

WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

Humanities  
Center

# HUMANITIES CENTER

*Bringing Humanists Together  
for Collaborative Research*

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## Annual Report 2008-2009



# The Humanities Center



*Bringing Humanists  
Together  
for Collaborative Research*

**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

## 2008-2009 Overview

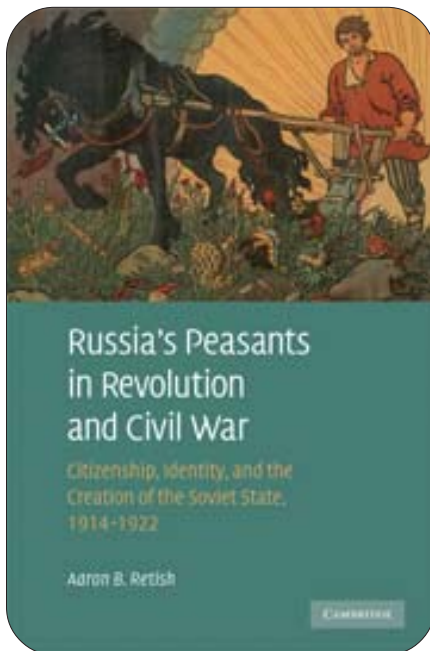


Director of the  
Humanities Center,  
Walter F. Edwards

An informal message from the Director:

I am gratified that in 2008-2009 the Center solidified its position as a central part of the humanities culture at Wayne. In many ways, it might be fair to say that the Center has become iconic in the academic life of humanities and arts citizens of this university. To secure this status, the Center continues to pursue its mission to do the following:

- \* to facilitate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scholarship and art
- \* to fund excellent projects proposed by humanities and arts faculty and students
- \* to provide venues for faculty and students at Wayne to share their ideas and receive interdisciplinary input from their colleagues
- \* to bring outstanding scholars and artists to this campus from other institutions for fellowship with our faculty and students



Above: the cover of *Russia's Peasants in Revolution and Civil War* by Aaron Retish, published August 2008

- \* to organize exciting conferences on current themes in the humanities and arts

We achieve these goals through the various programs that will be described in the rest of this report, but I would like to draw your attention to the following publications that are illustrative of the Center's influence. On April 29, 2009, the WSU Board of Governors awarded four distinguished faculty awards, and three of them were earned by faculty whose book projects were significantly supported by the Humanities Center. Anca Vlasopolos (English), Charles Stivale (CMLLC), and Aaron Retish (History) were all resident scholars during the periods they worked on their books. Anca Vlasopolos and Aaron Retish had received faculty fellowships that in part supported their book projects. Additionally, Ron Aronson (History) and Brad Smith (Criminal Justice) published books which were researched and written during their residency in the Humanities Center. I continue to receive reports from various faculty about published articles and books that benefited from the support of the Humanities Center.

We also continue to attract numerous proposals through our faculty fellows competitions even though that competition is always limited to a specific theme. This year the submissions to our competition on "The Environment" were so outstanding in quality that the Advisory Board decided to fund two more projects than it normally would. The Center also influences excellent scholarship through our Brown Bag series. Several participants in this series have reported that they were able to bring their articles to publishable standards as a result of the input provided at their Brown Bag talks. For this reason, I believe, recruiting for the Brown Bag series has become easier every year. This year, for example, over fifty faculty volunteered



## A Message From the Director 2008-2009 Overview



*Above: Richard Grusin and Walter Edwards  
at the final Advisory Board meeting of the  
2008-2009 school year*

by April 30th, even though the call for volunteers was only issued on April 2nd. By May 15, the 2009-2010 schedule was completed with 61 talks and six faculty members on the waiting list scheduled.

The current year has seen a couple of innovations that have done well for the Center. One is the Open Competition that attracted twelve outstanding proposals, three of which were funded. This competition replaces the Innovative Projects award that was discontinued in 2006. The Open Competition invites interdisciplinary proposals that have been characterized by their authors as significant, innovative, and in need of immediate support for their success. Faculty whose projects were continually outside the scope of our themed competitions welcomed this new opportunity.

Secondly, the Humanities Center, in collaboration with the Foreign Language Technology Center directed by Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan, inaugurated a Virtual Speakers series this year. With this, the Center has joined the twenty-first century in making use of the enormous potential of the internet. We were able to

beam presentations from two internationally reputable speakers who sat at their desks in their home universities, lectured to WSU audiences, and interacted with the audience during and after the presentations. This not only saved the Center the costs for international travel, but also made it possible for these busy experts to present their ideas to WSU faculty and students.

This year we also introduced targeted fund-raising by asking for donations from faculty who have received awards from the Center over the years. For this project, I am thankful to the Office of Development and particularly to Jana Stoyanovich with whom the Center's student assistant, Veronica Machak, worked. They developed a mailing list of over three hundred names of potential donors to whom we sent letters, first in December 2008 and again in April 2009. Although the yield from this effort is modest, approximately five hundred dollars, it now provides us with a mechanism for yearly requests for donations from our alumni.

All in all, the Center has had a good year, with only a brief period of instability occasioned by personnel changes. We continue to be blessed by efficient and dedicated support staff and by the ideas of a brilliant corps of faculty who serve on our Advisory Board. I eagerly look forward to continuing to serve this great university by directing this important Center. My staff and Advisory Board join me in wishing you a productive and enriching summer and successful scholarship in the 2009-2010 academic year.

*Walter F. Edwards*

# 2008-2009 Annual Report

## Summary of Programs

### **BROWN BAG TALKS**

Since the inception of the weekly Brown Bag Colloquium Series, literally hundreds of Wayne State humanities and arts faculty and students have participated either as speakers or as members of the audience. Each new year brings an increase in the number of faculty volunteering to present talks. As a result, the Center regularly hosts talks twice a week on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 12:30-1:30 throughout the academic year.

### **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 is held in the spring. The Humanities Center's Advisory Board selects the theme and prepares an explication for our Faculty Fellowship Competition. The theme for 2009-2010 is *The Environment*. 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. Faculty Fellows Conference speakers are the recipients of fellowships in the previous year. The conference allows the fellowship recipients to present the result of their funded work and to receive feedback from the audience. The Center invites distinguished keynoters who are experts in the area addressed by the theme. The 2009 conference theme was *Hauntings*.

### **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 *Global Violence: Impact and Resolution*.

### **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, 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 public lecture on his or her project.

### **OPEN COMPETITION - *New Program***

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. The proposed project should make an interdisciplinary and innovative contribution to the humanities or arts, does not conform to guidelines for other competitions sponsored by the Humanities Center and is at a critical point in its development toward publication. All WSU full time faculty are eligible to apply. The Center will fund up to three projects up to \$4,000 each.

### **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.

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

The Center will budget up to \$3,000 in the academic year to support travel to conferences for graduate students. Each award recipient is funded up to \$300 for travel.

### **VIRTUAL LECTURE SERIES - *New Program***

In collaboration with the Foreign Language Technology Center, the Humanities Center extends its scope globally to engage national and international scholars, writers, activists and other humanists who are willing to transmit their ideas via the Internet.

# 2008-2009 Annual Report

## Resident Scholars

*The Humanities Center's annual competition for Resident Scholars in the 2008-2009 year attracted applications from across the university. Ten 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 2008-2009.*

### ERIC H. ASH (WINTER 2009)

Associate Professor, History

During my tenure as a 2009 resident scholar (winter term), I was able to make substantial progress in the research toward my second book project on the drainage of the English Fens during the seventeenth century. Because of the Career Development Chair award I received in 2007, I had no teaching responsibilities this term and was able to devote my full attention to the task. For five weeks I traveled to Cambridge, UK, in order to examine the corporate archives of the Bedford Level Corporation, who were responsible for the drainage. This archive turned out to be much larger than I had originally thought, and I came home with more than sixty single-spaced pages of notes, together with hundreds of digital images of material I did not have time to examine on-site. This will certainly prove to be a very valuable collection of sources. Moreover, during my time on campus I made full use of my humanities center office as a productive work space. I spent roughly four days there each week, examining the hundreds of digital images of seventeenth-century manuscripts from the State Papers collection that I had previously collected. By the time my residency in the center has ended, I expect to have begun writing the first chapters of my book, and to be fully immersed in the research for the remainder. I also expect to have an article ready to send out to a peer-reviewed journal quite soon. Finally, I have truly enjoyed interacting with the other humanities scholars at the center this year, hearing about their work and getting their feedback on my own. Opportunities for this sort of interaction are not as frequent at WSU as one might like; the center plays a valuable role by promoting intellectual "cross-pollination."

