

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Humanities  
Center

# HUMANITIES CENTER

*Bringing Humanists Together  
for Collaborative Research*

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2226 Faculty/Administration Bldg. 656 W. Kirby Detroit, MI 48202  
Tel: 313 577.5471 Fax: 313 577.2843  
[www.research.wayne.edu/hum](http://www.research.wayne.edu/hum)

## Annual Report 2007-2008



Image taken from Campus Shots

# The Humanities Center



*Bringing Humanists  
Together  
for Collaborative Research*

## Mission Statement

Our mission at 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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# Humanities Center

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# A Message From the Director

## 2007-2008 Overview

*Director of the  
Humanities Center,  
Dr. Walter F. Edwards*



In the 2007-08 year the Center continued to solidify its position as a valued member of the humanities and arts community on this campus. In this regard, the most important news to report this year is that the Center was rechartered for six years. As its director, I am enormously pleased that the university has given the Center this vote of confidence in its work and mission. I thank the Academic Senate and its committees for this decision, and my staff, advisors and supporters for their assistance and support.

The rechartering process allowed the Center to examine its programs in relation to its charter and mission. The Self Study I prepared and the recommendations that emanated from the review committee provided many ideas for improving the effectiveness of the Center in fund-raising, budget management and administration.

This year also saw the appearance of the Center's book entitled *Remapping the Humanities: Identity, Community, Memory and (Post)Modernity* (published by Wayne State University in February 2008). It is an interdisciplinary volume which anthologizes sixteen essays and four introductions authored by WSU faculty. The essays resulted from projects originally funded by the Center through its faculty fellowships. The scope of the book illustrates the breadth of the Center's reach across the humanities and arts since it includes not only literary and social scientific articles but also paintings and musical compositions. The launching of this book at a reception in Alumni House on April 3rd was a joyous and important moment in the history of the Center. My thanks go to the editors, Mary Garrett, Sandra VanBurkleo and Heidi Gotfried for their hard work in managing this project, and to the authors for their scholarship and their patience.

Other accomplishments this year include the development of two new programs that will further enhance the Center's contribution to the intellectual life of this campus. The new **Open Competition**, to be launched in November 2008, will provide funding for those faculty pursuing cutting-edge, innovative and interdisciplinary research projects that do not fit the Center's annual themes. The other new project, the **Virtual Speakers Series**, will be more global in scope. Through it, the Center will use the sophisticated digital video-conferencing technology available on this campus to link our faculty and students virtually to international scholars at their home universities in sites around the world. The Center has already identified a leading international journalist to inaugurate this series in the fall of 2008. We hope these two programs will help the Center keep abreast of new trends in scholarship and communication.

This year also saw improvements to some of our regular programs. Our Brown Bag series, for instance, improved both quantitatively and qualitatively. This year we hosted 57 talks, the largest number in the Center's history. The program continued to involve speakers from the University of Windsor. This allowed us to continue facilitating scholarly links between faculty in our two universities. More importantly, the quality of talks improved discernibly, as did average attendance. We measured the increase in quality of these talks by the positive feedback my staff and I got from speakers and members of audience. Speakers indicated that the talks helped them to hone articles for publication, and attendees reported making new and enlightening interdisciplinary connections and identifying colleagues for possible collaborations.



## A Message From the Director 2007-2008 Overview

Other improvements include the fact that our Fall Symposium now benefits from a focused “call for papers,” supported by a framing explication, rather than personal invitations to faculty to make presentations. This approach has yielded nine excellent proposals for talks at our 2008 symposium on “Global Violence: Impact and Resolution” scheduled for November 21. The quality of this roster helped us recruit Professor John Vasquez, a distinguished political scientist from the University of Illinois, to keynote the event. We also have been able to improve the quality of our Resident Scholars experience through the initiation of a mentoring program in which senior residents (distinguished and full professors) mentored younger colleagues (assistant and associate professors). This year, for the first time, we opened the resident scholars round table talks to special faculty invitees who were familiar with the work of the presenters. This helped to enrich the discussions that followed each presentation.

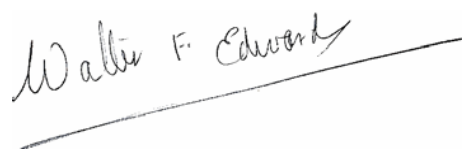
As expected, the Center also faced significant challenges this year, most significant being the challenge of finding new sources of income to support our work. Though our endowment principal has grown to approximately four million dollars, the cost of programs, equipment, personnel and office supplies has grown exponentially even as the percentage of our endowment income we are allowed to spend annually has been reduced. This has resulted in the virtual elimination of our spending reserves. To address this problem we are now seeking a naming donor for the Center. I feel that the Center has evolved into a prestigious institution with impressive academic and service accomplishments. For this reason, it would make a worthy memorial for the name of an appropriate philanthropist with an interest in the humanities and arts. We would also like to recruit new

members for our external Steering Committee. For the latter body, we are seeking community members who are interested in the humanities and who are willing to help us engage the wider community in our programs.

Finally I wish to join the rest of the WSU and Detroit community in thanking Dr. Reid for ten years of outstanding leadership of this university and in welcoming the incoming president Dr. Jay Noren to our university family. I was present in the audience on May 13, 2008 when Dr. Noren first spoke to the university community. I was impressed by the clarity of his vision for WSU and particularly by his support for interdisciplinary research. The Humanities Center will do all it can to help Dr. Noren succeed in his leadership of our fine university. Welcome Aboard!

My current staff (Jennifer Leonard, Secretary and Caitlin Richardson, Student Assistant) and I thank you all for your continued support of the Center, and wish you a productive summer and a successful 2008-09 academic year.

Regards,



Walter F. Edwards  
Director

# 2007-2008 Annual Report

## Summary of Programs

### **BROWN BAG TALKS**

Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, literally hundreds of Wayne State 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 a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 12:30-1:30 throughout the entire academic year. Brown Bag talks are free and open to the public.

### **RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

One of the Center's oldest programs, this program is open to all WSU full-time faculty in the humanities, arts, and related disciplines. Resident scholars are provided with an office in the Humanities Center, a computer, and other office furnishings. Additionally, monthly "roundtable" meetings allow our residents to discuss their current research in an engaging, interdisciplinary environment. Residents are eligible to apply for up to \$800 for travel to conferences to report on their approved projects, or for payment for research assistance.

### **FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS**

The Faculty Fellowship Competition, held in the spring, is based on an annual theme. The Humanities Center's Advisory Board selects the theme and prepares an explication for our Faculty Fellowship Competition. The theme for 2008-2009 is *Hauntings*. Awarded Fellowships now average \$6,000 and recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows Conference.

### **FACULTY FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE**

The Faculty Fellows Conference is held in the winter semester. Internal Faculty Fellows Conferences speakers are the recipients of fellowships in the previous year. The conference allows the fellowship recipients to present the results of their funded work and to receive feedback from the audience. In addition to fellowship recipients from WSU, the center invites a distinguished keynoter who is an expert in the area addressed by the theme. The 2008 conference theme was *Sovereignty, Justice and Law across the Disciplines*.

### **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 a distinguished keynoter who is an expert in the area addressed by the theme. This year's theme was *Silence and Silencing*.

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

This 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 the use of conference rooms and up to \$800 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational purposes.

### **VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

The Center, in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts, the Law School and the College of Fine, Performing, and Communication Arts invites applications from scholars or artists who are affiliated with other universities and who hold the Ph.D. or equivalent degree for their field. Visits may range in duration from one month to one semester. No stipend is attached, but a Visiting Scholar who stays one full semester is eligible for a grant of up to \$3,000 for miscellaneous expenses related to his or her work. The visitor will be assigned an office in the Center and assistance with obtaining library privileges. In return, he or she will be expected to give a talk on his or her project.

### **EDWARD M. WISE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**

Through the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship the Humanities Center offers \$12,000 in support each year to one student in the final stages of writing his or her dissertation. The Center may offer additional awards, each worth up to \$500, to deserving students who apply for the fellowship. This year the Edward Wise Estate has generously agreed to support the fellowship with a grant of \$6,000.

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

The Center will budget up to \$3,000 in the 2007-2008 academic year to support travel to conferences for grad students. In an effort to spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center will now budget \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester. Each award recipient will be funded up to \$300 for travel.

# 2007-2008 Annual Report Resident Scholars

*The Humanities Center's annual competition for Resident Scholars in the 2007-2008 year attracted applications from across the university. Nine research projects were selected from a broad range of specialties. Scholars used the space and resources of the Center and collaborated for feedback and professional growth. Below are short statements from each Resident Scholar describing his or her achievements during 2007-2008.*



## **Ronald Aronson**

Distinguished Professor, History

I spent a very good year at the Humanities Center, during which I accomplished the following: I completed the final two chapters of my book, "Living without God"; I did revisions, copyediting, and proofreading on the book manuscript; I wrote two articles based on the book's key chapters; and I wrote and presented two papers on other topics, one of these as one of a half-dozen invited symposium participants at the University of Florida. This was a chaotic year not only because my department, Interdisciplinary Studies, was dissolved, but because the move was handled in such a way that those of us heading into the History Department had no offices or departmental location for two full months. Fortunately, the Humanities Center was a welcoming, supportive, peaceful environment, allowing me not only to focus on my scholarly work but also to fulfill my other responsibilities as a faculty member. I would have been unable to function without it. At the beginning of my tenure I gave a talk on my new book's main ideas to the Center's Fellows, and the discussion was useful for sharpening and clarifying my ideas.

During my years at Wayne State University, my office has not usually been a place in which to concentrate on scholarly writing. The Humanities Center provided me with a place where, for the first time in my career, I was able to sit and think and write in my office for long periods without distractions or interruptions. I have thanked the Center and its director, Walter Edwards, in the acknowledgments page of my new book, and I want to repeat my appreciation here.

## **Eric H. Ash**

Assistant Professor, History

During the winter term, I have made excellent progress on both of my current projects. A six-week trip to London gave me the opportunity to complete a great deal of archival

*Ronald Aaronson completed his book entitled "Living without God" as a Resident Scholar in 2007-2008.*



research for my project on the draining of the English Fens during the seventeenth century, and should allow me to begin writing the first few chapters of the book. It is my hope that this book, which will examine one of the largest "public works" projects of early modern Europe, will cast new light on the political, social, and environmental history of seventeenth-century England. Back at WSU, I was also able to review drafts of all the essays that will be published in a collection I am editing, entitled "Expertise and the Early Modern State." I am grateful to the Humanities Center for their support of my work.

