 11, 2013, our group presented our plans for a summer pilot project at a Humanities Center Brown Bag and received useful feedback from attendees. The pilot will include six German, Polish, and Russian sites in downtown Detroit as well as a few sites on the Wayne State campus. The sites were selected based on their significance for the respective ethnic group, as well as their proximity to one another and to downtown Detroit.

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# WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES & ARTS

The pilot project will be funded by an FLTC Mini-Grant, which will allow us to hire student assistants to work on researching, editing, and uploading our pilot sites through geostoryteller.org. This site is a tool that we will use to create a "layer" that will be accessible through the Layar app and will function as a walking tour with augmented reality.

After completing the pilot later this summer, we will develop a full-fledged project. We are currently exploring funding opportunities from organizations such as the Kresge Foundation and the Kellogg Foundation.

## **Group in Fairy-Tale Studies**

Anne E. Duggan, Associate Professor, CMLLC (French)

Adrian Dula, PhD Student, CMLLC (French)

Donald Haase, Professor, CMLLC (German)

Over the course of Winter 2013 we met on average twice a month, with six 2-hour presentations / discussions over the course of the semester. We created a Blackboard site where we posted readings. We are hoping to continue our group throughout the academic year 2013-2014 and bring in a keynote speaker in Winter 2014.

January 9th: Abigail Heiniger, Ph.D student, English, on "The relation between the folk and fairy-tale tradition and the Brontë's (English literature)"

January 30th: Julie Koehler, Ph.D. student, German, on "Karoline Stahl's rewriting of the Grimms, putting into question gender norms (German literature)"

February 13th: Shandi Wagner, Ph.D. student, English, on "Rewritings of classical tales by English women writers such as Mary Shelley and those published in English Keepsakes"

February 27th: Janet Langlois, professor, English, on "Death-bed visions and otherworldly journeys in fiction and in ethnographic studies"

March 20th: Anne Duggan, professor, French, on the French and English on "Oriental tale tradition as it relates to the fantastic and queer sexuality"

April 3rd: Adam Yermina, Ph.D. student, Cinema and Media Studies, on "Biopolitics and conceptions of agency in childhood in relation to the television series Once Upon a Time and Grimm"

May 5th: end of the year "fairy gathering" with Abigail Heiniger, Julie Koehler, Shandi Wagner, Janet Langlois, Donald Haase, Anne Duggan

## **The History of the Book**

Lisa Maruca, Associate Professor, English

Jaime Goodrich, Assistant Professor, English

Lara Cohen, Assistant Professor, English

Arthur Marotti, Professor Emeritus, English

This year, the History of the Book Working Group (HotBook) brought together faculty across the university to study the book as a material artifact. Because of the complexity and diversity of this field, HotBook spent this year focusing on seminal texts that discuss foundational issues and methodologies. As a rotating slate of facilitators led monthly meetings, we discovered shared interests that became the basis for stimulating conversations about both the field and our own work. Some of our sessions focused on the cultural and technological aspects of printing. Lara Cohen (English) began our meetings by leading a session on Michael Warner's *Publics and Counterpublics* that addressed the ways that authors address and create publics, while Lisa Maruca (English) facilitated a meeting on Adrian Johns's *Nature of the Book* that reconsidered the supposed fixity of print. We devoted two sessions to the theoretical questions involved in editing. Barry Neavill (School of Library and Information Sciences) shared his recent article on canonicity, facilitating an excellent conversation about the editorial principles behind reprint series such as the Modern Library. Caroline Maun (English) ran a session considering Jerome McGann's *Textual Condition*, which led to a thought-provoking discussion of print and online editions. Many of our conversations also touched upon the material aspects of books, and at our final meeting Jaime Goodrich (English) will discuss Gérard Genette's *Paratexts*, which theorizes the role of textual elements such as titles and prefaces.

HotBook also assisted Caroline Maun with her plans for a Symposium on Scholarly Editing and Archival Research (<http://www.wsuscholarlyediting.org>), to be held in Fall 2013 as part of her 2012-2013 Research Enhancement in the Arts and Humanities Grant. HotBook looks forward to co-sponsoring this regional conference, which will feature keynotes from Peter Quartermain (University of British Columbia) and Martha Nell Smith (University of Maryland, College Park).

## DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

*In an effort to foster exemplary doctoral dissertation work among humanities students at Wayne State University, the Humanities Center and the Graduate School have combined funding to offer an annual fellowship for PhD candidates. For 2012-2013 the Humanities Center selected one dissertation fellow, Andrea Silva, and two awardees: Beth Fowler and Maria Roti.*

**About the Award**

This annual fellowship awards \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The fellowship also includes University health insurance coverage during the winter and spring/summer semesters.