### DENVER BRUNSMAN

Assistant Professor, History

During the 2008-09 academic year, I made excellent progress on my book and organized a public/academic symposium during my tenure as a Resident Scholar of the Humanities Center. My book, titled *The Evil Necessity: British Naval Impressment in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World*, will be published by the University of Virginia Press. It explores the impact of the British Royal Navy impressing, or forcing, sailors to serve in its vessels. Impressment violated the liberties of individual sailors, devastated seaport communities across the Atlantic, and ultimately helped to cause the War of 1812 between Britain and the United States. At the same time, the institution allowed the British navy to control the seas in the long eighteenth



*Resident Scholar Eric Ash, History, in his office in the Humanities Center.*

century (1688-1815). My work aims to highlight the significance of impressment for both the academic community and the general public.

As a Resident Scholar, I also organized a public/academic symposium in April 2009 at the Detroit Historical Museum on "Revolutionary Detroit: A Global Legacy." The symposium featured papers by both Wayne State students and historical experts that explored the impact of the American Revolution on the Great Lakes region. The symposium drew 124 attendees and provided a useful model for how students in the humanities can engage in community service-learning. The Detroit Historical Society will be publishing a volume featuring the most outstanding papers from the symposium, which I will co-edit with the museum's history curator, Joel Stone.

### ANNE E. DUGGAN

Associate Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The Resident Scholar Program helped fund my research trip to Paris in September 2008, where I carried out research for the second part of my book project, tentatively entitled "From Brimstone to Mallet: A History of Early Modern Crime Fiction." From September 2008 to January 2009, I was able to complete three articles, one of which has been accepted for publication in *Modern Language Review*, the other two still under consideration at the peer-reviewed journals *Early Modern Cultural Studies* and *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. With respect to my most recent research on celebrated court cases of the eighteenth century, I wrote two grants on two different aspects of the project, a Brown Bag talk, and presented two conference papers. I have begun work on one article, "La Carte de Tendre Meets *Les Liaisons dangereuses*: Friendship and Intrigue in Pitaval's Account of the Cinq Mars Affair," which I presented in conference paper form at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference this April. I also was able to begin research for a

# 2008-2009 Annual Report

## Resident Scholars

paper I will be presenting in Athens, Greece at the 15th Congress of the International Society for Folk Narrative Research (ISFNR) in June 2009 entitled “The Camping of ‘Donkey Skin’: Jacques Demy’s Cinematic Rewriting of a Classic Tale,” which I will also be developing into an article over the course of Summer 2009. Finally, I was able to carry out the initial research for a paper I was invited to give as a member of a group of international scholars who work on the French author Jean-Pierre Camus at the annual conference of the Société d’analyse de la toponymie romanesque (SATOR) in Belley, France this fall.

### ANNIE C. HIGGINS

Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

My year in Residence at the Humanities Center enabled me to research my chapter on “Selling my wealth and my family,” as denoted in my application. Among the fruits of this research was a deepening awareness of the importance of economic aspects of both the material, or “real” economy, as well as the moral, or spiritual economy. In particular, I explored an Exchanger, or Shurat, leader’s entrance into the monetized economy through minting a coin identifiable with this politically oppositional sect, by the slogan, “There is no judgment but God’s,” which set them at variance against the governing Umayyad authority. My work at the Humanities Center enabled me to see this chapter in a new light, even as a linch-pin for the book as I have come to envision it.

I presented a paper based on this research at the major conference in my field, the Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association of North America, in Washington, D.C. in November 2008. My title was, “Verse and Obverse: Qatari’s Coin and the Economy of Living,” in the panel on “Allegory and Metaphor in Classical Arabic Literature.” I presented my findings on the connections between the metal coin of the monetary system and the cultural coin of the poetry, using a theoretical framework that draws on the works of Baudrillard [Symbolic Exchange and Death] and deCerteau [The Practice of Everyday Life], in conjunction with poetry found in primary Arabic sources.

All of the Humanities Center Roundtables were valuable in seeing how colleagues shape their research, and how they present it. The responses to my Roundtable gave me ideas about shifting the focus of my presentation. In addition, one colleague in particular gave me a reference for the French theorist, Goux, whose work is very useful for analyzing exchange and currency in connection with social developments. This was a golden nugget for my chapter!

*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 roundtable discussions to provide extra, invaluable feedback.*

*Below: An engraving from an article authored by Anne Duggan. It reads: “Execution of lords Cinq-Mars and De Thou, condemned by decree to have their heads cut off at Lyon at the Place des Terreaux September 12 as criminals of leze majesty.”*



### OLLIE JOHNSON (FALL 2008)

Assistant Professor, Africana Studies

From Ollie Johnson’s proposal: “I plan to research and write on “Blacks in Brazilian Politics” at the Humanities Center. I have enjoyed my experience as a resident scholar this past academic year. This residency will enable me to make major progress on my research and writing. My book will represent a major contribution to the emerging field of Africana Studies. The Resident Scholar program will also enhanced my professional career by facilitating the completion of my second book on Brazilian politics. This experience will consolidate my reputation as an expert on race relations and Black politics in Brazil.”

### CHRISTOPHER LELAND

Professor, English

From Christopher Leland’s proposal: “I would use my time at the Humanities Center to, at long last, translate Roberto Mariani’s tales into English. This has been an enterprise postponed for over three decades. Translation is a peculiar art—one that involves both the conscious and conscientious trek through the text as written and also an unconscious percolating of that text over the days intervening between sessions of “getting it down on paper” when that bon mot, the “right” rendition into English, appears suddenly on a walk across campus or after dinner on a Tuesday night. As is apparent, I believe this is an important book, not merely in the Argentine canon, but in world literary terms. More that sixty years after his death, it would be nice to think that I could bring to Roberto Mariani the deserved renown which eluded him in life.”



# 2008-2009 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, office furniture, telephone and received clerical support from the Center's staff.*

## HAIYONG LIU (FALL 2008)

Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

After my three-semester tenure as a resident scholar, I feel grateful for the facilities and the intellectual environment the HC has provided.

I benefited a great deal from the roundtable meetings, especially the two at which I presented my book project on *Generative Grammar and Chinese Pedagogy*. Other fellows gave me very good feedback and I have finished the data-collection and analysis part. I also published the following 4 papers.

1. (2009) A Case Study of the Acquisition of Mandarin Classifiers. *Language Research* 44.2: 345 - 360
2. (2008) The Acquisition of Mandarin Aspects and Modals: evidence from the acquisition of negation. *Language and Linguistics* 10.1: 133 - 160
3. (2008) Creating Homemade Videos for Online Language Users. *International Chinese Language Teaching and Learning* 4: 56 - 68
4. (2008) (with Hong Yu) Designing Context in which Students Play the Leading Role - a study on classroom teaching in teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. *Academic Journal of Xuzhou Normal University (Volume of Philosophy and Social Sciences)* 34.4: 136 -139

The travel grant from the HC allowed me to travel to and give papers at the 19<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the North American Council of Chinese Linguistics in New York and the 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the International Council of Chinese Linguistics in Beijing, China. The HC also helped me purchase the Chinese-writing software I needed for my book project.