## **Clifford Clark**

Distinguished Professor, Economics

The Resident Scholars program prompted me to prepare a paper for discussion in the Center on the evolution of economics of development. Although the paper was intended to show the influence of ideology on policy recommendations of developed countries to those in the process of development, scholars' comments led me to prepare a Brown Bag presentation on the immediate question

# 2007-2008 Annual Report

## Resident Scholars



*Resident Scholars Roundtables were held once per month in the Humanities Center's suite. Each Resident Scholar volunteered in advance 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 round-table discussions to provide extra, invaluable feedback.*

of US foreign policy. There, I argued that development could again, as in the post-war years of the Marshall Plan, serve as an alternative to military power as a source of national security. And that in turn suggests a further paper on the intermediate links between poverty and violence, which I intend to write during the next few months.

I am impressed with the work of the Humanities Center and congratulate Wayne State University for offering such a stimulating effort on behalf of scholarship.

### **Donayle Griffin**

Assistant Professor, Communication

This was my second year with the Humanities Center. My time here enabled me to have rich discussions with scholars across a number of disciplines about my research projects. These conversations and subsequent meetings have helped me to bring clarity to my research program, develop a paper for an international conference and focus my book proposal.

### **Ollie Johnson**

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies

I have enjoyed the quiet and supportive environment of the Humanities Center. Professor Walter Edwards, Kelly Bennett, and Jennifer Leonard were especially helpful in supporting me as I researched several aspects of my Brazil research topic. During both semesters, I worked on a book chapter, "Afro-Brazilian Politics: White Supremacy, Black Struggle, and Affirmative Action," which will be published in an edited volume, *Democratic Brazil Revisited*, this fall. Throughout the academic year, I also prepared papers and lectures for conferences. In March 2008, I presented my research on Black Brazilian politics at the Brazilian Studies Association meeting in New Orleans and the National Council for Black Studies in Atlanta. Both presentations were well received. I thank my fellow Resident Scholars for their critiques of my work.

*Below: Donyale Griffin, Assistant Professor, Communication and her research assistant used her Resident Scholar office space to work on Dr. Griffin's project, during the 2007-2008 academic year.*



### **Haiyong Liu**

Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures and Director of the Confucius Institute

- (1) I have started working on a book proposal: *A Generative Approach of Second Language and the Pedagogy of Chinese Grammar*. I have been doing literature review and categorizing students' mistakes.
- (2) My new book *Bu-Yu, complex-predicates in Mandarin Chinese*, based on my dissertation, was published by LinCom Europa in January 2008.
- (3) My papers "Learning to compose: Teaching writing to higher-level Chinese heritage learners" and "Expletive negation in Chinese Cha-Dian-Mei 'miss-bit-not' Structure" have been accepted by *ITL: International Journal of Applied Linguistics* and *Cahiers de Linguistique - asie Orientale*, respectively.
- (4) I published a book review: Van den Berg, Marinus and Wu, Guo's. *The Chinese Particle Le – Discourse construction and pragmatic marking in Chinese. Modern Language Journal*.
- (5) I gave several talks on Chinese Linguistics including: "Expletive negation in Mandarin", presented at both the 20<sup>th</sup> North American council of Chinese Linguistics (NACCL) at Ohio State University in April 2008 and the University of Kansas in February 2008 and "Complex Adjectives in Mandarin" at the 37<sup>th</sup> Michigan Linguistics Society Annual Conference (MLS) at Eastern Michigan



# 2007-2008 Annual Report 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. They were each provided with a private office with a computer, computer table, desk and telephone and received clerical support from the Center's staff.*



University in November 2007.

I also had the opportunity to give two Brown Bag talks: "Integrating On-line Learning in Foreign Language Instruction" with Sandra Hobbs, Sangeetha Gopalakrishna, and Peirluigi Erbaggio and "Translations before the Translation" with Mary Garrett.

## **Barry J. Lyons**

Associate Professor, Anthropology

My Humanities Center project is a study of the impact of the Ecuadorian indigenous movement on nonindigenous Ecuadorian attitudes and identities, based on fieldwork during the summers of 2007 and 2008. I used some of my time at the Humanities Center learning to use voice recognition software to transcribe interviews. I then worked with transcripts to prepare some preliminary analysis, which I presented at an international conference in Ecuador. This was helpful in keeping me up to date with current developments in Ecuadorian racial politics and scholarship. While in Ecuador for the conference, I made a quick trip to the provinces where my research is based and worked on arrangements for this coming summer's fieldwork. At the Humanities Center, I particularly appreciated the opportunity to interact with other Resident Scholars at the monthly roundtables and informally. These interactions stimulated my thinking about broad, comparative issues and especially about similarities and differences in racial classification in Brazil and Ecuador.

## **Charles J. Stivale**

Distinguished Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

As a Resident Scholar, my accomplishments have consisted in completing a book-length translation (from Italian) of Franco Berardi Bifo's biography of Félix Guattari entitled Félix, in collaboration with Prof. Giuseppina Mecchia, University of Pittsburgh. The translation and edition is forthcoming from Palgrave MacMillan. The other project that I

*Below: Ollie Johnson in his office at the Humanities Center.*



worked on is a book-length study tentatively entitled Making Men: Constructing Masculinity in Nineteenth Century French Narrative. During this academic year, I developed material for the introduction and the opening section, and presented a Brown Bag lecture in the fall on a chapter about the Brothers Goncourt.

## **Matthew Wolf-Meyer**

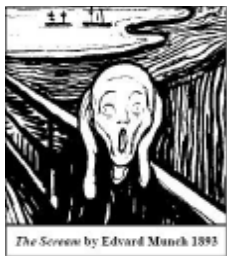
Assistant Professor, Anthropology

In the academic year 2007-2008, I primarily focused on the completion of my book monograph, Nocturnes: Sleep, Medicine and the Production of American Everyday Life, which I am submitting presently to the University of California Press for consideration. In addition, I had two articles accepted for publication, "Sleep, Signification, and the Abstract Body of Allopathic Medicine" in *Body & Society*, and "Precipitating Pharmacologies and Capital Entrapments: Narcolepsy and the Strange Case of Provigil" in *Medical Anthropology*. Four other article manuscripts are currently in preparation or under review.

Additionally, I began work on my second book project, Atmospheres: Global Symptoms of Breathing, Space and Public Health and submitted a grant to the National Science Foundation to support my research over 2008-2011.

# 2007 Fall Symposium

## Silence and Silencing



*The 2007 Fall Symposium centered around the theme of “Silence and Silencing”. Speakers from WSU and from other universities came together to discuss aspects of the theme from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Silence was examined from historical, psychological, religious and legal point of views. It was also addressed by reviewing important literature and looking at today’s publishing industry.*

### FALL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

**ROBERT THOMAS**  
Welcoming Remarks  
Dean of College of Liberal  
Arts and Sciences  
Wayne State University

**KEVIN HART**  
Keynote Speaker  
Professor of Christian  
Studies at the University  
of Virginia

### FALL SYMPOSIUM INTERNAL PRESENTERS

**LISABETH HOCK**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor of  
Classical and Modern  
Languages, Literatures and  
Cultures

**KEN JACKSON**  
Speaker  
Associate Professor of  
English

**KATHRYNE LINDBERG**  
Speaker  
Professor of English

**THOMAS FEATHERSTONE**  
Speaker  
Archivist III, Archives of  
Labor and Urban Affairs

**CAROLINE MAUN**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor of  
English

## 2007 FALL SYMPOSIUM ON SILENCE AND SILENCING

**Theme Explication:** Paradoxically, “silence” has come to express many of the concerns of modernity writ large. In Edvard Munch’s famous painting *The Scream*, for example, we *experience* - if not necessarily hear - the alienation, anomie, solitude, and social fragmentation associated with the modern world. Indeed, scholars of modern art have traced the development of this paradoxical expression with great care and eloquence. Amplifying this speaking silence, it has now long been noted, constitutes a crucial element in what many refer to as our ‘postmodern’ condition. The challenge to addressing the condition of silence imposed on us by alienating effects of modernity was not to plumb the depth’s of Munch’s distorted subject and translate the scream of silence into recognizable language but to let silence speak for itself. The political, historical, sociological aim of much scholarly work in the late twentieth century was to allow marginalized or silenced groups to speak, and speak for themselves. Psychiatry, psychology, and social work, for example, became much more attuned to the violence a therapeutic voice could do to a silent subject. But what does it really mean to let silence or the silenced speak? Are we really hearing the sounds of silence more distinctly now? Or is this a postmodern illusion? Have we really been mistranslating and misrepresenting silence and sound? Our government is listening to us certainly, but not always when and where we would like. What does the law have to say

*Below: Keynote Speaker, Kevin Hart  
of the University of Virginia*



*Above: Ken Jackson performed a double duty as a moderator and a speaker at the Fall Symposium.*

about “silence”? *And silencing?* Anglo-American analytic philosophy has long resisted the notion that silence ‘speaks’ as nonsense; if silence speaks, it is not ‘silence’! Perhaps the problem is our attempt to understand the problem purely in a modernist context at the expense of pre-modern history. Saying the unsayable and, in turn, listening to what does not correspond to language has a long, long history, dating back to the ancient world and its apophatic, religious discourses.

### THE EXPERIENCE OF SILENCE

Our keynote speaker, **Kevin Hart**, began the 2007 Fall Symposium by asking the question: In what ways does silence give itself? This simple question ramifies endlessly, and it turns out that experience presumes silence and, more, presumes different shadings of silence. For on the one hand, silence is a means of manifestation while, on the other hand, it is sometimes what is made manifest. Similarly, there is a “silence of” and a “silence for,” and, perhaps most interestingly, silence can be construed negatively and affirmatively. The poets and mystics tell us a great deal about silence, and some of their ideas were brought into the conversation and analyzed.

### GIVING VOICE TO THE SILENCE OF MELANCHOLY, KIERKEGAARD AND SILENCE IN THE “TRIAL” OF SHYLOCK

**Lisabeth Hock** explored the subject of melancholy in *Giving Voice to the Silence of Melancholy: The Friendship of Bettina von Arnim and Karoline von*

# 2007 Fall Symposium Silence and Silencing

*The 2008 Fall Symposium will address the subject of “Global Violence: Impact and Resolution.” Collective political violence with global or international implications is a major concern of the world today. Several WSU faculty will present papers on the theme for the Center’s 2008 Fall Symposium on November 21, 2008.*

**Günderode.** Throughout its long history, melancholy has been associated with both artistic productivity and withdrawn silence. Her paper explored the depiction of melancholy as both a source of poetic expression and as a form of silence in Bettina von Arnim’s 1840 epistolary novel, *Günderode*. The novel is based on the letters that Arnim exchanged with the poet Karoline von Günderode (1780–1806) before the latter committed suicide in 1806.