**Fellow**

Andrea Silva - English

*Marketing Good Taste: Print Agents' use of Paratext to Shape Markets and Readers in Early Modern England*

In my dissertation, I argue that early modern (1515-1680) print agents - a category I use to include editors, publishers, booksellers, and printers - designed paratextual material like title-pages, indexes, and dedications to market and advertise books as a cultural commodities. Print agents and readers, I claim, participated in a shared social connection of investment and profit: by buying an agent's books, a reader invested in his career, obtaining, in return, works (e.g. trendy travel narratives, current affairs, religious instruction) that could be used to leverage a better social standing. Reading learned to identify printers, booksellers, and bookstalls by relying on the advertising of title pages and the directions of prefaces to tell them about what kind of work they could expect from each agent. Although recent scholarship has discussed the role of print agents in shaping authorship, few have considered how paratexts designed by print agents influenced readership and the development of popular taste, and even created new genres. By analyzing a number of specific strategies, I demonstrate that print agents responded to and took advantage of the interests of an emerging middle-class class by marketing books (and authors) as social commodities, producing desirable new products, and thus commodifying popular taste. In order to prove these claims, I have closely examined print agents with well documented successful careers, as well as tracing all extant editions of popular early modern works.

**Awardees**

Beth Fowler - History

*Deliver Me from the Days of Old: How Rock and Roll Music Created the Potential for Racial Tolerance Among Middle-Class Teenagers During the American Civil Rights Movement*



My dissertation is a study of how rock and roll music, a dynamic mixture of white pop, black rhythm and blues, and Southern country and western musics, fostered a shared cultural space between black and white teenagers. Rock and roll music helped Americans born during and after World War Two to challenge prevailing racial norms, contributing to the generation gap which emerged between this demographic and their parents. This music affected how black and white teenagers behaved in both public and private spaces, and allowed for some identification with, and admiration of, people from different racial backgrounds. My project looks at how music shapes listeners' views of the musicians performing their favorite songs, and how rock and roll music in particular encourages a sense of community and identification among all listeners, whatever their racial background. This identification and admiration helped to reinforce more open attitudes towards the desegregation of schools and other public places, interracial friendships, and more direct political involvement in the civil rights and student movements. The popularity of rock and roll music also allowed some teenagers to challenge racial norms directly by listening to artists their parents or friends would not have approved of, developing interracial crushes on musicians, listening to radio stations intended for a different racial demographic, visiting record stores in majority black or white neighborhoods, and even challenging segregation directly at concert venues. Although this resistance did not eradicate political and economic

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## HUMANITIES CENTER'S DOCTORAL DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP

barriers to racial equality, it did engender a broad acceptance of racism as a social evil. While many historians focus almost solely on the political and economic consequences of the movement, I believe that it is necessary to also identify changes in racial attitudes and how people reacted to these shifts. Several scholars, particularly those writing since the rise of the culture wars, have taken a more critical stance of the Civil Rights Movement than their predecessors, and often define the Civil Rights Movement as a failure since many African Americans continue to face the kind of grinding poverty that silences them politically and ensures that racially-defined institutions and discourses remain. Yet, by shifting views of the movement to the cultural arena, we can see that enormous changes have been made regarding how people view racism and race relations.

Maria R. Roti - Anthropology

*Spheres of Semi-Legality: Discourse, Media and Informal Practices in St. Petersburg, Russia (2000-present)*



My dissertation project focuses on how the post-Yeltsin (2000 onwards) market economy actually works and how people define, identify and engage within this newly structured market economy. In order to understand this phenomenon my ethnographic study focuses on business in Russia from two perspectives. First, it discusses how Russian enterprises operate in Russia with the socially embedded informal economic practices inherited from the Soviet system, including trust, personal networks, patron-client relationships, system avoidance, bribery, and corruption. Second, it examines how foreign firms in Russia operate under these existing economic conditions while simultaneously following FTC regulations and international law. Keeping in mind that the informal economic practices used in Russia are survival strategies which allow Russians to survive in extreme situations, to navigate through the web of the complex bureaucratic rules, and to be able to conduct business with contradictory laws; my research focuses on informal behaviors as a method for entrepreneurs to manipulate the formal rules and to be creative under these restraints in their pursuit of economic gains. Further, my project challenges the Western concept of economics belonging either in the 'legal' or 'illegal' spheres since the Russian market economy is not based on Western models of economic exchange.