## GORDON B. NEAVILL

Associate Professor, University Libraries

I'm very pleased to report on my progress during the 2008-2009 academic year when I was a Humanities Center Resident Scholar. Most of my time this year has been devoted to my Modern Library Project, a major long-term initiative focusing on the history and bibliography of the Modern Library series. The Modern Library, founded in 1917 and still published today, was the most important

*Below: Annie Higgins and Haiyong Liu listen to a presentation at a Resident Scholars roundtable meeting.*



American reprint series of canonical and semi-canonical works of the 20th century.

The Modern Library Project consists of two parallel initiatives. The first is a descriptive bibliography of the nearly 800 titles published in the series between 1917 and 1990. The bibliography traces the bibliographical evolution of each title through successive type settings, translations, introductions added and dropped, and other “paratextual” information such as successive jacket descriptions. It was accepted by the Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia for publication in electronic form shortly before I became a Resident Scholar. Part of my time during the 2008-2009 academic year has been devoted to revising the bibliography for publication, and I'm on track to deliver the revised bibliography to Virginia in August 2009.

The second part of the Modern Library project is a book on the history of the Modern Library series. This was the primary focus of my fall 2008 sabbatical and my year as a 2008-2009 Resident Scholar. The book deals with questions about the nature of canonicity and canon formation, the evolving canonical status of individual works, and the economic, technological, and cultural factors that affect which canonical works were commercially available, while tracing the evolution of the series from 1917 into the 1990s. I have made good progress on the book and hope is to have it completed by the end of summer 2010.

I have written two papers as a Resident Scholar that derive from the history. The first, “Canonicity, Reprint Publishing, and Copyright” is a major revision of the opening plenary paper I presented at the Culture of Publisher's Series conference at the University of London in 2007. It will appear in one of two volumes of papers from the conference to be published by Palgrave Macmillan.

The second paper, “Distributing the Modern Library Series,” is a chapter of the book that I plan to submit within the next few

# 2008-2009 Annual Report

## Resident Scholars

weeks to *Book History*, the annual journal published by SHARP, the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing.

On March 10, 2009 I presented a talk in the Humanities Center Brown Bag Colloquium Series, "Bibliography and Paratext: Documenting the Transmission and Reception of Literary Works through Time." This was a warm-up for a paper of the same title that I will present in June at the 2009 SHARP conference at the University of Toronto.

### MARSHA RICHMOND

Associate Professor, History

I had the privilege of serving as a Resident Scholar during the 2008-2009 academic year while on a year's sabbatical leave. During this time I worked on a book project entitled "Women in the Early History of Genetics." Being a Resident Scholar afforded me the opportunity to work on campus, with easy access to the libraries, and to enjoy conversations with and feedback from the other Resident Scholars. This experience was both a pleasurable and productive one.

During the Fall semester, I continued to do research on the project, visiting archives at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Pittsburgh. In the Winter semester I spent a month as a Visiting Scholar at Vrije University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, working with my collaborator, Professor Ida Stambuis. We were able to design the book and allocate the material that each of us will write. During this year I gave several presentations, including: "William Bateson's Pre-Mendelian Research Program on Heredity and Variation," at the History of Science Society meeting in November; "Women in Mutation Studies" at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin in January; and a lecture on "Darwin and Genetics" at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in February and at Christ's College, Cambridge University in March.

I have begun to write up the book, hoping to finish as much of the text as possible during the summer months. With the exception of a five-week visit to our cabin in Colorado, I plan on continuing to work in the Humanities Center until 15 August.

### ROSLYN ABT SCHINDLER

Associate Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

"For the dead and the living we must bear witness." *Elie Wiesel*  
"Each of us is all the places we have been, especially the place of our childhood." *Fern Schumer Chapman*



*Above: Roslyn Abt Schindler's mother, Goldie Seidner, second row on the right with her hand in her pocket, with her sewing students in the Polish forced labor camp, Zbaszyn, in 1939.*

As a Resident Scholar in the Humanities Center during the 2008-2009 academic year, I deepened my research, creative, and scholarly work in the growing sub-genre of Holocaust memoir literature "from mother to daughter." I completed the revision of my memoir about my mother's Holocaust experiences, *(Re)vision of a Life: My Mother's Holocaust Story*, and am getting it ready for publication. I have also completed an essay called "Holocaust Memoirs 'From Mother to Daughter': A Search for Connections." Directly as a result of my work in the HC this year, I presented this essay, including a reading from my memoir, at the international conference, entitled "The Legacy of the Holocaust: Family and the Holocaust," held May 21-23 at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland.

The memoir I have written documents the life of Goldie Seidner Abt and that of her family before, during, and after the Holocaust, including a whole range of dynamics focused on family, its importance, its dissolution, the effects of that dissolution on my mother and her only remaining brother until the end of their days (two brothers and their mother perished during the Holocaust), and the transgenerational effects of their experiences on me, the second generation, and my son, the third generation. Chapter IV of the memoir details my mother's, her mother's and two brothers' deportation to and nine-month internment (from late October 1938 through the summer of 1939) in Zbaszyn (Poland), the first and largest forced labor camp for exiled German Jews of Polish descent. Aside from a few memoirs and documents about Zbaszyn, there are few publications about this labor camp. My memoir not only pays tribute to my mother but also contributes to the literature about Zbaszyn and especially to the growing canon of Holocaust memoirs "from mother to daughter."

## 2008-2009 Annual Report

# Virtual Lecture Series

*The 2008-2009 school year marked the beginning of a new collaboration between the Humanities Center and the Foreign Language Technology Center. This experimental virtual venture aims to further the main mission of the Humanities Center: to bring humanists of diverse talents together for conversation and collaboration. In this age of network technology, the Humanities Center wishes to extend its scope globally to engage national and international scholars, writers, activists and other humanists who are willing to transmit their ideas via the Internet. The Humanities Center hosted John Allen on October 6, 2008 and Marie-Luise Kohlke on February 16, 2009.*

### JOHN ALLEN, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

#### GETTING AWAY WITH MURDER: JUSTICE, RECONCILIATION AND DESMOND TUTU OF SOUTH AFRICA

Mr. Allen is a distinguished journalist living in Cape Town, South Africa. He has served as president of the South African Society of Journalists, and was awarded South Africa's most prized journalistic honor, the Pringle Press Freedom Medal. Mr. Allen served as the communications manager for Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Cape Town. Archbishop Tutu later appointed him director of communications for South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mr. Allen is the author of a nationally acclaimed book, *Desmond Tutu: The Rabble-Rouser for Peace. The Authorized Biography*. Rather than a formal, academic lecture about Archbishop Tutu, Mr. Allen provided the Wayne State University community with the perspective of a journalist and a participant.

### DR. MARIE-LUISE KOHLKE, PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY, WALES, UK

Dr Marie-Luise (Mel) Kohlke is a contemporary literature specialist, based at Swansea University, Wales, UK, whose research focuses on the neo-Victorian novel and trauma literature, exploring the intersection of the historical imagination and cultural discourses on violence, gender, and sexuality. The following is an abstract of Professor Kohlke's virtual talk which was telecasted on February 16, 2009.

#### NEO-VICTORIANISM AS POSTMODERN PHENOMENON: RE-IMAGINED HISTORICAL VIOLENCE, NARRATIVE TRAUMATOLOGY, AND THE ETHICS OF CULTURAL MEMORY

The exponential proliferation of neo-Victorian literature within the last three decades has produced a postmodern excess of contesting meanings about the resurrected nineteenth century. Set in whole or part within the period or exploring its abiding cultural and ideological legacies in the present, the neo-Victorian novel has



*Above: John Allen delivers his talk live from South Africa via webcam to a WSU audience at the Foreign Language Technology Center*

crystallised as a distinct subgenre of historical fiction and an alternative popular form of historiography. With its prevalent focus on re-enacting the period's traumas of inter- and intra-cultural violence, neo-Victorian literature raises discomfiting questions with regards to current cultural imperatives of memory-work and commemorative practices. What is the purpose of such ethical gestures vis-à-vis a past that has not only moved beyond living memory but also beyond possibilities of literal intervention or restitution? How does the neo-Victorian phenomenon engage with and problematize concepts of trauma theory, which tends to focus primarily on twenty- and twenty-first-century cataclysms? Paradoxically, the nineteenth century is reconfigured as both harbinger and retrospectively projected reflection of the so-called trauma culture we inhabit. Touching on issues of memory, witness, testimony, address, and empathy, and the potential risks of appropriated suffering and misrepresentation of our nineteenth-century 'Others', this talk traces the complicated investments of the present in the continuous reworking of the past. As well as other neo-Victorian novels, I will consider Matthew Kneale's *English Passengers* (2000) as a paradigmatic text, engaging in what might be called a narrative traumatology: the fictional identification, treatment, and redress of serious historical injury and injustice. To what extent does this implicitly ethical project enable productive workings-through, contributing to historical understanding? Or might it as easily effect a different kind of postmodern exhaustion in unrepresentability and silence?