**Ken Jackson** examined *the Merchant of Venice* and, in particular, the famous “trial” scene and the so called “forced conversion” of Shylock to Christianity in *Kierkegaard and Silence in the “trial” of Shylock*. His intent was to illuminate for the first time Shakespeare’s fascination with the story of Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac in Genesis 22. This reading is possible, however, only if we attend to an extraordinary moment of silence and hesitation in the famous trial scene, a moment of silence that throws the otherwise anti-semitic play back to Genesis 22.

**Kathryne Lindberg** and **Thomas Featherstone** presented *Shot in Silence: Labor Photography and Commentary in Black and Red, 1932-1934*. At virtually the same time as the Ford Hunger March and initial union and unemployed organizing efforts in Detroit, Walter and Victor Reuther, amateur photographers and future labor professionals, shot film of Detroit’s Black Bottom and the Gorky Ford Motor Plant in the USSR that cry out to be brought into interdisciplinary discussions. Official labor history has been virtually silent about the Soviet and domestic, youthful political affiliations and artistic adventures of these labor leaders.

## SHOT IN SILENCE, SHATTERING SILENCE IN “THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK” BY W. E. B. DU BOIS, THE SILENCE OF THE QUEEN

**Caroline Maun** focused on *Shattering Silence in The Souls of Black Folk* by W. E. B. Du Bois. One way of understanding the life and work of W.E.B. Du Bois is to see his main project as shattering silences: silences about the real plight of African Americans, about the racial injustices that permeated throughout the U.S. largely unchecked and the deathly silence about blackness in general.

**Jennifer Sheridan Moss** investigated *The Silence of the Queen: How Plutarch and a Bunch of Others Silence Cleopatra*. The written history of Cleopatra begins in earnest with the Greek author, Plutarch,

*Below: Anca Vlasopolos from WSU’s  
English Department*



who in his *Life of Antony*, details how the Queen of Egypt led to the downfall of her Roman lover. Plutarch describes Antony as “an appendage of the woman”; the *Life of Antony*, in general, ascribes much of Antony’s fall from grace and power to his unnatural, and un-Roman, attachment to Cleopatra.

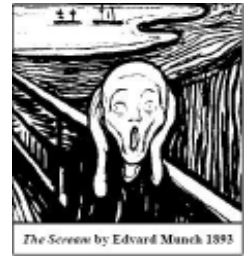
## THE ‘UNSILENCING’ OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, THE FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT OF SILENCE

**Rosalyn Abt Schindler** examined *the Unsilencing of Holocaust Survivors: Voices of Rebirth*. Holocaust survivors were silenced fundamentally and profoundly: their identity, their citizenship, and their humanity were taken from them, leaving them only with a silent scream. What is the significance, then, of encouraging a whole group of silenced individuals—the survivors—“to speak, and to speak for themselves”?

**Bob Sedler** explored *The First Amendment Right of Silence*. The First Amendment recognizes that the values embodied in the constitutional protection of freedom of speech and freedom of association mandate a right of silence.

## HOW TO SILENCE NON-COMMERCIAL WRITERS: THE PUBLISHING BUSINESS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

**Anca Vlasopolos** investigated the various types of silencing in the contemporary publishing business including the demise of independent presses and the demands for huge profit margins by corporate publishers.



FALL SYMPOSIUM  
INTERNAL PRESENTERS  
(CON’T)

**JENNIFER SHERIDAN MOSS**  
Speaker  
Associate Professor of  
Classic and Modern  
Languages, Literatures  
and Cultures

**ROSALYN ABT SCHINDLER**  
Speaker  
Associate Professor of  
Classical and Modern  
Languages, Literatures and  
Cultures

**ROBERT SEDLER**  
Speaker  
Distinguished Professor of  
Law

**ANCA VLASOPOLOS**  
Speaker  
Professor of English



## 2008 Faculty Fellows Conference

# Sovereignty, Justice and the Law across Disciplines



*Each spring the recipients of the previous year's annual Faculty Fellowships participate in a conference based on that year's theme. The 2008 conference addressed the issues of sovereignty and justice by examining the validity and morality of modern international and national laws, affirmative action in Brazil and eighteenth-century British naval practices.*

### CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**NANCY BARRETT**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Senior Vice President and Provost, Wayne State University

**JEREMY WALDRON**

**Keynote Speaker**

Law, New York University

**OLLIE JOHNSON**

**Speaker**

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies

**DENVER BRUNSMAN**

**Speaker**

Assistant Professor, History

**CHRISTOPHER PETERS**

**Speaker**

Associate Professor, Law

**BRAD ROTH**

**Speaker**

Associate Professor, Political Science and Law

**ERICA BEECHER-MONAS**

**Moderator**

Professor, Law School

**AVIS VIDAL**

**Moderator**

Professor, Geography and Urban Planning

## 2008 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE ON SOVEREIGNTY, JUSTICE AND THE LAW ACROSS DISCIPLINES

**Theme Explication:** The relationship between sovereignty, law, and justice is, of course, an ancient concern, but it has been receiving significant academic attention across disciplines for the last twenty years or so. The sovereign is, in some sense, an “exception” to the rule of law, capable in states of emergency, when the law is suspended for some reason, of making law or, at least “decisions,” without the law. Modern democratic nation-states have tended to avoid or ignore the problem of sovereignty in their own governments, and, for the most part, post-WWII, were able to do so. But the end of the twentieth century has produced more and more “states of emergency” or “states of crisis” that make the problem of the sovereign exception increasingly visible and impossible to ignore, revealing the fragility of cherished and seemingly foundational concepts like democracy and citizenship. During the Katrina hurricane and flooding, for example, modern “citizens” can quickly become “refugees”, without rights or privileges, at the mercy of the sovereign power. Other questions have emerged that highlight the persistent paradoxes of sovereignty and its relationship to law and justice: To what authority, outside the law, does one appeal when a democratic presidential race ends in a virtual tie? To what authority does one appeal to judge disputes between two “sovereign” states, including democratically elected sovereign states? What political relations are possible when large groups of people do not respect or adhere to the boundaries and logics of sovereign nation-states, appealing, for example, to a higher “sovereign” either in the form of a deity or an imagined political entity? Is there a legitimate distinction between the violence that founds and sustains a democratic sovereign state and other acts of political violence?

Implied in all of these questions is a sense that justice, or a just system, exists somewhere. Ultimately, however, this sense of “justice” that operates in the background of so many political and legal discussions is nowhere to be found in concrete terms or actions. We have no “justice” without law, but no law without the sovereign: and the sovereign is violent, but not necessarily just. Indeed, a sense of justice drives and informs much

academic work in the humanities and while that sense of justice is often experienced and invoked, it is rarely examined. The paradox of the sovereign provides a focused way to address justice. While many of these questions seemingly point toward specific disciplines – law, political science, history, philosophy – the troublesome logic of the relationship between sovereign, law, and justice is certainly not limited to just the legal and political sphere.

### SOVEREIGN STATES AND THE RULE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

**Jeremy Waldron**, the Keynote Speaker, began the conference by asking the questions: Should we apply the requirements of the Rule of Law to law in the international realm? Are the requirements the same in this context as they are in the law of a particular country? We usually associate the Rule of Law with a demand for certainty, predictability and settlement in legal affairs, with requirements of clarity and prospectivity, with generality and legal equality, and with principles of institutional regularity and natural justice. Do these requirements make sense in the international context? There is no world government; there is no overarching sovereign in the international arena. Does this make the Rule of Law easier or harder?



*Above: Keynote Speaker **Jeremy Waldron**, New York University*



# 2008 Faculty Fellows Conference

## Sovereignty, Justice and the Law across Disciplines

*The Faculty Fellows Conference was held on April 11, 2008. Each talk was followed by a Question and Answer period to encourage interaction between the speakers and audience members.*



### AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND RACIAL JUSTICE IN BRAZIL

**Ollie Johnson** explored affirmative action in contemporary Brazilian politics. Governments, universities, and private institutions throughout the country have proposed, debated, and in many cases implemented policies to include members of the national population who had been excluded, under-represented or simply absent. Women, Afro-descendants, public high school graduates, indigenous people, the poor, and the disabled have often been the target beneficiary groups. Despite the good intentions of its earliest sponsors, affirmative action has become an intensely polarizing public policy issue. This lecture emphasized that affirmative action is a step on the path to racial justice in Brazil.

### THE EVIL NECESSITY: BRITISH NAVAL IMPRESSMENT IN THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY ATLANTIC WORLD

**Denver Brunzman** examined the legality of British naval impressment, or forced service, in the eighteenth-century Atlantic World. Even as the practice helped the Royal Navy to control the seas against its imperial rivals, it tore sailors from their families, destabilized Atlantic seaports, and played crucial roles in both the American Revolution and War of 1812. At the heart of the controversy over impressment was a simple question: was it legal? If so, was it just, or did it violate traditional British liberty? A diverse group of Enlightenment thinkers, including Voltaire, David Hume, and Benjamin Franklin, all weighed in on these questions.



*Assistant Professor Denver Brunzman, History, WSU*

### POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY AND LEGALITY

**Christopher Peters** investigated popular sovereignty and legality – in particular, legal rights entrenched in a constitution – that often are thought to conflict with each other in a way that mirrors the supposed tension between individual autonomy and legal authority. Both perceived conflicts, however, rest in part upon the problematic idea that the law knows better than legal subjects what to do in particular cases. In fact, legal authority is best justified as a means of resolving disputes about what to do in particular cases. This dispute-resolving account of law dissolves the autonomy-authority dichotomy, and it suggests a way to accommodate popular sovereignty and constitutional rights: Judicially enforced constitutional rights might serve as a relatively neutral means of settling disagreements about the relationship between political majorities and political minorities.

### SOVEREIGN EQUALITY AND MORAL DISAGREEMENT

**Brad Roth** argued that for those who impute to the international legal order an inherent purpose to establish a universal justice that transcends the boundaries of territorial communities, the legal prerogatives associated with state sovereignty represent impediments to the global advance of legality. Sovereignty thus appears as the unconquered domain: a realm of lawlessness that must recede for international law to advance. This view, however, tends to neglect persistent and profound, albeit bounded, disagreement within the international community as to the requirements of justice. An alternative conception of international order predicates peace and cooperation on continued respect for each political unit's capacity to make and enforce the ineluctably contentious decisions needed to structure social life.

The international order's pluralism should never be confused with the "gorgeous mosaic" pluralism of the liberal imagination, in which an overarching unity as to "the right" renders inoffensive, and even enriching, the persistence of differences over "the good." A duty not to intervene in a foreign political community's internal conflict, so far as that duty extends, is a duty to respect patterns of coercion, and even violence, within a collectivity of which one is not a member. As long as profound disagreement about justice remains part of the human condition, an international pluralism, even in its ideal form, will at moments be a tense and even ugly pluralism, an accommodation among political communities dominated by incompatible positions on matters of justice and injustice, freedom and tyranny, and, ultimately, life and death.