During my recent fieldwork I observed how a business organization operates in Russia. In addition, I interviewed Russian entrepreneurs, Russian and foreign business lawyers, foreign directors of multinational corporations, and foreign trade diplomats; to understand the complexity of informal practices in business and its relationship to the broader Russian economy. Through this focus, my dissertation attempts to understand how governmental rules and laws, create informal economic practices. In more conceptual terms, my research project seeks to understand how the market economy is not a product of market forces, but of historically embedded practices that continue and transform within a society.



## REDEFINING POLITICS IN A MONETARY AGE

### 2012 - 2013 FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS COMPETITION



Above: Spirit of Detroit

*Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowship Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was "Redefining Politics in a Monetary Age". Fellowships provide Wayne State University faculty with funding to help pay for expenses related to their research projects, including travel, research assistance and summer salary. Fellowship recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows' Conference held the following spring. Below is the explication of the theme and a list of the six faculty who were awarded 2013 Faculty Fellowships. They will present their findings at the Faculty Fellowship Conference in April 2014.*

#### Explication of Theme

Contemporary scholarship across the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences has, as its underlying theme, a re-envisioning of what politics means, how it is constituted and constructed in everyday life and culture, and what the Political is. So it is that in feminist criticism, critical race theory, post-structuralism, post-colonial and subaltern studies, the realm of formal politics and the infrapolitics of social movements, we have seen an exploration and expansion of what constitutes the Political. Seen through the lens of presidential elections, campaigns against sex trafficking or against the global sweatshop, in boycotts and in silent protests, or in the intimate struggles in bedrooms and with language, Politics has been redefined in global, national, and interpersonal terms.

In the past thirty years, however, the struggle over Politics and the Political has taken another turn. The Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United* has unleashed a veritable flood of political money that has overtaken our political process even as banking, national debt, deficit spending, taxes, the instability of currency, and the rising tide of inequality are reshaping political struggles not just in the United States but globally. The recent and explosive growth of unregulated financial derivatives, whose value today is several multiples of the world's real economic output, has had calamitous consequences for many national economies, even as a return to what economist Paul Krugman has described as a disastrous fixation on austerity and deficit reduction has intensified both economic instability and political upheaval throughout the world. As historian Niall Ferguson has argued in *The Ascent of Money*, financial instabilities often lead to political instabilities, the most dramatic of which was the rise of the National Socialist Party in Germany in the 1930s. Recent political uprisings from Egypt to Greece, the surprising Socialist victory in the French elections, and the now precarious fate of the Euro indicate that the symbolic and ideological uses of money, inequality, and debt play a decisive role in our current political landscape.

#### 2013 Recipients

Krista M. Brumley, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
 "Having it All or Stalling Out? Gender, Family, and Work in the New Economy"

Sarika Chandra, Associate Professor, English  
 "New Capital Fictions: Narrating Financialization"

Tracy Neumann, Assistant Professor, History  
 "From Sites of Production to Sites of consumption: The Politics of Redevelopment in Pittsburgh"

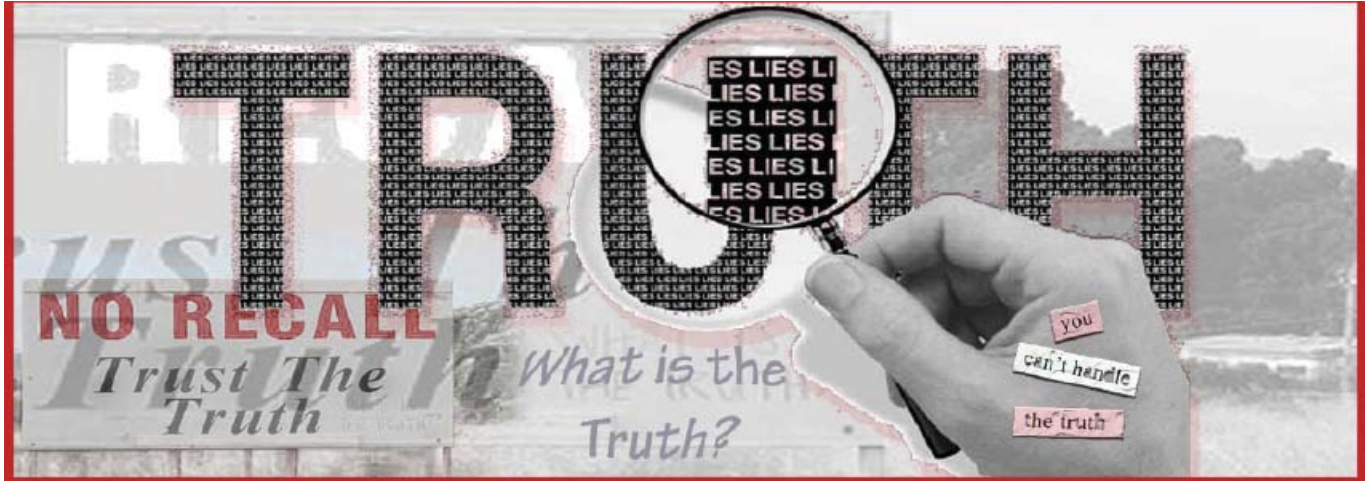
Andrew I. Port, Associate Professor, History  
 "German Reactions to Post-Holocaust Genocide"