*Right: Marie-Luise Kohlke*



# 2008 Fall Symposium

## Global Violence: Impact and Resolution

### FALL SYMPOSIUM PRESENTERS

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

**REY CHOW**  
Keynote Speaker  
Professor of  
Humanities at Brown  
University

**JOHN VASQUEZ**  
Keynote Speaker  
Professor of Political  
Science at University of  
Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign

### FALL SYMPOSIUM INTERNAL PRESENTERS

**IRSHAD ALTHEIMER**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor of  
Criminal Justice

**CLIFFORD CLARK**  
Speaker  
Distinguished Visiting  
Professor of Economics

**ANNIE C. HIGGINS**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor of  
Classical and Modern  
Languages, Literatures  
and Cultures

**FRANK KOSCIELSKI**  
Speaker  
Academic Services  
Officer IV

*The 2008 Fall Symposium centered around Global Violence: Impact and Resolution. Speakers from WSU and from other universities came together to discuss aspects of the theme from a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives. Global violence was examined from historical, psychological, religious and legal points of view. It was also addressed by reviewing important literature and looking at today's publishing industry.*

## 2008 FALL SYMPOSIUM ON GLOBAL VIOLENCE: IMPACT AND RESOLUTION

**THEME 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

*Below: Keynote Speaker John Vasquez of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*



*Above: Keynote Speaker Rey Chow, Brown University*

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.

### CONTROLLING WAR: WHAT SOCIAL SCIENCE CAN TELL US

**John Vasquez**, the first of two keynote speakers, opened the Fall symposium by exploring the scientific study of peace and war. It has long been premised on the notion that to control war one must understand its causes. He reviewed recent research on the risk factors associated with crises escalating to inter-state war to see what early warning indicators of war onset could be provided to help avoid or even prevent its outbreak. Vasquez also explored research



# 2008 Fall Symposium Global Violence: Impact and Resolution

*The 2009 Fall Symposium will address the subject of "Representation of Health and Disease in the City." The Humanities Center is inviting WSU faculty to present papers on the theme for the Center's 2009 Fall Symposium on November 6, 2009.*

on zones of peace, especially democratic peace but also work on stable borders to learn how to build peaceful neighborhoods. The dangers posed by deriving incorrect policy implications from the democratic peace were also briefly outlined.

## HOT LEGACIES OF THE COLD WAR: DESTABILIZATION AND CHANGE IN THE CARIBBEAN; SEE THE FACES, HEAR THE VOICES; SOCIAL DISADVANTAGE AND HOMICIDE IN GLOBAL CONTEXT

The first session brought together scholars from Africana Studies, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Criminal Justice. **Perry Mars** explored the connection between United States Cold War policies in the Caribbean from 1950-1980 and the frequency of political violence events, labor unrest, armed criminal gangsterism, narco-trafficking, and hunger marches today. In a compelling presentation, **Annie C. Higgins** recounted her experiences of public memorials for the dead in Jenin refugee camp, as well as camps in Syria and Lebanon. Closing the first session was **Irshad Altheimer**, whose research addressed whether change in levels of disadvantage for immigrants and ethnic minorities living in Western developed nations had influenced changes in homicide rates in those nations.

## "I INSIST ON THE CHRISTIAN DIMENSION": FORGIVENESS, TRANSLATION, SECULARIZED REPRESENTATION, AND THE OUTSIDE OF THE HUMAN

Keynote Speaker **Rey Chow** explored the type of exchange specific to human relations called forgiveness. She analyzed the South Korean film "Miryang"/"Secret Sunshine" (directed by Lee Chang-dong, 2007), which stages forgiveness in a context of globalized Christian evangelism. Through the writings of Jacques Derrida, Erich Auerbach, and Edward Said, among others, she then argued that the connotations of forgiveness extend considerably beyond a strictly religious dimension, going so far as to bear on questions about translation, the secularization of representation, and the limits of the human.

## DEALING WITH HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR YOUTH IN POSTWAR WEST EUROPEAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES; DEVELOPMENT OR MILITARY ACTION AS A SOURCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY; GLOBAL VIOLENCE AND THE CREATION OF THE TRANSNATIONAL SUBJECT AS

## REFLECTED IN CONTEMPORARY FICTION AND MEMOIRS

**David Weinberg** discussed the distinctive problems that young Jewish survivors faced in readapting to the postwar environment in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, including various approaches devised by communal leaders to integrate young survivors back into the Jewish fold. **Clifford Clark** reviewed explanations of the studies of organized violence during the first and second world wars to attempt to understand different forms of violence, focusing on common linkages between poverty, marginalization, humiliation, and violence. **Anca Vlasopolos** focused on the phenomenon of the transnational subject in contemporary writing and the fact that the human condition in the new century tends toward a transnational identity that opposes global violence.

## TEACHING NON-VIOLENCE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH; APPROACHING PEACE: ORIGINS, PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES OF NEGOTIATIONS IN CIVIL WARS, 1990-2006; HABERMAS AND TAYLOR ON GLOBAL VIOLENCE

**Frank Koscielski** explored methodologies for teaching about violence and non-violence using syllabi and course materials as examples of interdisciplinary approaches to problem solving. He demonstrated how teaching non-violence can be an ideal way to both emphasize interdisciplinary methods of study and to nurture integration of knowledge towards positive change. **Frederic Pearson** and **Susumu Suzuki** presented research on disaggregating negotiation processes in civil wars in the context of external military intervention and arms supply in the conflicts, seeking to understand the effects of intervention and arms on the onset, process and outcome of civil war negotiations in Southeast Asia and other regions. **Michael Scrivener** closed the symposium by inquiring about the capacity of rational procedures and logic to mitigate the violence of nationalism and religion using the frameworks of Jurgen Habermas and Charles Taylor.

*Below: Irshad Altheimer, Criminal Justice*



FALL SYMPOSIUM  
INTERNAL  
PRESENTERS,  
CONTINUED

**PERRY MARS**  
**Speaker**  
Professor of  
Africana Studies

**FREDERIC S. PEARSON**  
**Speaker**  
Director of Peace and  
Conflict Studies  
**and**  
**SUSUMU SUZUKI**  
**Speaker**  
Ph.D. student of  
Political Science

**MICHAEL SCRIVENER**  
**Speaker**  
Professor of English

**ANCA VLASOPOLOS**  
**Speaker**  
Professor of English

**PAUL BEAVERS**  
**Moderator**  
University Libraries

**VICTOR FIGUEROA**  
**Moderator**  
Assistant Professor,  
Classical and Modern  
Languages,  
Literatures and  
Cultures

**RICHARD GRUSIN**  
**Moderator**  
Professor, English

# 2009 Faculty Fellows Conference

## Hauntings

### CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

**ROBERT THOMAS**  
Welcoming  
Remarks

Dean, College of  
Liberal Arts and  
Sciences  
Wayne State  
University

**KATE BROGAN**  
Keynote Speaker  
Wellesley College

**JERRY CHRISTENSEN**  
Keynote Speaker  
University of  
California- Irvine

**ROBERT BURGOYNE**  
Speaker  
Professor, English

**JORGELINA  
CORBATA**  
Speaker  
Professor, Classical  
and Modern  
Languages,  
Literatures and  
Cultures

**ALEXANDER DAY**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor,  
History

**KEN JACKSON**  
Speaker  
Associate Professor,  
English

*Each spring the recipients of the previous year's annual Faculty Fellowships participate in a conference based on that year's theme.*

*The 2009 conference addressed the theme of hauntings from the perspectives of film, literature, history, and memory.*

## 2009 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE ON HAUNTINGS

**THEME 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, deprived of the scholar's preferred response to such things—which is haughty, knowing dismissal—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? The most material thing in modern global capitalism – money – has itself a certain spectral quality. We do not know what it is precisely. We alternately want more of it and want to get rid of it, but it both eludes us and remains indispensable at the same time ("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? Can debt be a kind of haunting?