Fall 2007

## Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*The Humanities Center in the 2007-2008 year hosted a wide variety of Brown Bag talks. The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series consisted of fifty-seven talks given by Wayne State University faculty members and faculty from the University of Windsor. Abstracts for talks are posted on the Center's Web site and can be accessed at [www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown\\_bag/07-08.html](http://www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown_bag/07-08.html).*

September 11: **Robert Burgoyne**, Professor, English  
“World Trade Center and United 93 - Traumatic Historical Film?”

September 12: **Sharon F. Lean**, Assistant Professor, Political Science  
“Protest and the Public Sphere in Mexico”

September 18: **Susan Frekko**, Lecturer, Anthropology  
“Ideologies of Language in Catalonia”

September 19: **Max Nelson**, Associate Professor, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, University of Windsor  
“300 and the Ancient and Modern Idealization of the Spartans”

September 25: **Ljiljana Progovac**, Professor, English  
“Sex and Syntax: Explaining Human Grammars through Evolutionary Forces”

September 26: **Kathryne Lindberg**, Professor, English, & **Thomas Featherstone**, Archivist III, Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs  
“Shot in Silence: Labor Photography and Commentary in Black and Red, 1932-34”

October 2: **Karen Tonso**, Associate Professor, Education & **Jorge Prospero**, Detroit Country Day, “Poetics from the Heart”

October 9: **Charles Stivale**, Distinguished Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
“Boyz 2 Men: The Collaborative Erotics of the Brothers Goncourt”

*Max Nelson, Associate Professor of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Windsor*



*Arifa Javed, Sociology*



October 10: **Jeff Rebudal**, Assistant Professor, Dance  
“Reinventing Opera: The Role of Dance and Choreography in Contemporary Opera Productions”

October 16: **Thomas Kohn**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
“The Stagecraft of Seneca”

October 17: **Arifa Javed**, Lecturer, Sociology “Parenting and Parallel Socialization among Immigrant Children”

October 23: **Mary Garrett**, Associate Professor, Communication, & **Haiyong Liu**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
“Translations before the Translation”

October 24: **Brad Roth**, Associate Professor, Political Science and Law  
“Coming to Terms with Ruthlessness: Sovereign Equality and the Limits of International Criminal Justice”

October 30: **Terese Volk**, Associate Professor, Music  
“The Works Progress Administration Manuscript Collection in the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Music Library”

October 31: **Heather Dillaway**, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
“What is ‘Successful Aging’ in Michigan Communities?”

November 6: **Elizabeth Faue**, Professor, History  
“The Shaping Up Years: Labor Reporting, Working-Class Culture Politics, and Labor Movement Survival after World War I”

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*Many Brown Bag presenters have expressed gratitude for feedback they received from the faculty and students who attended their talks. They particularly benefit from the perspectives of faculty from other disciplines. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks.*

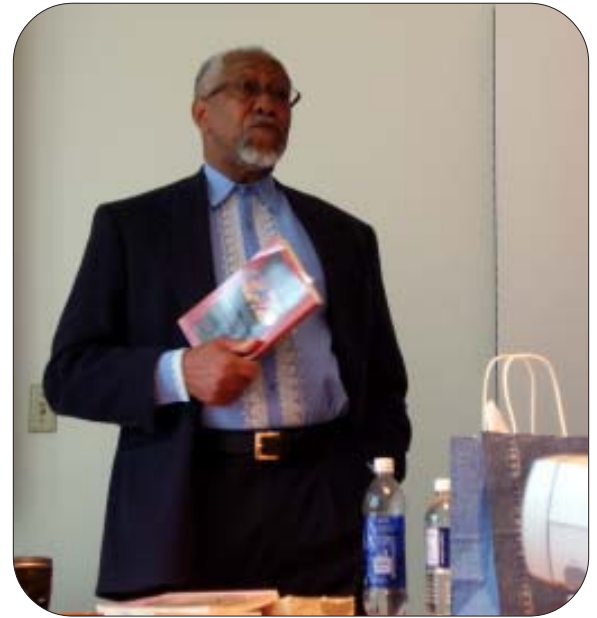
November 7: **Jose A. Rico-Ferrer**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
**“The Spanish Galateo: When Jokes and Laughter Become a Serious Matter”**

November 13: **Lavinia Hart**, Assistant Professor, Theatre & **Christopher Collins**, Associate Professor, Music  
**“‘Translations’ by Brian Friel: Directing an Interdepartmental and Community Collaboration to Expand the Theme of Translation on Multiple Levels”**

November 14: **Avis Vidal**, Professor, Geography and Urban Planning  
**“Contemporary Approaches to Neighborhood Revitalization”**

November 21: **Matthew Wolf-Meyer**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology  
**“Intimacies: Sleep, Families, and Disease”**

November 27 - **Elena Past**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
**“The Dying Diva: Violent Ends for Clara Calamai in Visconti’s *Osessione* and Argento’s *Profondo rosso*”**



Guerin Montilus, Anthropology

November 28: **Suzanne Hilgendorf**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
**“International Media and the English Language: The Linguistic Impact of Hollywood in Germany”**

December 4: **Lothar Spang**, Librarian IV, University Libraries & **Deborah Tucker**, Librarian II, University Libraries  
**“Chapbooks: Institutional Repository Inspires Urban K-12 Student Poets”**

December 5: **Myra Tawfik**, Professor, Law, University of Windsor  
**“A Connecticut Yankee in Montreal: Mark Twain’s Adventures with Canadian Copyright Law”**

December 11: **John Corvino**, Associate Professor, Philosophy  
**“The Best Argument Against Same-Sex Marriage (and why it doesn’t work)”**

December 12: **Anca Vlasopolos**, Professor, English  
**“The New Bedford Samurai: Reading, Discussion, and Book Signing”**

December 18: **Ross J. Pudaloff**, Associate Professor, English  
**“We have to live upon what we can catch’: Mordecai Noah and She Would Be a Soldier”**



Matthew Wolf-Meyer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology



# The Year in Photos



Above: **Leslie Howsam**, Professor of History was one of six University of Windsor faculty to participate in our Brown Bag Series this year.



Right: **Bill Harris**, English and **Mary Paquette-Abt**, Art History talk after Dr. Harris' reading. One of the Humanities Center's main goals is to foster interdisciplinary conversations like this one.



Above: **Robert Sedler**, spoke at the Humanities Center's Fall Symposium on "Silence and Silencing" November 9, 2007 at McGregor.



Above: Director **Walter Edwards** at the 2008 Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes' Annual Conference held on March 14th and 15th in St. Louis, Missouri at Washington University.



Above: **Johnny Allen Jr.** delighted the audience by performing a compilation of his works. **Norah Duncan IV**, invited him to attend a Brown Bag talk in his honor hosted by the Humanities Center on April 9th.

Below: **Roslyn Abt Schindler** shows the Brown Bag audience images based on her talk "Border Crossing to Zbaszyn: A Holocaust Tale of Two Countries".



Above: **Kelly Bennett** left us this year after serving the Center outstandingly as a student assistant for three years. She graduated and is seeking employment consistent with her degrees in Criminal Justice and English. Good Luck Kelly!



# 2007-2008 Events The Year in Photos



*Left: Performers for Dr. Frances Brockington's Brown Bag "Art Song: Uniquely American" entertaining the audience.*

*Below: Victoria Abboud & James Buccellato, Edward M. Wise dissertation fellow and awardee respectively holding certificates awarded after their presentations at the Humanities Center's annual Edward M. Wise dissertation awards luncheon.*



*Right: Caroline Maun and Walter Edwards attended the final Advisory Board meeting for the 2007-2008 Academic Year on May 5, 2008. Caroline Maun, a departing member, is displaying her Certificate of Recognition presented for her service.*



*Above: Robert Thomas, Dean of CLAS and Sharon Vasquez, Dean of CFPCA congratulating the Humanities Center on the release of its book "Remapping the Humanities: Identity, Community, Memory, (Post) Modernity" at McGregor April 9, 2008. Below: Mary Garrett, an editor, thanking the editors and contributors for making the dream of having a Humanities Center book come to fruition. She also thanked the speakers and guest who attended the celebration of the book's release.*



*Above: Small holiday gathering in the Humanities Center before closure in December.*



*Left: The Edward M. Wise Luncheon prior to this year's Faculty Fellows Conference.*



*Above: Image of the cover of "Remapping the Humanities: Identity, Community, Memory, (Post)Modernity" edited by Mary Garrett, Heidi Gottfried, and Sandra F. VanBurkleo.*

Winter 2008

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*Below: Perry Mars, Africana Studies*



January 8: **Michael Scrivener**, Professor and Guggenheim Awardee, English

**“Rosa Matilda and ‘Jew’ King: Poetry, Gothic Novels and Gonefs in the Romantic Era”**

January 9: **Mysoon Rizk**, Associate Professor, Art, University of Toledo

**“Why Look at ‘Animals in Pants’? The Posthumanist Case of David Wojnarowicz”**

January 15: **Robert Nelson**, Professor, History, University of Windsor

**“A German in the North American Prairies: Max Sering and the Concept of Inner Colonization”**

January 22: **Leslie Howsam**, Professor, History, University of Windsor

**“Discipline and Narrative: British Publishers and Historical Knowledge 1850-1950”**

January 23: **Thomas Abowd**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology

**“Colonizing Palestine: The Politics of Place and Nation Under Israeli Military Rule”**

January 29: **Ken Jackson**, Associate Professor, English  
**“Cormac McCarthy’s The Road, Kierkegaard, and Suspending the Ethical Now”**

January 30: **Josee Jarry**, Associate Professor, Psychology, University of Windsor

**“Self Esteem and Body Image”**

*Brown Bag talks are held Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons 12:30-1:30 in the Faculty Administration Building’s second floor conference room. This year’s series also included concerts conducted by Norah Duncan IV and Frances N. Brockington held in the Schaver Music Recital Hall.*

February 5: **Leon Wilson**, Chair, Sociology  
**“Western Media and Adolescent Development in Guyana”**

February 6: **Kidada E. Williams**, Assistant Professor, History  
**“Some Costs of White Supremacist Violence on the African American Family”**

February 12: **Lisa Alexander**, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies  
**“Effa Manley and the Politics of Passing for Black or White”**

February 13: **Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan**, Director, Foreign Language Technology Center  
**“Integrating On-line Learning in Foreign Language Instruction”**

February 19: **Lisa Ze Winters**, Assistant Professor, English and Africana Studies  
**“The Traipsing Mulatta and Economies of Blackness”**

February 20: **Perry Mars**, Professor, Africana Studies  
**“Ethnic Differentiation, Conflict and Solidarity in the Black Diaspora”**

February 21: **Osumaka Likaka**, Associate Professor, History  
**“Naming, Colonialism, and Everyday Life in the Congo: 1870-1960”**



*Above: Andre Furtado, Assistant Professor of Indeterdisciplinary Studies packs the conference room with audience members interested in his topic “Teaching Mathematics to the Scared”.*

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

See page 27 for a list of talks which have already been scheduled for 2008-2009.