Marsha L. Richmond, Associate Professor, History  
 "Speaking Truth to Power: Women Scientists and Postwar Political Activism"

Abderrahmane Zouhir, Assistant Professor, CMLLC  
 "The Language of Politics and the Politics of Language in Sudan"

## A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

# 2013 FALL SYMPOSIUM



The search for Truth has been the symbolic theme and central object of most academic, intellectual, and spiritual enterprises. Whether or not we believe in "Objectivity," Truth keeps its imaginative hold and psychological power on us as scholars, critics, private individuals, and public citizens. We want to know the Truth; but as Colonel Jessup rebukes navy defense counsel Kaffee in *A Few Good Men*, we "can't handle the Truth." So what is the Truth and what role does it play in our public culture, our scholarly work, and our private lives? Many of us find the Truth, or our perception of it, inconvenient and not infrequently uncivil and inappropriate, even rude. We are discomforted by raw honesty but also taken aback by abject lying, willful deception, and blatant manipulation of the "Facts." And this obsession with Truth, and with its opposite--Lies, pervades our culture. Is it any wonder there's a new television program called "Deception," or that the presidential debates of 2012 were rife with accusations of lying and dishonesty? Or that Lies about money and its uses still haunt our descriptions of the recent banking crisis and economic downturn? Using Truth as a theme, scholars are invited to present papers on philosophical, literary, social, political, historical, and artistic representations of the Truth and the role Truth plays in our public culture and our everyday lives.

Conference Date: September 27, 2013.

### Tentative Schedule

#### Morning Session

Room A

9:00-12:00	Truth in Practice Moderator: Frances Brockington, Associate Professor, Music, Wayne State University
9:05-9:10	Welcome: Mathew Seeger, Dean, College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts?
9:10-9:30	Janet Hankin, Chair, Sociology, Wayne State University "Truth Telling in Radiation Oncology Clinic"
9:35-9:55	Thomas M. Kelley, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice, Wayne State University "Paltering"
10:00-10:20	Barry Lyons, Associate Professor, Anthropology, Wayne State University. "Truth in Exchange"
10:20-10:30	Break
10:35-10:55	renée c.hoogland, Associate Professor, English, Wayne State University "Truth and Beauty: Aesthetic Novelty and the Priority of Feeling"
11:00-11:20	Bruce Russell, Professor, Philosophy, Wayne State University "The Relation Between Justice,Belief and Truth"
11:25-11:45	Steven L. Winter, Professor, Law School, Wayne State University "Why Truth Is Stranger than Fiction"

# A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

## 2013 FALL SYMPOSIUM

### Morning Session

#### Room B

- 9:00-12:00     **Truth in a Public Sphere**  
 Moderator: Anne Rothe, Associate Professor, CMLLC, Wayne State University
- 9:05-9:10     Welcome: Wayne Raskind, Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 9:10-9:30     Michael Barbour, Assistant Professor, Education, Wayne State University  
 "Privatizing Public Education through Cyber Schooling: Examining Truth and Myth in the Dominant Narrative of K-12 Online Learning"
- 9:35-9:55     Alex Holzniekemper and Kailum Ijaz, German Languages & Literatures, Ohio State University  
 "Truths and Truth – The Challenge of Religious Truth Claims in the Public Sphere"
- 10:00-10:20     Marvin Zalman, Professor, Criminal Justice, Wayne State University  
 "The Truth Revolution"
- 10:20-10:30     Break
- 10:35-10:55     Fred Vultee, Assistant Professor, Communication, Wayne State University  
 "Truth-telling, the press and the Bin Laden photos"
- 11:00-11:20     David Kim, Assistant Professor, German, Michigan State University  
 "The Genealogy of Parresia: Foucault on Democratic Politics and Truth-Telling"
- 11:25-11:45     Anke Pinkert, Associate Professor, German, Media and Cinema Studies, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign  
 "Publically-engaged Humanities: A Practice of Truth?"