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.

## BORROWED GHOSTS, OTHER WORLDS, SPECTERS, AND HAUNTOLOGY AT THE 2009 FACULTY FELLOWS CONFERENCE

The 2009 Faculty Fellows Conference explored the idea of hauntings from a number of disciplines. Scholars from the Wayne State departments of English, History and Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures joined keynote speakers **Kate Brogan** from Wellesley College and **Jerry Christensen** from University of California-Irvine in presenting their research on hauntings. Thoughtful participation from the audience served to offer alternate perspectives and draw the variety of humanistic ideas together into a lively discussion across disciplines.

In her presentation "Borrowed Ghosts," **Kate Brogan**, the first of two keynote speakers, began the conference by examining the idea of transethnic haunting. What happens when the ghosts conjured to bring the past into the present are not from a character's own cultural storehouse? Using Carole Maso's *Ghost Dance* and Tina DeRosa's *Paper Fish*, novels in which characters redefine what it means to be Italian American through the invocation of Native



*Above: Ken Jackson, English*

*Each talk was followed by a Question and Answer period to encourage interaction between the speakers and audience members.*



*Above: Elena Past, CMLLC*

American ghosts or imaginative engagement with ghostly Gypsies, Brogan considered the implications of this ethnic triangulating through ghosts and invited thoughtful participation from the audience. **Janet Langlois** presented her paper, "Other Words: Return of the Dead and Other Mystical Experiences in Health-Related Contexts" which related death-bed visions and visitations of the deceased to bereaved survivors. She claimed that hints of reincarnation complicate the spiritual picture and discussed beliefs in multiple lives within or without Western religious systems. Her presentation elicited more examples from the audience. **Ken Jackson** discussed the extent to which major philosophers in the European or continental tradition read and respond to the work of William Shakespeare in "Hauntology: The Ghost(s) of Shakespeare Continental Philosophy". Jackson suggested 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.

The first of two afternoon sessions brought a thematic shift to the presentations, with a focus in the second session on the idea of hauntings as it plays out in history. **Fran Shor** examined the high-profile murder cases of civil rights activists in "Mississippi Hauntings: Exorcising the Ghosts of Past Civil Rights Murders". He argued that 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 represented 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. **Jorgelina Corbatta** investigated how the military rule in Argentina (1976-1983), with its sequel of kidnappings, torture, death and disappearances, has inflicted a deep wound in people's memory that is still present in the collective unconscious as well as in its art,

literature and film in her presentation, "The Argentine Dirty War's Haunting: Memory and Autofiction in Luisa Valenzuela's *Los deseos oscuros y los otros*". She claimed that the combination of autobiography and fiction in Valenzuela's book gives the reader an accurate understanding of the horror of those years and its permanent imprint in the personal and collective memory and shows how familiar those experiences could be for all human beings in contemporary history. Rounding out the second session was **Alexander Day**, whose paper, "Haunting History: The Cultural Revolution, Humanism, and Postsocialist Politics in China" proposed that if the specter of the human haunted Chinese socialism at the beginning of the reform period (1979-present), so too did the Cultural Revolution (1966-1969). One way these two hauntings have been linked is through a discussion of violence, yet he suggested that the problems confronted in the Cultural Revolution extend beyond the question of violence, extend to the very categories used to understand history and politics.

The final session of the Faculty Fellows Conference focused on the theme of hauntings in film. Keynote Speaker **Jerry Christensen** presented "Haunted by the Loss of Loss: Watching the Ghost of Vertigo" which provided an analysis of the famous shot that concludes the first scene of *Vertigo* and described how Hitchcock arranged everything in the film to adjust to the physical fact that his ghost is just a color and that color a chemical. He concluded with speculation about the difference between ghosts that appear on celluloid and those constructed from pixels and how that controversial difference has turned up romantics among the engineers. **Elena Past** reflected on *L'uomo delinquente* (Criminal Man, 1896-7) by Cesare Lombroso in "The Specter of Lombroso in Contemporary Italian Crime Fiction". She discussed whether Lucarelli's texts invoke Lombrosian epistemology in order to exorcise the specter of biological determinism that continues to characterize approaches to crime in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries or whether his work is haunted by the apparent inevitability of new, recurrent forms of such deterministic thought practices which continue to threaten our right to exercise free will. Concluding the conference was **Robert Burgoyne**, who contended that despite its long-standing reputation for realism and authenticity, the war film frequently departs from the conventions of verisimilitude to convey the nightmarish effects of the historical past in his paper entitled, "Haunting in the War Film: *Flags of our Fathers* and *Letters from Iwo Jima*".

CONFERENCE  
PRESENTERS,  
CONTINUED

**JANET LANGLOIS**  
Speaker  
Associate Professor,  
English

**ELENA PAST**  
Speaker  
Assistant Professor,  
Classical and  
Modern  
Languages,  
Literatures and  
Cultures

**FRAN SHOR**  
Speaker  
Professor, History

**PAUL BEAVERS**  
Moderator  
University Libraries

**RICHARD GRUSIN**  
Moderator  
Professor, English

**RENATA WASSERMAN**  
Moderator  
Professor, English



Fall 2008

## Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*The Brown Bag Colloquium Series is one of the Humanities Center's most successful and visible programs. This year the series presented fifty-seven talks given by Wayne State University faculty members and faculty from the University of Windsor. The talks covered a wide variety of topics in the humanities and arts. Abstracts for talks are posted on the Center's Web site and can be accessed at [www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown\\_bag/08-09.html](http://www.research.wayne.edu/hum/brown_bag/08-09.html).*

September 9: **Arthur Marotti**, Distinguished Professor, English  
*Saintly Idiocy and Contemplative Empowerment: The Case for Dame Gertrude More*

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**, Associate Professor, Political Science, **Anthony Daniels**, Graduate Student & **Phyllis Caruthers**, Graduate Student  
*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: **Marilynn Rashid**, Lecturer, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*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  
*The New Cuban University*

Below: **Daphne W. Ntiri**, Associate Professor of Africana Studies giving her talk on *Literacy as a social Divide: African Americans at the Crossroads* to a conference room filled to capacity.