Above: *Frances Brokington, Department of Music.*

February 27: **Frances N. Brockington**, Associate Professor, Music  
**“Art Song: Uniquely American”**

March 18: **Roslyn Abt Schindler**, Associate Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
**“Border Crossing to Zbaszyn: A Holocaust Tale of Two Countries”**

March 19: **Jim Wittebols**, Professor, Communication Studies, University of Windsor  
**“Media and Promotional Culture: Commodifying Authenticity”**

March 25: **Julie Klein**, Professor, English; **Nardina Mein**, Director, Library, Computing and Media Services; and **Adrienne Aluzzo**, Metadata Librarian, New Media Information and Technology  
**“WSU-HASTAC Library Digital Media Project: Digital Partnerships for Engaged Learning”**

March 26: **Clifford Clark**, Distinguished Visiting Professor, Economics  
**“Ideology and Economic Development”**

April 1: **Caroline Maun**, Assistant Professor, English  
**“Nature Does Not Love Us: The Novels and Poetry of Evelyn Scott”**

April 8: **Michael Liebler**, Senior Lecturer, English  
**“Poems of Russia, Israel and Germany”**

April 9: **Norah Duncan IV**, Associate Chair, Music  
**“The Legacy of Johnny Allen, Jr.: Detroit Jazz Legend”**

April 15: **Christopher H. Johnson**, Professor Emeritus, History  
**“Kinship and Modernity: New Perspectives on a Neglected Issue”**

April 16: **Katherine Quinsey**, Associate Professor, English, University of Windsor  
**“Antichrist of wit: Religious and Cultural Authority in Pope’s Dunciad”**

April 22: **Lisabeth Hock**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
**“Years of Change: Hedwig Dohm’s Become The Woman Your Are”**

April 23: **Christopher Leland**, Professor, English  
**“Narrative by Other Means”**

April 29: **Andre Furtado**, Assistant Professor, Interdisciplinary Studies  
**“Teaching Mathematics to the Scared”**

April 30: **George Patrick Parris**, Coordinator and Assistant Professor, Education  
**“The Impact of Trauma on Disability Adjustment and Coping”**

May 6: **Fran Shor**, Professor, History  
**“Constructing and Contesting the American Century”**



Above: *Fran Shor, History, closed the Brown Bag series for the year with his talk on May 6th.*



# 2008-2009 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

## “Hauntings”



Image of Hamlet's Horatio provided by Google image search

Each year the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowships Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was “Hauntings.” Fellowships provide Wayne State University faculty with funding to help pay for expenses related to their research projects, including travel, research assistance, salary and fringe benefits. Awarded Fellowships average \$6,000 and recipients are expected to participate in the annual Faculty Fellows Conference held in the following spring (see pages 12-13 for a report on this year's conference). Below are brief descriptions of the seven projects that were selected for funding for the 2008-2009 academic year.

### 2008-2009

#### Faculty Fellows

ELENA PAST

Assistant Professor  
Classical and Modern  
Languages, Literatures  
and Cultures

JORGELINA CORBATA

Professor  
Classical and Modern  
Languages, Literatures  
and Cultures

KEN JACKSON

Associate Professor  
English

JANET LANGLOIS

Associate Professor  
English

ROBERT BURGOYNE

Professor  
English

FRAN SHOR

Professor  
History

ALEXANDER DAY

Assistant Professor  
History

The Center asked for papers on “Hauntings” by using the following explication: “Thou art a scholar, speak to it, Horatio!” The terrified guards at the beginning of Hamlet beg Horatio to speak to the uncanny apparition of the dead king's ghost. Why do they look to Horatio as one especially able to “speak to” — both with and about—the ghost? Because he is a scholar. But why ask a scholar to speak to a ghost? Especially a skeptic who has already scolded the frightened guards, “’tis but fantasy!” and who declares that he “will not let belief take hold of him”. Confronted by the ghost, even he has to admit its presence. Even worse, Horatio has to admit he has no idea how to talk to or about the ghost.

Horatio's dilemma is not an uncommon one for scholars in many different disciplines. As we work in and through the past, we find ourselves grappling with many ghosts, and in some sense are the ones, because we are scholars, to sort it out. At the end of the 20th century and into the first decade of the 21st century, scholarship is still humbled by such hauntings. For all the advances that have been made in various disciplines, we cannot seem to exorcise our ghosts completely. We often say we are “haunted” by memories and history. Much music and poetry, of course, is still said to be “haunting.” But what does this mean in the 21st century? Why is this spectral metaphor so indispensable? Does this persistent haunting have anything to do with the seemingly ever present attention to spirit and spiritualism? After all, one tends to need specters to make “pure” spirit manifest. In what sense are we now haunted by virtual realities? Or do virtual realities render us into the apparitions? “A specter is haunting Europe – the specter of Communism,” Marx famously wrote. There has been an extraordinary revival of interest in spiritism, as well as the metaphorical sense of haunting in terms of layered history (for instance, the colonial carvings of lands and peoples in the Middle East that now represent a return of the repressed), the haunting

of the Holocaust through European memory (the museums dedicated to it are but an example), the African religions and languages still “haunting” practices all through the Caribbean, native gods and customs infiltrating the Catholicism of South and Central America. We are at a point where people desperately want to connect to a world of the spirit, to some confirmation of an afterlife, and at the same time re-live history in contemporary events and policies. Can societies be haunted? Are there geographical spaces that gather the past to themselves?

In brief, this faculty fellowship competition invites scholars from all disciplines to address — via the term and concept of haunting – that which they normally take for granted: the distinction between real and unreal, the actual and inactual, the living and the non-living, being and non-being, presence and non presence.

#### THE SPECTER OF LOMBROSO IN CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN CRIME FICTION

**Elena Past** will investigate the spectral traces of Cesare Lombroso's positivist criminological studies of the “born criminal”, prominent at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth centuries, in modern Italian crime fiction. Lombroso in the *Criminal Man* (1896-1897) combines anthropometric studies and autopsies of hundreds of prison inmates and concludes that criminal man is genetically predisposed to commit crimes. The specter of Lombroso informs the work of contemporary author, Carlo Lucarelli, who today haunts the Italian airwaves and best-seller lists.

#### THE ARGENTINE DIRTY WAR'S HAUNTING REPERCUSSIONS TODAY

**Jorgelina Corbatta** will explore the military coup in Argentina “the Dirty War” (1976-1983) that resulted in the disappearance of 30,000 people and the extra-judicial execution of untold more. March



# 2008-2009 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition “Hauntings”

*This year, the Center awarded fellowships for seven projects proposed by faculty members from seven different programs in the humanities and related disciplines. The programs include Italian Literature, Spanish Literature, Shakespeare Studies, Folklore, Film, American History and Chinese History.*



*Image from <http://www.negroartist.com>  
Advertisement for Slave Purchases*

24th is now the national day of “Memory for Truth and Justice” in Argentina, a country still haunted by its past history.

## HAUNTOLOGY: THE GHOST(S) OF SHAKESPEARE IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

**Ken Jackson** will outline the extent to which major philosophers in the European or “continental” tradition read and respond to the work of William Shakespeare. Jackson’s work suggests that over time continental philosophy’s actual engagement with the playwright has been uneven; nonetheless, there are surprising and important moments of engagement that have yet to be catalogued.

## OTHER WORLDS: RETURN OF THE DEAD AND OTHER MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES IN HEALTH-RELATED CONTEXTS

**Janet Langlois** has been recording accounts of mystical experiences in hospices and other health-related contexts. She has conducted interviews with individuals in hospice care, with hospice/hospital staff and volunteers and with members of bereavement groups and others bereaved. According to one hospice doctor when asked if patients and their relatives have reported anything unusual surrounding death and bereavement: “They all say they see dead people”.

## HAUNTING IN THE WAR FILM

**Robert Burgoyne** will argue that the war film, one of the oldest and most significant genres in film history, has been critically reduced by its conventional designation as a realist genre; However, he maintains that the defining and distinguishing feature of the genre is the past haunting the present, the past possessing the present, a theme manifested through spectral

encounters, traumatic memories, and more generally through a sense of debt and obligation.

## MISSISSIPPI HAUNTINGS: EXORCISING THE GHOSTS OF PAST CIVIL RIGHTS MURDERS

**Fran Shor** will examine the high-profile murder cases of civil rights activists. After the 1992 hearing before a Mississippi court to dismiss the trial against Byron De La Beckwith for the murder of civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, Ever’s widow, Myrlie Evers, defended the need to go forward with the trial. “We have to settle those dastardly acts of old. If we don’t, we will live with ghosts that will haunt us forever.” Because Mississippi was considered to be one of the most lethal environments for civil rights workers and the last bastion of virulent white supremacy, an examination of how the past was re-presented during the trials and commented on by the Mississippi and national media should help to identify the ways that history’s hauntings are reconciled with the present.

## HAUNTING HISTORY: THE CONTINUING EFFECTS OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION ON CHINESE INTELLECTUAL POLITICS

**Alexander Day** will focus on two linked moments in the political/intellectual history of the reform era (1979-present): the debate over Marxist humanism and alienation and the debate between the liberals and new left that emerged in China during the mid-1990’s. These debates are affected by the Cultural Revolution (1966-1969). Day suggests that the specter haunting the present is the emergence of a popular mass democratic politics that could not be controlled by elites and a radical breakdown in the separation between the economic and political spheres, such that overcoming economic alienation is understood as linked to overcoming political alienation and bureaucracy.