### Afternoon Session

#### Room A

- 1:00-3:10     **The Nature of Truth**  
 Moderator: Robert Ackerman, Professor, Law School, Wayne State University
- 1:05-1:25     Jorgelina Corbatta, Professor, CMLLC, Wayne State University  
 "Truth and Fiction in the analytic situation: Serge Dubrowsky and Robert Ackeret"
- 1:30-1:50     Frances Ranney, Associate Professor, English, Wayne State University  
 "Confessions of a Rhetorical Scholar who Believes in 'Truth'"
- 1:55-2:15     Sara Daniele Belanger-Michaud, Post Doctoral Fellow, University of Toronto  
 "Cioran and the Posture of the Failed Mystic: Writing as Yearning for Truth in our Secular Modernity"
- 2:15-2:25     Break
- 2:25-2:45     John Corvino, Chair, Philosophy, Wayne State University  
 "Fact and Opinion"
- 2:50-3:10     Eric Hiddleston, Assistant Professor, Philosophy, Wayne State University  
 "Truth, Relativism, and Convention"
- 3:15-3:35     Robert Sedler, Distinguished Professor, Law School, Wayne State University  
 "Truth and the First Amendment: The People Must Decide"

#### Room B

- 1:00-3:10     **Truth in Context**  
 Moderator: Elena Past, Associate Professor, CMLLC, Wayne State University
- 1:05-1:25     Haiyong Liu, Associate Professor, CMLLC, Wayne State University  
 "How Chinese Doesn't Tell the Truth"
- 1:30-1:50     Roslyn Schindler, Associate Professor, CMLLC, Wayne State University  
 "Holocaust Literature for Children: 'Tell Me a Story, Tell Me the Truth' (Gina Roitman)"
- 1:55-2:15     Su Shih-Chieh, Assistant Professor of History, Liberal Arts Department, Delaware Valley College  
 "Reconstructing the truth of German past: the Objective Pursuit of Historical Truth of Leopold von Ranke"
- 2:15-2:25     Break
- 2:25-2:45     Laura Kline, Senior Lecturer, CMLLC, Wayne State University  
 "Truth in Trauma: Varlam Shalamov's Kolyma Tales"
- 2:50-3:10     Rayman Mohamed, Associate Professor, Geography and Urban Planning, Wayne State University  
 "The end of truth in planning in the coming era of the libertarian paternalistic planner"

#### Room C

- 3:45-4:45     **Plenary Session**  
 Moderator: Katheryn C. Maguire, Associate Professor, Communication, Wayne State University  
 Keynote Address: Lee Wilkins, Chair, Communication, Wayne State University  
 "Journalism's Truth: Transparency and Trust"



## A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

# 20TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

The Humanities Center is delighted to host a reception celebrating its 20th anniversary on September 27th, 2013 in the McGregor Memorial Conference Center from 5-7:30 PM. The reception will include a short formal program with a keynote address by Dr. Srinivas Aravamudan, Professor of English at Duke University, Dean of Humanities and Immediate past President of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI).

### Program Schedule

5:30 - 5:35	Call to Order: Walter F. Edwards, Director, Humanities Center
5:35 - 5:40	Opening Remarks: Margaret Winter, Interim Provost
5:40 - 5:55	Humanities Center by the Numbers: A Power Point Presentation Walter F. Edwards
6:00 - 6:20	Keynote: Dr. Srinivas Aravamudan, Professor of English at Duke University, Dean of Humanities and Immediate past President of the Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI)
6:25 - 6:35	Book Exhibition: Judith Arnold,
6:35 - 6:40	Closing Remarks: Walter F. Edwards, Director of the Humanities Center