Above: **Juana Lidia Coello Tissert**, Universidad de Oriente

October 1: **Lothar Spang**, Librarian IV & **Sandra G. Yee**, Dean, University Libraries  
*University Library Outreach in an Urban Setting*

October 7: **Sandra Claire Hobbs**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*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, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Eighteenth-Century Celebrated Cases*

October 15: **Elizabeth Barton**, Assistant Professor, Community Engagement @ Wayne & **Monita Mungo**, Research Assistant, Honors College  
*Service-Learning at WSU*

October 21: **Barry Lyons**, Associate Professor  
*More or Less White: Mestizo Identities and Indian Resurgence in Ecuador*

October 22: **Anca Vlasopolos**, Professor, English  
*What Migrants Bring*



## 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.*

October 28: **Dan Frohardt**, Professor and Chair, Mathematics  
*Mathematics in Today's World*

October 29: **Ross Pudaloff**, Associate Professor, English  
*Science and Violence: The Murder of Clothilde Marchand and The Trials of Lila Jimerson*

November 4: **Robin Boyle**, Professor and Chair, Geography and Urban Planning  
*The Challenge and Opportunity of an Aging Society*

November 5: **Anne Rothe**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Trauma Sells: Reflections on the Popular Appeal of Trauma Narratives*

November 11: **Elizabeth Faue**, Professor of History and Associate Dean of the Graduate School  
*Labor and the Memory of Justice*

November 12: **Ollie Johnson**, Assistant 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**, Professor, English  
*Two Worlds: Reading Anglo-Jewish Writing*



*Above: Anca Vlasopolos, English*

November 25: **Stephen Chrisomalis**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology  
*What language is STOP? Language ideology and identity in Montreal's signscape*

December 2: **Haiyong Liu**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Director, Confucius Institute  
*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**, Professor of Engineering and Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Programs, Provost Office  
*Energy Sustainability - Politics and the Laws of Thermodynamics*

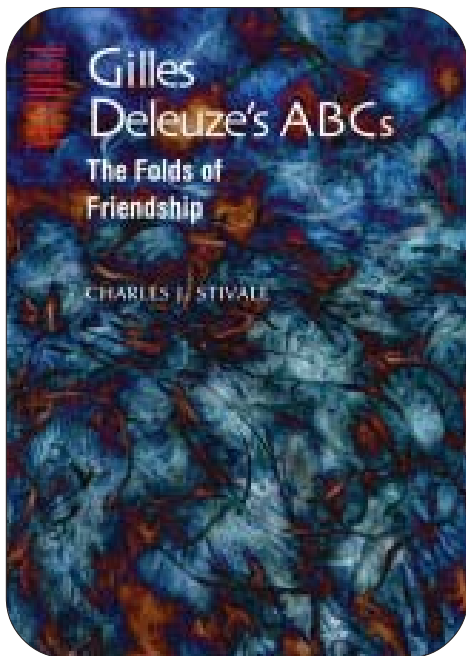
December 10: **Annie Higgins**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Refugee Creativity: Poetry and Art in Palestinian Refugee Camps*

December 16: **Guy Stern**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and **Susanna Piontek**, Member, Die Kogge, European Writers' Association  
*The Short Story as a post-WWII new phenomenon in Germany*



*Above: Anne Duggan, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, giving her talk.*

# The Year in Photos



*Left: The front cover of Charles Stivale's 2008 book, Gilles Deleuze's ABCs: the folds of friendship, written in part during his tenure as a Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center. This book won one of Wayne State University's 2009 Board of Govenors' Faculty Recognition Awards.*



*Above, from left to right: Fall Symposium keynote speaker Rey Chow poses with Walter Edwards, Director of the Humanities Center, and keynote speaker John Vasquez*

*Below: Walter Edwards recognizes Avis Vidal for her service on the 2008-2009 Humanities Center's Advisory Board.*



*Above: Jerry Herron, English Professor and Dean of the Honors College closes the 2008-2009 Brown Bag Colloquium Series.*

*Right: Jennifer Leonard, Secretary, and Caitlin Richardson, research assistant, handing out information about the Humanities Center at WSU's Faculty Interactive Resource Fair held August 25, 2008.*



## 2008-2009 Events

# The Year in Photos

*Below: Marie-Luise Kohlke of Swansea University addresses her live WSU audience via webcam during the second Virtual Lecture hosted by the Humanities Center and the Foreign Language Technology Center on February 16, 2009.*



*Above, from left to right: Richard Grusin, Rey Chow and Anca Vlasopolos discuss the presentations at the Fall Symposium on November 21, 2008.*

*Right: Anca Vlasopolos's book, Penguins in a Warming World, was written in part during her tenure as a Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center.*

### Penguins in a Warming World

Anca Vlasopolos



*Above: Walter Edwards and Lawrence Carrington, Vice Chancellor of the University of Guyana, planning for future collaboration between the Humanities Center and the University of Guyana, June 2009.*

*Below: Kate Brogan from Wellesley College presents "Borrowed Ghosts" at the 2009 Faculty Fellows Conference, held on April 3, 2009.*





Winter 2009

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*Below: Gordon Neavill, Library and Information Science*



January 13: **Richard Grusin**, Professor and Chair, English  
*American Water Works*

January 14: **Susan Vineberg**, Associate Professor, Philosophy  
*Mathematical Representation and Theory Choice*

January 21: **Ellen Barton**, Professor, Linguistics  
*Ethical Issues in Recruitment to Clinical Trials: Undue Influence? Ethical Persuasion?*

January 27: **Alexander F. Day**, Assistant Professor, History  
*Structuring the World: Politicization of the Peasant in Late Qing China*

January 28: **Pamela Crespin**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology  
*Contesting the Anthropomorphic Concepts of the Free-Market and Corporate Social Responsibility*

February 3: **William Harris**, Professor, English  
*Guess Who's Coming...Booker T. Washington's Visit to the White House*

February 4: **Donyale Griffin**, Assistant Professor, Communication  
*Framing Kwame Kilpatrick: Third-Party Response to the Text Message Scandal*

February 10: **Monica White**, Assistant Professor, Sociology  
*'Fight for the right to fight': Race and Gender in Social Resistance*

*Brown Bag talks are held Tuesday and Wednesday 12:30-1:30 in the Faculty*

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  
*The West African Conception of Person especially among the Adja Fon of Southern Republic of Benin and the Yoruba of Southwestern Nigeria and Its Impact upon Haitian Vodou and Cuban Santería in the Caribbean*

February 18: **Jorge L. Chinaea**, Associate Professor, History, and Director, Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies  
*Enlightening the Plantation System at the Crossroads of the Second Empire: Bureaucratic Proposals for Agricultural Modernization, Diversification, and Free Labour in Spanish Colonial Puerto Rico, c. 1846-1852*

February 24: **Russ Miller**, Assistant Professor, Music  
*Suite Justice: A Jazz Setting of the Beatitudes*

February 25: **Victor Figueroa**, Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Deconstructing Trujillo: Junot Díaz's dilemma in The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*

March 3: **May Seikaly**, Associate Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Globalizing Gender in the Arabian Gulf*

March 4: **Joel Itzkowitz**, Associate Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*Eumaios and the Case of the Missing Shepherd*



*Above: Jorge L. Chinaea, History*



# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

See page 33 for a list of talks which have already been scheduled for next year.



Above: **May Seikaly**, *Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures*

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, Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures

*Bearding Brutus, Paradigmatic Pressure and the Rise and Fall of the Roman Republic*

March 24: **Martha Ratliff**, Associate Professor, English  
*The History of a Southeast Asian Numeral System*

March 25: **Geoff Nathan**, Associate Professor, English & **Margaret Winters**, Professor and Chair of Classical and Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures  
*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, Education

*Learning Through Collaborative Problem Solving*

Thursday, April 9: **Joseph M. Fitzgerald**, Professor, Psychology

*Trauma and Identity*

April 8: **Nicole Elise Trujillo-Pagan**, Assistant Professor, Center for Chicano-Boricua Studies and Sociology  
*Vulnerability and Dignity among Latino Residential Construction Workers in a post-Katrina New Orleans*

April 14th: **Caroline Maun**, Assistant Professor, English  
*Phases of the Moon: The Poetry of Charlotte Wilder*

April 15: **Danielle McGuire**, Assistant Professor, History  
*At the Dark End of the Street: Sexual Violence, Community Mobilization, and the African American Freedom Struggle*

April 21: **Avis Vidal**, Professor, Geography and Urban Planning  
*Out of the Silos: Developing Healthy Communities*

April 22: **renee c. hoogland**, Associate Professor, English  
*Neo-Aesthetics and the Possibilities and Limitations of Narrative*

April 28: **Derek E. Daniels**, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences and Disorders  
*The Impact of Stuttering on Identity*

April 29: **Jerry Herron**, Professor, English, and Dean, Honors College  
*How Not to See Detroit: What the Tourists Always Get Wrong When They Come to Look at Us, and What One Got Exactly Right*



Above: **Russ Miller**, *Music*

# 2009-2010 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

## The Environment



Each year, the Humanities Center sponsors a Faculty Fellowships Competition on a specific theme. This year's theme was "The Environment." 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 14-15 for this year's conference). Below are brief descriptions of the nine projects that were selected for funding for the 2009-2010 academic year.