# 2007-2008 Sponsored Programs

## Working Groups



*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 and may include graduate students as well. The following are reports submitted in time for the 2007-2008 Annual Report.*

### Working Groups in the Humanities

#### Radical Politics Inside Out

**David Goldberg**, *Africana Studies*

**Ron Aronson**, *History*

**Alexander Day**, *History*

**Elena Past**, *Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures*

**Fran Shor**, *History*

**Nicole Trujillo-Pagan**,  
*Sociology*

**Monica White**, *Sociology*

**Mathew Wolf-Meyer**,  
*Anthropology*

#### Digital Humanities

**Julie Klein**, *English*

**Kevin Deegan-Krause**, *Political Science*

**Richard Grusin**, *English*

**Marc Kruman**, *History*

**Lisa Maruca**, *English*

**Geoff Nathan**, *English*

**Aaron Retish**, *History*

**Steven Shaviro**, *English*

**Bill Warters**, *Communication*

#### Justice Studies Normative and Empirical Approaches

**Brad Roth**, *Political Science*

**Sandra VanBurkleo**, *History*

**Sheldon Alexander**, *Psychology*

**James Chalmers**, *Political Science*

**Marvin Zalman**, *Criminal Justice*

#### Radical Politics Inside Out

*8 members from 5 different disciplines*

*Group Leader: David Goldberg*

During the 2007-2008 academic year, we met regularly to discuss colleagues' research, develop academic and activist networks in the Metro Detroit region, and make plans for the 2008-2009 school year. In addition, we worked to expand the roster of participating scholars in the workgroup, met with Michael Hardt (during his residency as part of the Citizenship conference), and have launched a new reading group and mentoring series for graduate students. With the expansion of the group's networks, participants and projects, we are poised to make even greater progress in academic year 2008-2009.

In terms of the extension of our connections with local activist organizations, we have established connections with Maureen Taylor and Marian Kramer of the Michigan Welfare Rights Organization and League of Revolutionary Black Workers co-founder, General Baker. We look forward to working with representatives of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, the Earthworks Garden, and the Detroit Agricultural Network in the near future.

We are working to establish a Radical Theory mentoring series, which will run over two years, with each semester having four lectures and four workshops. The idea is that the lecture would give people a sense of the topic (a theorist or theoretical debate), during which the lecturer would give a history of the topic and forecast the reading(s). The workshop meeting would be strictly a discussion of the (assigned) readings, and would come a couple weeks after the lecture.

The purpose of this series is to familiarize graduate (and advanced undergraduate) students at Wayne with important theoretical perspectives from across the academy; it should provide students and faculty a

semiformal space to develop interdisciplinary connections and collaborations.

Although we have strayed slightly from our mandate, our gains have been very productive and we look forward to renewing our Humanities Center support for the 2008-2009 school year. We are hoping to increase our membership next year to include faculty in English, the Arts, Political Science, and Urban Planning.

#### Digital Humanities

*5 members from 3 different disciplines*

*Group Leader: Julie Klein*

The Digital Humanities Working Group spent its first year exploring the growing role of new media and digital technologies in research and teaching. This year we engaged in two major activities:

- collaborative study of implications for communication, social networking, and citizenship;
- planning for an expanded Group for next year.

The small seminar met roughly every two weeks to discuss key reports and web-based readings. The Group was also a co-sponsor of the "Virtual Symposium" conference with the Center for the Study of Citizenship (November 2007) and the DeRoy Lecture by Beth Coleman on "Hello Avatar!" (April 2008). The core Group includes members from Interdisciplinary Studies, English, Computing and Information Technology, Communications, Political Science, and History (Julie Thompson Klein, Steve Shaviro, Geoff Nathan, Lisa Maruca, Bill Warters, Kevin Deegan-Krause, Aaron Retish, Marc Kruman).

In 2008-2009 the Group will expand into the WSU-HASTAC Digital Humanities Collaboratory, co-sponsored by the Technology Resource Center and the Humanities Center. The Collaboratory will have two forums. An

# 2007-2008 Sponsored Programs Working Groups



*Working Groups meet regularly throughout the year for scholarly interaction as well as to plan special events such as guest lectures and colloquia. This year the Center supported Working Groups by providing meeting space and up to \$800 for speakers, supplies, or other organizational needs.*

Collaboratory, co-sponsored by the Technology Resource Center and the Humanities Center. The Collaboratory will have two forums. An online wiki will provide an open online space for posting materials and engaging in online dialogue. A monthly series will feature presentations in person for the entire campus community. Projected events include:

- workshop on “Teaching and Learning in the New DIA,” in the museum;
- demonstration of new technologies in teaching by Communities faculty member Karen McDevitt;
- co-sponsorship of the second “Virtual Citizenship” conference;
- updates on teaching foreign languages with technology by Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan and team;
- integration of music and art in jazz performance, by Chris Collins and Detroit-Turino Project
- LUNA Art History Project, by staff from Libraries and Art History;
- teaching writing with wikis, by Jeff Pruchnic and colleagues from English;
- co-sponsorship of a DeRoy lecture on new technologies;
- co-sponsorship of presentation of Communications students’ media productions.

## Science and Society

*32 members from 11 different disciplines or sub-disciplines*

*Group Leader: Marsha Richmond*

The Working Group on Science and Society (WGSS) has been supported by the Humanities Center for the past six years. This support has enabled a cohort of individuals from different departments across the campus to form, linked through their mutual interests in the social impact of science and scientific developments.

The WGSS generally holds a series of brownbag lectures during the academic year. This year’s schedule included the following speakers:

- 6 December: Matthew Wolf-Meyer (Anthropology), “Somnopolitical Futures: Sleep and the Limits of Embodiment”
- 17 January: Bill Moore (Biological Sciences), “Natural Selection and the Evolution of Religiosity”
- 8 February: Markus Friedrich (Biological Sciences), “Re-evaluating the Adaptation Paradigm: Emerging Doubts in Flies”
- 20 February: David Cinabro (Physics and Astronomy), “The Golden Age of Cosmology”
- 6 March: Derek E. Daniels (Speech Communication and Disorders), “One Sound Too Many: The Impact of Stuttering on School Performance”
- 10 April: Bob Arking (Biological Sciences), “Biology and Public Policy: Can This Be Taught Without Invoking a Culture War?”

The email list of the Working Group on Science and Society (Sci/Soc) now stands at 49, although attendance at events varies widely and appears to depend on the particular topic under discussion and when the lecture is scheduled. All events are publicized widely—via circulated fliers and posting on the online University Calendar of Events. We thank the Humanities Center for making this group possible.

## Working Groups in the Humanities

### The Philosophy of Mathematics

**Susan Vineberg**, *Philosophy*

**Robert R. Bruner**,  
*Mathematics*

**Sean Stidd**, *Philosophy*

**Madeline Muntersbjorn**,  
*Philosophy*

**Eric Hiddleston**,  
*Philosophy*

**Jill Dieterle**, *Philosophy at EMU*

**Jamie Tappenden**,  
*Philosophy at U of M*

**Mohammed Abouzhar**,  
*Philosophy*

**John Burn**, *Philosophy*

### Science and Society

[Core Members]

**Marsha Richmond**, *History*

**William Lynch**, *History*

**Al Saperstein**, *Physics*



## 2007-2008 Fellowships

# Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship

In an effort to foster exemplary doctoral dissertation work among humanities students at Wayne State, the Humanities Center offers an annual fellowship competition for PhD candidates. For 2007-2008, the Humanities Center selected one dissertation fellow, Victoria M. Abboud, and one awardee, James A. Buccellato.

### Fellow

**Victoria M. Abboud**

*English*

"Nurturing Nature: Women and the  
Outdoors in the Brontës and  
Gaskell 1847-1855"

### Awardee

**James A. Buccellato**

*Political Science*

"Visualizations of Domination:  
Spectacle as a Category of  
Political Theory"

### ABOUT THE AWARD

The Humanities Center offers \$12,000 in support each year to one student in the final stages of writing his or her dissertation through the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship for Doctoral Students in the Humanities and Arts. In addition, the Center may disburse additional awards each worth up to \$1,000. This year the Fellowship was once again supported by a gift of \$7,000 from the estate of the late Edward M. Wise, administered by his widow, Professor Sandra VanBurkleo. This year, one fellow, Victoria M. Abboud, received the \$12,000 award. One awardee, James A. Buccellato received \$1,500.

The late Edward M. Wise was a Wayne State University Professor of Law. He was a Humanities Center Fellow in 1997 and 2000 and a Humanities Center Resident Scholar in 1999-2000. Dr. Wise passed away in October 2000.

### EDWARD M. WISE DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP AWARD LUNCHEON

This annual award luncheon is traditionally held in conjunction with the Humanities Center's Faculty Fellows Conference (see page 12-13). The event is attended by conference participants and the two recipients' dissertation advisors, department chairs and friends. **Walter F. Edwards**, Director of the Humanities Center, presented certificates to this year's fellow, **Victoria M. Abboud**, and awardee **James A. Buccellato**.

Abboud's dissertation entitled: *Nurturing Nature: Women and the Outdoors in the Brontës and Gaskell 1847-1855* focused on a much-needed and long-overdue inquiry into the reasons for, and results of, female links to the natural world in Victorian novels. She examined the novels of Charlotte Bronte, *Jane Eyre* (1874) and *Villette* (1853), Emily Bronte, *Wuthering Heights* (1874) and Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (1855). The authors studied in this dissertation imply that nature could be used as a means of freeing women from public scrutiny during the strict and judgemental Victorian period.

Buccellato's dissertation examined the spectacle created by the convergence of mass media, politics and the economy in American society. While some scholars reduce spectacle to a postmodern effect of mass media, he positioned spectacle as a comprehensive sociopolitical theory indispensable for analyzing the relationship between symbolic politics and exploitative social relations.

Both award recipients made short presentations on their dissertations.



Left: **Victoria Abboud** presenting her work on "Nurturing Nature: Women and the Outdoors in the Brontës and Gaskell 1847-1855" at the 2008 Edward M. Wise Fellowship Dissertation Luncheon.

# 2007-2008 Sponsored Programs Graduate Student Travel

*In an effort to spread this funding across the full academic year, the Center budgeted \$1,200 for the Fall Semester, \$1,200 for the Winter Semester and \$600 for the Spring/Summer Semester.*

## GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL

The Humanities Center annually budgets funds to encourage graduate students in the humanities and the arts to present their research or artistic work at national and international conferences and exhibitions. To apply for this funding, graduate students must include several documents including a personal statement indicating how presenting their work will help them further their understanding of the topic and help their academic or future professional careers. Graduate students outside of the humanities are also free to apply if their talks are of particular interest to scholars in the humanities and the arts.