## A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

## BROWN BAG COLLOQUIUM SERIES

September 04	<b>Michael H. Scrivener</b> , English, Distinguished Professor, <i>The San Domingue Slave Rebellion and Feminist Reform in John Thelwall's 'The Daughter of Adoption' (1801)</i>
September 10	<b>Kenneth Jackson</b> , Graduate School, Associate Dean, <i>Graduate Education at Wayne State University</i>
September 11	<b>Marc Kruman</b> , History, Chair, <i>Citizenship across the Curriculum</i>
September 17	<b>Ljiljana Progovac</b> , English Department and Linguistics Program, Professor and Director, <i>Language Evolution and Linguistic Fossils</i>
September 18	<b>Scott C. Richmond</b> , Film and Media Studies, Assistant Professor, <i>Vulgar Boredom: On Time, Detachment, and Some Boring Films by Andy Warhol and Christopher Nolan</i>
September 24	<b>Brady Baybeck</b> , Political Science, Associate Professor and MPA Director, <i>Power to the Powerless? Adopting District Representation In Detroit</i>
September 25	<b>Robert Ackerman</b> , Law School, Professor, <i>Corporate Communitarianism Worlds</i>
October 01	<b>Avis Vidal</b> , Urban Studies & Planning, Professor, <i>Living Cities: Reinventing Philanthropy to Serve Poor Communities</i>
October 02	<b>Robert Henderson</b> , English Department and Linguistics Program, Assistant Professor, <i>Language death, language revitalization, and the development agenda</i>
October 08	<b>Jorge L. Chinae</b> , History, Associate Professor, <i>Slavery and Free Labor at the End of Spanish "Constitutional Rule" in Puerto Rico 1837-1860</i>
October 09	<b>Robert P. Holley</b> , School of Library & Information Science, Professor, <i>Self-publishing for fun, profit, and your scholarly influence</i>
October 15	<b>Jennifer Olmsted</b> , Art and Art History, Associate Professor, <i>TBA</i>
October 16	<b>Sharon F. Lean</b> , Political Science, Assistant Professor, <i>Institutionalizing Accountability in Mexico</i>
October 17	<b>Laura Roelofs</b> , Music, Interim Associate Chair, <i>Playing With Ghosts: Editing the Unpublished Music of Charles Martin Loeffler</i>
October 22	<b>renée c. hoogland</b> , English, Associate Professor, <i>TBA</i>
October 23	<b>Zach Brewster</b> , Sociology, Assistant Professor, <i>The Moderating Effects of Morality in the Relationship between Perceptions of Interracial Tipping Differences and Discriminate Restaurant Service</i>
October 29	<b>Mary Cay Sengstock</b> , Sociology, <i>Michigan's Adult Abuse Law: Is It Working?</i>
October 30	<b>Elena M. Past</b> , CMLLC*, Associate Professor, <i>Michelangelo Antonioni and the Ecology of Form</i>
November 05	<b>Eric H. Troffkin</b> , Art and Art History, Assistant Professor, <i>The Authenticity of Multiples</i>
November 06	<b>Gwen Gorzelsky</b> , English, Associate Professor, <i>TBA</i>
November 12	<b>Sarah Coulson</b> , CMLLC*, Doctoral Student with Alina Cherry, Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, <i>"Things" by Georges Perec: Disillusion in Consumer Society</i>
November 13	<b>Peng Lianqing</b> , Sociology, Visiting Professor, <i>TBA</i>
November 19	<b>Michele Ronnick</b> , CMLLC*, Professor, <i>Coleman Young as Pericles: Understanding the Imagery of a Poster Dated 1986 by 'Regina'</i>
November 20	<b>Sara Swider</b> , Sociology, Assistant Professor, <i>TBA</i>
December 03	<b>Allen Batteau</b> , Anthropology, Associate Professor, <i>How Technologies Think</i>
December 04	<b>Robert Sedler</b> , Law School, Distinguished Professor, <i>The 2012 election and its aftermath: the eighteenth century constitution meets the two-party political system</i>
December 10	<b>Abdou Zouhir</b> , CMLLC*, Assistant Professor, <i>Contested Definitions of Arabization and Identity in Lebanon and Morocco</i>
December 11	<b>Garcia Hernán Manuel</b> , CMLLC*, Assistant Professor, <i>The Poetics of Low-Tech Hacking: Post-cyberpunk and Picaresque in Alex Rivera's Film Sleep Dealer</i>
January 07	<b>Margaret Winters</b> , Interim Provost, <i>Autonomous Syntax?</i>
January 08	<b>Donovan Hohn</b> , English, Associate Professor, <i>The Forgetting of Valmeyer</i>