### 2009-2010 FACULTY FELLOWS

**DORA APEL**  
Professor  
Art and Art  
History

**ERIC ASH**  
Associate  
Professor  
History

**VICTOR FIGUEROA**  
Assistant  
Professor  
Classical and  
Modern  
Languages,  
Literatures and  
Cultures

**RICHARD GRUSIN**  
Professor  
English

**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. on presence.

# 2009-2010 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition The Environment

*This year, the Center awarded fellowships for nine projects proposed by faculty members from eight different departments in the humanities and related disciplines.*



## “THE LANDSCAPE OF WAR” – CHAPTER IN BOOK: *WAR CULTURE: ART, MEDIA, AND CONTEMPORARY WAR*

**Dora Apel’s** book project *War Culture: Art, Media, and Contemporary War* focuses on the visual construction of war and its consequences. It provides a social and political history for contemporary artworks and images of war, their functions among different audiences, their global implications, and the conflicted relations between aesthetics and politics. Apel will examine the production of racial, class, gender, and national identity in terms of affirmative and oppositional strategies, paying particular attention to the relationship between art and media images. These images are positioned within a history of images and within a critical analysis of the cultural assumptions and political forces operating at the historical moments in which the images and artworks are produced. Such an inquiry necessarily involves an examination of the rhetoric of war, the effects of war on soldiers and civilians, and on the land where war and occupation occur.

Apel will conduct research for the third chapter on “The Landscape of War,” which examines the relationship between the traumatic effect of war on the built and natural environment--what has been called “war’s silent casualty”--and the inventive political responses of artists to those destructive effects. Although we tend to focus on the loss of human life in war, there is also a heavy cost in war. War pollutes the air, water and land, destroys biodiversity, drains natural resources, and paves the way for disease and health crises, in addition to destroying cultural patrimony. This chapter examines the work of two Israeli artists, Shai Kremer and Yael Bartana; Lebanese artist Walid Ra’ad; and Bosnian/Danish artist Ismar

Cirkinagic, and how each of their bodies of work delineates the effects of war on the local population’s relationship to nature and the environment.

## SHIFTING KNOWLEDGE, SHIFTING NATURE: THE DRAINAGE OF THE ENGLISH FENS

**Eric Ash’s** project is a book-length history of the seventeenth-century drainage of the English Fens. Covering several hundred thousand acres and spanning parts of six counties, the Fens were a perennially flooded landscape in eastern England. During the middle decades of the seventeenth century they were gradually reclaimed by Dutch drainage engineers with the backing of English investors, who stood to gain a fortune in land speculation as a result. The project was enormously controversial at the time, involving contentious debates about the feasibility and desirability of the drainage, the best methods for achieving it, and how best to make use of the land afterwards. The project ended up creating some of Britain’s richest farmland, but it also altered forever the traditional medieval economy and culture of the fenland inhabitants. Ash’s project will combine the environmental history of the English Fens with the broader political, economic, and social history of early modern England in order to provide a new perspective on epochal events such as the English civil war.

## ECO-COLONIALITY: NATURE BETWEEN EMPIRE & REVOLUTION IN ALEJO CARPENTIER’S *EL REINO DE ESTE MUNDO*

**Victor Figueroa** will continue working on a book project currently in progress. He will examine pan-Caribbean literary

2009-2010

FACULTY FELLOWS

**GUERIN C. MONTILUS**  
Professor  
Anthropology

**BRUCE RUSSELL**  
Professor  
Philosophy

**JOHN STRATE**  
Associate  
Professor  
Political Science

**ANCA VLASOPOLOS**  
Professor  
English

**MONICA WHITE**  
Assistant Professor  
Sociology



# 2009-2010 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

## The Environment



2009-2010

FACULTY FELLOWS

**DORA APEL**

Professor  
Art and Art  
History

**ERIC ASH**

Associate  
Professor  
History

**VICTOR FIGUEROA**

Assistant Professor  
Classical and  
Modern  
Languages,  
Literatures and  
Cultures

**RICHARD GRUSIN**

Professor  
English

representations of the Haitian Revolution and its aftermath. Although this revolution was the only successful slave revolt in the New World, and although its aftershocks reached Europe and the rest of the Americas, it has received less attention than other historical events of similar magnitude.

### AMERICAN WATER WORKS

**Richard Grusin** will investigate the ways in which the United States has developed as a “hydraulic civilization,” by looking at a series of major American “water works” from the 19th and 20th centuries. The purpose of this project is to understand the relation between American water works and the development of environmentalist concerns from the first half of the nineteenth century to the present day.

It is no coincidence that many of the major figures in the history of American environmentalism have concerned themselves with questions of water and water use. Henry David Thoreau, often considered the founder of environmental consciousness in America, set forth his fullest formulation of ecological awareness in *Walden* (1854), which details the two-year experiment in self-sufficiency that he conducted on the shores of Walden Pond. *John Wesley Powell's Report on the Lands of the Arid Regions of The United States* (1879) was the first systematic proposal for irrigation and water conservation in the American West. John Muir's spirited public opposition to the damming of the Hetch Hetchy River in California's Sierra Nevada mountains is recognized as the foundational expression of the logic of environmentalism advocated by the Sierra Club for much of the 20th century; his hydraulic theory of glaciers as Nature's water works is set forth most fully in *The Mountains of California* (1894). By looking at a variety of American water works, he hopes to illuminate the historical relationship between environmentalism and water use in order to provide us with a different, more informed perspective on the problems of

water use that face us today.

### THE ADJA FON OF SOUTHERN BENIN, CULTURAL CHANGE, VODUN RELIGION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Guerin C. Montilus** will analyze the impact of globalization upon the relationship of the Adja Fon of southern Benin, West Africa, with the environment. He will seek to understand the dialectical differences between the two cultures: the western and capitalist world which has had a long standing relationship of dualism and exploitation (negative reciprocity) with the environment, and, in contrast, the southern Benin, like most of Sub-Saharan African continent, which developed a culture of partnership and moderation (balanced reciprocity) with the environment.

### THE PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS OF A LIMITED LAND ETHICS

**Bruce Russell** will defend an ethics that will recognize the value and importance of the biotic community (soil, water, plants, and animals) but also the rights of individuals not to be sacrificed for the good of that community.

There are various reasons why people should protect and preserve the environment. In *Silent Spring* (1962) Rachel Carson argued that we use massive amounts of chemicals to control “a few weeds and insects” in order to increase production in a world of overproduction where farmers are paid to let parts of their land lie fallow. She argued that not only are such measures pointless but in the long run they are counterproductive, for the insects and weeds adapt and return with a vengeance. Her argument can be construed as one from enlightened self-interest: it is in our self-interest to curb the use of dangerous chemicals given that we do not know their long-term effects, that we do know they provide little benefit, and that we do know that there are alternative approaches that provide at least as much benefit with much less risk.

# 2009-2010 Fellowships Faculty Fellowship Competition

## The Environment



### COMPARING THREE ENVIRONMENTAL DISCOURSES: GROWTH FOREVER, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, AND GREEN

**John Strate** will investigate three commonplace but very different modes of thinking about the environment and humans' relationship to it: Growth Forever, Sustainable Development, and Green. The ascendancy of one or another of these modes will shape the public policy making process and how governments and other actors deal with (or fail to deal with) environmental problems. How the public and policy makers think and talk about environmental problems has a great deal to do with the solutions (if any) that are formulated, enacted, and implemented to address them.

These three modes of thinking about the environment vary along a number of dimensions including key facts (facts assumed to be true, significant, and thus to be given privileged status in discussion and debate), beliefs about human nature (e.g., cooperative and/or competitive), beliefs about nature (e.g., hostile, benign, synergistic), beliefs regarding the efficacy of different institutions (markets, governments, nonprofit organizations), beliefs about political action (local and bottom up vs. global or national and top down), beliefs about goals or desired end states (e.g. economic welfare, ecological stability, diminishing the human footprint), and favored policy options (rules, incentives, cushions) The project will identify these differences. It will examine key phrases and metaphors employed by each of these modes. It will enhance knowledge of these modes of thinking and hopefully improve public discourse and debate on environmental issues.