The Center offered up to \$300 in travel assistance to successful applicants. The following nine graduate students took advantage of this program this year:

**CRYSTAL JOHNSON**  
COMMUNICATION

**EGLEE RODRIGUEZ-BRAVO**  
ROMANCE LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

**TIM SHORKEY**  
ENGLISH

**NICOLA WORK**  
CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES

**VICTORIA ABBODD**  
ENGLISH

**LAURA ESTILL**  
ENGLISH

**AMY GOLDMACHER**  
ANTHROPOLOGY

**GREGORY LATTANZIO**  
ENGLISH

**SHARILYNN ROBINSON-LYNK**  
ANTHROPOLOGY



## CONFERENCES ATTENDED

*AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION*

*ARIZONA CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES*

*EUROPEAN SECOND LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE*

*FIRST CONFERENCE ON ETHNICITY, RACE AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN*

*HISPANIC LITERATURES: TRANSNATIONAL AND TRANSATLANTIC WRITINGS*

*MIDWEST POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE*

*NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE*

*NORTHEAST MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION*

*SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY*

2007-2008 Academic Year

# Program & Support Expenditures



*The Humanities Center uses the vast majority of its operating funds for projects which enrich the University's research capabilities in the humanities and arts. The Center receives its annual budget from the interest on its endowment. In addition, the Edward M. Wise Estate contributed \$7,000 this year to support the Edward M. Wise Dissertation Fellowship. The Center continued to operate with reduced funds from its endowment in the context of the increased cost of supplies and equipment needed to run its programs. Nonetheless, we were able to provide funds to support all of our programs. (Please note that the chart represents program expenditures from October 1, 2007 thru May 27, 2008.)*

## EXPENDITURES FOR 2007-2008

(EXCLUDING STAFF SALARIES)

**BROWN BAG LECTURES**  
\$700.00

**FALL SYMPOSIUM & FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE**  
\$7,027.78

**RESIDENT SCHOLARS PROGRAM**  
\$6,200.00

**FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS**  
\$35,987.50

**WORKING GROUPS**  
\$2,400.00

**EDWARD M. WISE FELLOWSHIP AWARDS**  
\$6,500.00

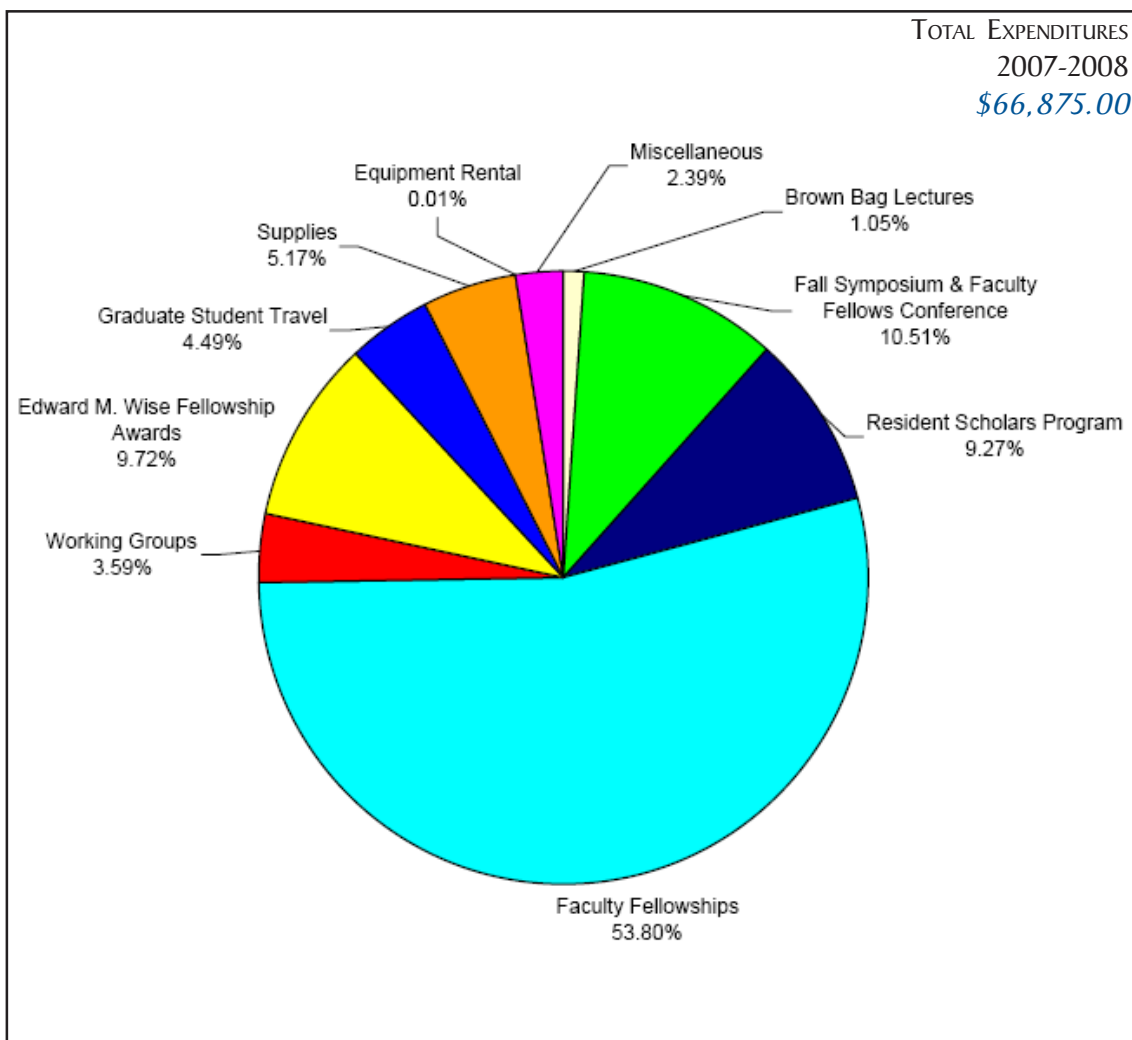
**GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL**  
\$3,000.00

**SUPPLIES**  
\$3,460.00

**EQUIPMENT RENTALS**  
\$10.00

**MISCELLANEOUS (SOFTWARE, ETC.)**  
\$1598.72

BELOW: 2007-2008 HUMANITIES CENTER EXPENDITURES FOR PROGRAMS AND SUPPLIES





*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series for next year promises to be as exciting as the 2007-2008 season, with 55 talks already scheduled. Below is the list of scheduled talks. (Subject to change).*

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

- September 9** Arthur Marotti, *Distinguished Professor, English*, “TBA”
- September 10** Daphne W. Ntiri, *Associate Professor, Africana Studies*, “*Literacy as a Social Divide: African Americans at the Crossroads*”
- September 16** Robert Sedler, *Distinguished Professor, Law*, “Politics, Religion, and American Constitutional Values”
- September 17** Khari R. Brown, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*, Ronald E. Brown, *Assistant Professor, Political Science*, Anthony Daniels & Phyllis Caruthers “The Impact of Church-base Politicized Social Capital on Black Political Activism”
- September 23** David Toews, *Professor, Sociology and Anthropology, University of Windsor* “Are Immersive Experiences in Virtual Worlds a New Model for Cultural Participation?”
- September 24** Marilyn Rashid, *Lecturer, CMLLC*, “The poetry of José Jiménez Lozano: Discussion and reading from the English Translations”
- September 30** Juana Lidia Coello Tissert, *Professor, Humanities, Universidad de Oriente, Santiago de Cuba*, “TBA”
- October 1** Lothar Spang, *Librarian IV & Sandra G. Yee, Dean*, “University Library Outreach in an Urban Setting”
- October 7** Sandra Claire Hobbs, *Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, “Native Stereotypes and Quebec Nationalism in Robert Lalonde’s *The Last Indian Summer*”
- October 8** Robert P. Holley, *Professor, Library and Information Sciences*, “Books, Faculty and the Academic Library”
- October 14** Anne Duggan, *Associate Professor, CMLLC*, “Eighteenth-Century Celebrated Cases”
- October 15** Elizabeth Barton, *Assistant Professor, Community Engagement @ Wayne* & Monita Mungo, *Research Assistant, Honors*, “Service-Learning at WSU”
- October 21** Lee Rodney, *Professor, Art History and Visual Culture, University of Windsor*, “Regarding Detroit as a Border City: Contemporary border politics and bi-national urban space”
- October 22** Anca Vlasopolos, *Professor, English*, “What Migrants Bring”
- October 28** Dan Frohardt, *Associate Department Chair, Mathematics* “Mathematics in Today’s World”
- October 29** Ross Pudaloff, *Associate Professor, English*, “TBA”
- November 4** Robin Boyle, *Chair, Geography and Urban Planning*, “TBA”
- November 5** Anne Rothe, *Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, “Trauma Sells: Reflections on the Popular Appeal of Trauma Narratives”
- November 11** Elizabeth Faue, *Associate Dean, History*, “Remembering Justice: Working Class Memory and the Meaning of Justice in Labor’s Heroic Era”
- November 12** Ollie Johnson, *Professor, Africana Studies*, “Promoting Afro-Brazilian Culture and History in a Racial Democracy: An Analysis of the Fundacao Cultural Palmares”
- November 18** Barrett Watten, *Professor, English*, “Critical Regions of Global Poetics: Shanxing Wang’s Economies of Scale”
- November 19** Michael Scrivener, *Distinguished Professor, English*, “Two Worlds: Reading Anglo-Jewish Writing”
- November 25** Annie Higgins, *Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, “Refugee Creativity: Poetry and Art in Palestinian Refugee Camps”
- December 2** Haiyong Liu, *Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, “Generative Grammar and Chinese Pedagogy”
- December 3** Karen Liston, *Public Services Librarian III, University Libraries*, “Identifying and Gaining Access to Non-English Language Research Materials”
- December 9** Howard N. Shapiro, *Associate VP for Undergraduate Programs, Provost Office*, “Energy Sustainability - Politics and the Laws of Thermodynamics”
- December 10** Frances J. Ranney, *Associate Professor and Director of Women’s Studies, English*, “Low-Tech: Is the Mother-Daughter Dyad a Mechanical Artifact?”
- January 13** Richard Grusin, *Professor and Chair, English* “American Water Works”
- January 14** Susan Vineberg, *Associate Professor, Philosophy*, “TBA”
- January 20** Caroline Maun, *Associate Professor, English*, “Phases of the Moon: The Poetry of Charlotte Wilder”
- January 21** Lara Cohen, *Assistant Professor, English*, “The Light and the Truth of Slavery and the Margins of Abolitionist Print Culture”
- January 27** Alexander F. Day, *Assistant Professor, History*, “Structuring the World: Late Qing (1644-1911) China Politicization of the Peasant”
- January 28** Pamela Crespín, *Assistant Professor, Anthropology*, “Contesting the Anthropomorphic Concepts of the Free-Market and Corporate Social Responsibility”
- February 3** William Harris, *Professor, English*, “TBA”
- February 4** Donyale Griffin, *Associate Professor, Communication*, “TBA”
- February 10** Monica White, *Assistant Professor, Sociology*, ““Fight for the right to fight for freedom”: Issues of gender and race in the struggle for social justice”
- February 11** David Goldberg, *Assistant Professor, Africana Studies*, “Building Black Power: Independent Unionism, Community Control, and Detroit’s “Organizing Tradition,” 1967-1970”
- February 17** Guerin Montilus, *Professor, Anthropology*, “Humans, the Chicken and Vodun: Sacrifice among the Adja Fon of Benin and the African Diaspora in Haiti and Cuba”
- February 18** Jorge L. Chinea, *Associate Professor, Chicano-Boricua Studies*, “Enlightened Agriculture at the Closing of the African Slave Trade: Puerto Rico, C. 1840-1852”
- February 24** Norah Duncan IV, *Associate Chair, Music*, “TBA”
- February 25** Victor Figueroa, *Assistant Professor, CMLLC*, “Edouard Glissant’s “Monsieur Toussaint”
- March 3** May Seikaly, *Associate Professor, CMLLC*, “Globalizing Gender in the Arabian Gulf”
- March 4** Joel Itzkowitz, *Associate Professor, CMLLC*, “Eumaios and the Case of the Missing Shepherd”
- March 10** Gordon Neavill, *Associate Professor, Library and Information Science*, “Bibliography and Paratext: Documenting the Transmission and Reception of Literary Works through Time”
- March 11** Kenneth R. Walters, *Associate Professor, CMLLC*, ““Bearding Brutus, Paradigmatic Pressure and the Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic””
- March 24** Martha Ratliff, *Professor, English*, “The History of a Southeast Asian numeral System”
- March 25** Geoff Nathan, *Associate Professor, English* & Margaret Winters, *Professor and Chair*, “The Current State of Yiddish”
- March 31** Kypros Markou, *Professor, Music*, “The Role of the Conductor: A Creative Artist or a mere interpreter”
- April 1** Monica W. Tracey, *Associate Professor, Instructional Technology*, “Learning Through Collaborative Problem Solving”
- April 7** Joseph M. Fitzgerald, *Professor, Psychology*, “Trauma and Identity”
- April 8** Nicole Elise Trujillo-Pagan, *Assistant Professor, Chicano-Boricua Studies & Center and Sociology* “Ethnic Businesses or Ethnic Niche? Residential Construction in post-Katrina New Orleans”
- April 14** Ken Jackson, *Associate Professor, English*, “TBA”
- April 15** Danielle Mc Guire, *Assistant Professor, History*, “At the Dark End of the Street: Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle”
- April 21** Michael K. Barbour, *Assistant Professor, Instructional Technology Program & Education*, “Virtual Schooling”
- April 28** Derek E. Daniels, *Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders*, “The Impact of Stuttering on Identity”