January 14	<b>Stephen Chrisomalis</b> , Anthropology, Assistant Professor, <i>TBA</i>
January 15	<b>Kyu-Nahm Jun</b> , Political Science, Assistant Professor, <i>Local public participation amidst fiscal crisis</i>
January 21	<b>Mohamed Tarek El-Sharkawi</b> , CMLLC*, Assistant Professor, <i>The development of Modern Standard Arabic</i>
January 22	<b>Lisa Maruca</b> , English, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Undergraduate Studies, <i>TBA</i>
January 28	<b>Sean Hoskins</b> , Theatre and Dance, Full time staff & Part time Faculty Member, <i>What Dance Adds to the Creativity Question</i>
January 29	<b>Caroline Maun</b> , English, Associate Professor, <i>What Remains: A Reading of New Poetry</i>
February 04	<b>Mary E. Anderson</b> , Art and Art History, Assistant Professor, <i>Oprah Feelin': Technologies of Reception in the Commercial Flash Mob</i>
February 05	<b>Ollie Johnson</b> , Africana Studies, Associate Professor, <i>Malcolm X and the Cuban Revolution</i>
February 06	<b>David Merolla</b> , Sociology, Assistant Professor, <i>TBA</i>
February 11	<b>Yuson Jung</b> , Anthropology, Assistant Professor, <i>TBA</i>
February 12	<b>Norah Duncan IV</b> , Music, Interim Chair, <i>TBA</i>
February 18	<b>Tracy Neumann</b> , History, Assistant Professor, <i>Space &amp; Place in Recent US History</i>
February 19	<b>Hillary Fox</b> , English, Assistant Professor, <i>'Most like a flame': Anger and Monstrosity in Beowulf</i>
February 25	<b>Emery Stephens, Wendy Matthews and Joshua S. Duchan</b> , Assistant Professors of Music, <i>Making Music Across Campus in the 21st Century</i>
February 26	<b>Holly Feen-Calligan</b> , Art Education, Associate Professor and Art Therapy Program Coordinator, <i>Arts Corps Detroit: Student experiences in art based-service learning</i>
February 27	<b>Eldona May</b> , Music, PTFM, <i>Brazeal/culture impact of Spirituals</i>
March 04	<b>Simone Chess</b> , English, Assistant Professor, <i>Gender Labor: Co-constructing Genders in Early Modern Literature</i>
March 05	<b>Andrew Port</b> , History, Associate Professor, <i>TBA</i>
March 06	<b>Lance Gable</b> , Law School, Associate Dean, <i>Public Health and Redundancy</i>
March 18	<b>Haiyong Liu</b> , CMLLC*, Associate Professor, <i>Speaking the unspeakable in Chinese?</i>
March 19	<b>Paige Dunlap</b> , Education, Assistant Professor, <i>Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program: A discussion with College of Education professors</i>
March 25	<b>Elizabeth Faue</b> , History, Professor, <i>Murderous Work: Workplace Violence, Danger, and Risk in Historical Perspective.</i>
March 26	<b>Arifa K. Javed</b> , Sociology, Lecturer, <i>TBA</i>
March 27	<b>Katheryn Maguire</b> , Communication, Associate Professor, <b>Janelia Hudson</b> , Communication, Doctoral Student, <i>Who's the Patient, Me or You?': Examining Active Resistance during the Clinical Encounter</i>
April 01	<b>Susan E. Cancelosi</b> , Law School, Associate Professor, <i>Retiree Health Benefits after Health Reform</i>
April 02	<b>May Seikaly</b> , CMLLC*, Associate Professor, <i>Historical genesis of Reform and Democratization Movement in the Gulf</i>
April 08	<b>Donnie Johnson Sackey</b> , English, Assistant Professor, <i>Locating the Local in Civic Engagement</i>
April 09	<b>Ronald Brown</b> , Political Science, Associate Professor, <i>The influence that Neoliberalism has on Black Political Leadership in the City of Detroit</i>
April 15	<b>Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan</b> , Director, FLTC, <b>Alina Klin</b> , CMLLC*, Senior Lecturer; <b>Laura Kline</b> , CMLLC*, Senior Lecturer; <b>Julie Koehler</b> , CMLLC* GTA; <b>Felicia Lucht</b> , CMLLC*, Assistant Professor; and <b>Krysta Ryzewski</b> , Anthropology, Assistant Professor; <i>Revisiting "Layars" of Ethnic Cultures in Detroit: Initial findings from our pilot project</i>
April 16	<b>Jorgelina Corbatta</b> , CMLLC*, Professor, <i>Eroticism and Mysticism in the film 'The Holy Girl' by Lucrecia Martel</i>
April 17	<b>Daphne Ntiri</b> , Africana Studies, Associate Professor, <i>Literacy as gendered discourse: Engaging the voices of women in global societies</i>