A Look Ahead: 2008-2009 Activities  
**2008 Fall Symposium**

November 21, 2008

## “Global Violence: Impact and Resolution”

### EXPLICATION

Violence itself is a very broad concept - ranging from individual to international conflict patterns. It involves the infliction of pain and suffering on life forms (human, animals) and the destruction of property and the natural environment. To narrow our focus we identify collective political violence with global or international implications (Global Violence) as the major concern of the world today. Our more specific interest here is on the impact or consequences of such violence on the human and global environment.

The main types of global violence to be investigated are international wars involving bombings (particularly cluster bombs), and at the domestic (national) level, civil wars and land mines, ethnic conflicts, and resource wars (over land, oil, diamonds etc.) in the Global South, particularly those conflicts in which the US and other developed global powers were/are directly involved both historically and contemporaneously.

A focus on the impact of collective violence counterbalances the plethora of existing theories on its causes and spread. The more immediate consequences involve in some cases genocide, in other cases refugee crises, deforestation and desertification, air, ground and water pollution, starvation, lost childhood, and untold numbers of casualties.

For the more economically developed societies such as the United States, the consequences of global violence could be viewed in terms of what Chalmers Johnson called the “blowback” effect which has brought economic crises, mass political protest, serious challenges to democratic participation and values, xenophobic responses to such issues as immigration and religious tolerance, global anti-Americanism and increasing terrorism.

In academia, the study of global violence transcends disciplinary boundaries. Apart from the Social Sciences (particularly Political Science and History) where probably most of the writing and studies of this phenomenon are pursued, the humanities and the arts also demonstrate concerns about wars and the consequences of wars and other forms of collective violence. Both war and peace have inspired creative expressions in music and song, films and plays, novels and poetry, and varieties of paintings. Also, in the natural sciences wars and collective violence significantly impact research on the environment and health issues.

Important among the consequences of global violence are the collective responses to it, particularly the varied approaches to conflict mitigation or resolution. Resolution of global violence could be conceived in terms of seeking alternatives to violence in struggles for change, such as non violent responses/approaches, instituting or expanding political democracy, and states employing more racially and socially inclusive economic redistribution programs and projects.

*One of the Keynote Speakers will be John Vasquez of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. WSU year's speakers will include: Cliff Clark (Economics), Annie C. Higgins (Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures), Barry Lyons (Anthropology), Frank Koscielski (Interdisciplinary Studies Program), Perry Mars (Africana Studies), Frederic S. Pearson (Political Science), Susumu Suzuki (Ph.D. student of Political Science), Michael Scrivener (English), Anca Vlasopolos (English) and David Weinberg (History).*

## “The Environment”

CALL FOR PAPERS

APPLICATIONS DUE: APRIL 3, 2009

### EXPLICATION

From the cave paintings of early humans to the elaborate laboratory-like zoological gardens in contemporary cities, nature and humans' place in nature have preoccupied humanity. We measure ourselves against nature; we create myths to explain natural phenomena; religions begin in intense, visionary encounters with the natural Other; science attempts to persuade us in the twenty-first century to begin to see ourselves as part of nature, not as dominators or exploiters of it.

The theological and classical views of humans as stewards of the natural world as well as lords of creation began to give way to more systematic approaches following the Copernican and Galilean revolution: our entire planet was no longer the center of the universe. The discovery of the microscope led to advances in empirical science. Alexander von Humboldt's path-breaking scientific study of nature, the three-volume *Personal Narrative of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of America, 1799-1804*, was pivotal in engendering a new approach to nature. This work influenced generations of naturalists, including the young Charles Darwin, who sought to systematize both nature's living and nonliving productions and characterize the laws governing the natural world. Humboldt's portrayal of lands untouched by human presence also stimulated a new genre of literary and artistic expression—the wilderness romance and lyric meditation along with landscapes, prints, and, by the 1840s, photographs depicting the romantic conception of pristine nature. In the United States, Thoreau is often hailed as the most notable progenitor of a new sense of environmental awareness, addressing ideas of communion with nature, ecological relationships, and the conservation of natural resources, expressed in *Walden* (1854) and other writings. In the wake of the major assaults on the environment produced by the Industrial Revolution, empire-building and expansion, and globalization, early twentieth-century naturalists, most notably Aldo Leopold, offered less sanguine meditations on the human relationship to nature, vigorously promoting activism in preserving and conserving rapidly disappearing natural treasures. Yet as environmental historian, Susan Flader, noted Leopold's advocacy of “land husbandry” or wilderness conservation in *A Sand County Almanac* (1949) “contains no panaceas, no blueprints for mass action.” Moved by the realization that birds were crucial to keeping in check pests that destroyed agriculture, the Audubon society in the late nineteenth century began lobbying for bird preservation and protection. As we devised other means of preventing harmful insects from competing with us for crops, a new naturalism was born: Rachel Carson in her classic work, *Silent Spring* (1962), attacked current “Stone Age science” that would unquestioningly spread deadly DDT, asking, “How could intelligent beings seek to control a few unwanted species by a method that contaminated the entire environment and brought the threat of disease and death even to their own kind?” Carson's warning channeled the outrage many felt at the continued, mindless, and harmful exploitation of nature. She inspired the environmental movement of the late twentieth century. Yet her message—promoting an ethical, responsible and sustainable approach toward satisfying human economic needs with the survival of species and of natural resources—still meets with opposition and derision.

For the 2009 Faculty Fellows Competition, the Humanities Center invites reflections on all past and present forms of cultural representations of the human relationship to the environment—literary, artistic, historical, economic, philosophical, political, journalistic, and scientific. It also invites discussions of environmental activism in all these fields.

**The Faculty Fellowship awards grants of up to \$6,000 for summer salary, research assistants, travel or a combination of these.**

**Fifteen (15) copies of the application and CV** should be submitted to the Director, Humanities Center, by 5:00 PM on **April 3, 2009**.

**The Humanities Center  
Attn: Walter F. Edwards, Director  
2226 Faculty/Administration Building  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI 48202**



# 2009 Open Competition

## Announcing the New Humanities Center “Open Competition” Grant\*

The Humanities Center strives to be as open and inclusive as possible in its annual competitions and to offer a variety of rich and broad themes and topics. However, the Center also recognizes that some themes or topics inadvertently might exclude important and exciting research at a critical time in its development. The intent of the “Open Competition” grant, then, is to compensate for these unavoidable exclusions.

### Criteria

- . The proposed project:
  - makes an innovative and excellent contribution to the humanities or arts.
  - does not conform to guidelines for other competitions sponsored by the Humanities Center
  - is at a critical point in its development toward publication

### Eligibility

All WSU full time faculty are eligible to apply.

### Funding

The Center will fund up to three (3) projects up to \$4,000 each.

### Application

Each application must include the following:

- A narrative describing the project and indicating clearly and in detail how this project will contribute to the humanities (maximally six pages, double spaced). The narrative should emphasize, in particular, why support is needed at this particular time in the project’s development, including plans for publication. Some attention should be given to why this project is not eligible for other Humanities Center or university competitions.
- A budget with a succinct explanatory narrative
- An updated CV

**Send Applications to:  
The Humanities Center  
Attn: Walter F. Edwards, Director  
2226 Faculty/Administration Building  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI 48202**

\* The “Open Competition Grant” replaces the former “Innovative Projects Grant.”

A Look Ahead: 2008-2009 Activities  
**Virtual Speakers 2008-2009**

## **Announcing the Virtual Speakers Series**

In 2008-2009, The Humanities Center, in collaboration with the Foreign Language Technology Center, plans to initiate the Virtual Speakers Series in order to allow distinguished national and international scholars, writers, activists and other humanists who are willing to transmit their ideas via the Internet to give talks to the Wayne State University community which will be beamed on campus through streaming video. This series will let multiple notable scholars share their work and knowledge which will enrich the intellectual lives of faculty and students on Wayne State University campus. The Foreign Language Technology Center is directed by Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan.



WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

HUMANITIES  
*Bringing Humanists Together  
for Collaborative Research* CENTER

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2226 Faculty/Administration Building  
656 W. Kirby  
Detroit, MI 48202  
Tel: 313 577.5471  
Fax: 313 577.2843

[www.research.wayne.edu/hum](http://www.research.wayne.edu/hum)

*The Humanities Center  
2007-2008 Annual Report  
Produced by Jennifer Leonard &  
Caitlin Richardson*

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