\*Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

## A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

### FACULTY FELLOWSHIP COMPETITION



#### Explication

After the publication of Darwin's *Origin of Species* made the notion of survival widely known, it was extended to the social sphere in ethically and scientifically untenable ways as Social Darwinism, a concept that seems to continue at least latently in contemporary politico-economic thought that advocates minimal government interference with the market. The notion of survival has also been employed by philologists and linguistic anthropologists to discuss endangered languages as well as the development of phonetic and structural patterns in language generally in the context of historical linguistics. As archeologists traditionally explore physical traces of extinct cultures to reconstruct the latter based on their interpretations of the former, they deal in surviving remnants. Even the canon debates of literary scholars could be conceptualized in terms of survival as they concern which texts ought to become part of and remain in an imagined community's collective memory and thus survive not only in their physical form as books in libraries but also and especially that they are being read and discussed. After all, only those books that are read have the potential to impact a society's collective memory. Furthermore, archives and libraries are inherently concerned with the survival of their vast collections, i.e., the preservation of the physical matter from the brittle paper of illuminated manuscripts and folios to the constantly necessary transfer of electronic data to the most current modes of storage. Museums likewise seek to slow down the inevitable process of forgetting and thus to insure the survival of objects deemed valuable in a particular time and place by preserving them. To return again to the field of literature, survival has been a core subject in literary texts ranging from Defoe's novel *Robinson Crusoe* and the many *Robinsonades* it inspired to autobiographical and fictional accounts of slavery and accounts of Holocaust survival by writers like Elie Wiesel and Primo Levi. Moreover, such core American figures as the frontier hero and the self-made man that have been depicted in countless variations in both canonical and popular literature as well as television and cinema engage in struggles for their physical and economic survival that at times revives the ruthless ethics of Social Darwinism. More recently, the notion of survival and the figure of the survivor and the subject of survival became ubiquitous in American popular culture. The mass media representation of survival includes: TV Reality Shows like *Survivor*, post-apocalyptic cinema and disaster movies generally, interactive online video games, the populist feminism practiced on daytime TV talk shows like *Oprah*, and most of all self-help literature which advises anyone from housewives to CEOs how to best survive the slings and arrows of everyday life in late capitalism.

Deadline: April 18, 2014.

# A LOOK AHEAD: 2013 - 2014 ACTIVITIES

## **2014 Working Group Competition**

The Humanities Center announces the continuation of its program for working groups in the arts and humanities. The purpose of the program is to bring together faculty and advanced graduate students to explore shared scholarly or creative interests. Groups will meet regularly to share work in progress, to read and discuss texts, and otherwise address issues that arise in their own work or in the increasingly interdisciplinary humanistic and creative fields. Group members must be drawn from at least two humanities or arts departments.

To participate in this program, three or more core faculty members should submit a proposal. A typical working group would consist of several faculty, or faculty and graduate students, organized around a topic or theme chosen by the core members. Topics or themes could reflect any humanities or artistic interest, but those that have an interdisciplinary scope are particularly encouraged. Each funded working group would be expected to submit a brief year-end report and give a public Brown Bag presentation sponsored by the Humanities Center.

Deadline: October 4, 2013

## **2014 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship**

The Humanities Center and the Graduate School are proud to announce their collaboration on funding a Humanities Center Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. This annual fellowship will award \$15,000 to a humanities or arts doctoral candidate in the final stages of writing his/her dissertation. The fellowship also includes University health insurance coverage during the winter and spring/summer semesters.

The applicant must already be in the process of writing the dissertation and must complete all requirements, including the final defense, by the end of the Spring/Summer Semester 2013 or shortly thereafter. Up to three smaller awards of \$500 each can be made at the discretion of the sponsors. The fellowship award will be dispensed as monthly stipends between January and August.

Deadline: October 18, 2013.

## **2014 Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship**

Thanks to a generous endowment provided by former Provost Marilyn L. Williamson, the Humanities Center offers an annual Distinguished Faculty Fellowship to tenured faculty in the humanities as defined by the NEH. The award of this single \$20,000 fellowship is based on the merit of the individual research project proposed for the fellowship term; on the exceptional contribution the proposed project will make to the humanities and its potential for scholarly recognition and publication, exhibition or performance; and on two external recommendations in support of the project.

Consistent with the mission of the Humanities Center, interdisciplinary proposals are particularly encouraged, although all distinguished projects in the humanities will be fully considered. The Fellowship recipient will be asked to share results of the funded research in an award lecture to be organized during the year of (or following) the fellowship term.

Deadline: February 28, 2014.

## **2014 Resident Scholars' Program**

The Humanities Center of Wayne State University announces the continuation of its Resident Scholars Program. The aim is to create a community of humanities and arts faculty from different disciplines working in the same physical space at roughly the same time. Such an arrangement could facilitate the formation of valuable research networks and promote interdisciplinary collaborations and joint grant applications. Resident Scholars meet periodically to share progress, experiences, and emerging conclusions from their research or creative work. Resident Scholars will also be expected to keep office hours at the Center, making research collaboration possible. The program should be attractive to all full-time faculty, but faculty on sabbatical leave should find it particularly appealing.

Each office is equipped with a personal computer, and office furniture. Additionally, resident scholars have access to a network printer, the internet, a photocopier, and a fax machine. The Center also has a conference area.

Deadline: June 27, 2014





# Humanities Center

*Bringing Humanists Together for Collaborative Research*



The Humanities Center 2012-2013 Annual Report  
Designed by Parth Dholakia, Jennifer Leonard and Nikita Pathak  
Formatted by Jennifer Leonard  
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Photos displayed throughout this report were selected from the published images of structures in the Detroit's Cultural Center. Images of WSU's Reflecting Pool are on the front and back covers.