### A CARTOGRAPHY OF SCALE (AND WING)

**Anca Vlasopolos's** project consists of a collection of poems, her third, that will celebrate life that often passes unnoticed (such as intertidal creatures, migrating and "common" birds,

amphibians, reptiles, non-charismatic mammals, and other species), will advocate for its beauty, habits, habitats, and right to existence, and will elegize its decreasing presence on this human-crowded planet. It will directly address the 2009 theme of the Humanities Center, The Environment.

### EMERGENT CITYSCAPES: COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, URBAN FARMING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Monica White** will investigate the aftermath of de-industrialization and post-urbanization. Detroit represents an example of a city in disharmony with the environment. Such disharmony is manifested in contaminated soil, abandoned houses and empty lots. Detroit is littered with dilapidated and vacant buildings, ruins left behind when manufacturing jobs fled the city. Also illustrative of abandonment are dramatic disparities among neighborhoods and uncomfortable social relations among people of different races and classes. Through an analysis of the nature and function of urban gardens, this project investigates the relationship among people of color, poverty, and community engagement with the natural environment in the city of Detroit. The objective of this project is to examine how citizens engage in community gardening as a means of renegotiating their relationship with the environment, eschewing reliance on external political structures to solve community problems and re-creating the city from the bottom up. Through in-depth interviews and participant observation of community gardeners, this project will provide an alternative perspective on the persistent representation of Detroit as a site of urban decay that is in ruins.

2009-2010

FACULTY FELLOWS

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Anthropology

**BRUCE RUSSELL**  
Professor  
Philosophy

**JOHN STRATE**  
Associate Professor  
Political Science

**ANCA VLASOPOLOS**  
Professor  
English

**MONICA WHITE**  
Assistant Professor  
Sociology

# 2008-2009 Sponsored Programs

## Working Groups

### WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

#### AGING AND DIVERSITY

Ruth E. Ray, *English*  
Donyale Griffin,  
*Communication*  
Janet Langlois, *English*

#### EARLY MODERN CULTURES: GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Jamie Goodrich, *English*  
Laura Estill, *Graduate  
Student, English*  
Anne Duggan, *CMLLC*  
Renuka Gusain, *Graduate  
Student, English*  
Jose Rico-Ferrer,  
*CMLLC*

#### INTERGRATING ONLINE LEARNING COMPONENTS THROUGH COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

Pierluigi Erbaggio, *CMLLC*  
Sangeetha  
Gopalakrishnan, *Director,  
FLTC*  
Sandra Hobbs, *CMLLC*  
Haiyong Liu, *CMLLC*

#### THE "INVENTION" OF MINOANS: A KEY ISSUE IN CRETAN STUDIES

Michele V. Ronnick,  
*CMLLC*  
Thomas Killion,  
*Anthropology*  
Brian Madigan, *Art and  
Art History*  
Sarah Bassett, *Art and  
Art History*

*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 2008-2009 Annual Report.*

#### AGING AND DIVERSITY

*Group Leader: Ruth E. Ray*

The Hannan Archival Research Group met monthly throughout the 2008-2009 academic year. In early November, 2008, we co-sponsored, along with the WSU Institute of Gerontology (IOG), a two-day visit by historian W. Andrew Achenbaum, University of Texas. Achenbaum gave a public lecture to the IOG and a private talk to our research group. He also met with various group members over lunch and dinner, and had a significant impact on our collective work. As a result of his visit, we began to read much more broadly in the history and public-policy of the Depression era; we began to interact more collaboratively, reading a book together and discussing its implications for our own research; and we planned a more tightly organized book (our long-term project is a collaboratively authored book).

During the Winter, 2009 semester, five of our 12 group members (3 faculty and two graduate students) did a one-hour public talk at the Center for Lifelong Learning for Active Adults at the St. Peter the Apostle Parish in Harper Woods. The following week, five members, including a different faculty member and graduate student, did a one-hour scholarly presentation to the IOG Research Forum. We have also proposed a panel, titled "Old Age in the Great Depression," for the November, 2009 Gerontological Society of American conference in Atlanta.

We will continue to meet monthly through the spring and summer semesters of 2009, working to complete our book manuscript, tentatively titled *Nobody's Burden: Lessons from the Great Depression on Old-Age Security*.

#### INTERGRATING ONLINE LEARNING COMPONENTS THROUGH COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

*Group Leader: Pierluigi Erbaggio*

During the academic year 2008/2009, the main effort of the group consisted of a collaborative writing project. The members worked with increased momentum towards publishing a journal article. To explore innovative and effective ways of doing collaborative writing, the group has been doing most of the writing using a Wiki. At the end of this collaboration, the members plan on drawing some inferences about doing collaborative writing using a Wiki in this manner, and sharing their experiences with other interested scholars.

The readings, discussions and engagement with the topic of using online technologies in foreign language, culture and literature instruction have resulted in several scholarly outcomes for the group members:

- Pierluigi Erbaggio applied for and received a FLTC MiniGrant on using video-animations for Italian language classes. He successfully completed this project and presented his experiences and lessons learned about the creation of video-animations and the benefits of using technology in language classes to peers at a Brown Bag session at the FLTC.



# 2008-2009 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.*

•Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan is presenting two papers at the upcoming International Association of Language Learning Technology (IALLT). Both papers are on topics that are closely related to the research area of this working group. She also received the Henderson Plenary Award for one of her papers: "The Evolution of Teaching language, culture and literature with technology: Has the role of technology changed?"

•Sandra Hobbs successfully integrated the use of Wiki technology in the teaching of her Advanced French Composition class during the 2009 winter semester.

•Haiyong Liu published an article entitled "Creating Homemade Videos for Online Language Users" in International Chinese Language Teaching and Learning. Additionally, he has significantly increased his use of Blackboard applications for his classes.

•Sandra Hobbs and Sangeetha Gopalakrishnan presented on a panel for the Digital Humanities Collaboratory, WSU on the topic "An Evolutionary Approach To Teaching Language And Culture With Technology"

These activities of the group members have further informed the group writing project and enriched the research agenda. Finally, the group held bimonthly meetings to discuss the article's progress and submitted a panel presentation proposal for CALICO.

### THE "INVENTION" OF MINOANS: A KEY ISSUE IN CRETAN STUDIES

*Group Leader: Michele V. Ronnick*

Professor Ronnick reports that she is both pleased and excited to report that The Cretan Studies Working Group was a complete success. The group was composed of students and professors from several academic departments around the university. The main objective of this collaboration was to evaluate the relationship between archaeology and tourism, particularly Bronze Age archaeology and modern Crete. The interdisciplinary nature of the group allowed for multiple perspectives both on the perception of the Minoan civilization and also the interconnectedness between archaeology and the tourism industry. The members of our group who specialize in other archaeological fields were able to internalize the material we read on the Minoans and apply it to their own fields; those who had studied the Minoans in detail also benefitted from this discourse by learning how the very same issues present in Bronze Age archaeology are just as prevalent in other disciplines. By synthesizing information from these various fields the group was able to tackle the information present in our text and brainstorm on some theories that might help in solving some of the issues that plague the archaeological discipline as a whole. From a student's perspective both Jennifer Meyer and Thomas Harwood were able to dry run several ideas with the group before presenting papers, based on field work in Crete, at the 105th CAMWS

### WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

#### REGIONS OF PRACTICE: POETICS ACROSS LANGUAGES

**Barrett Watten**, *English*  
**Charles Stivale**, *CMLLC*  
**Lisabeth Hock**, *CMLLC*

#### RETHINKING GLOBALISM

**Alexander Day**, *History*  
**L. Todd Duncan**, *English*  
**Carla Harryman**, *English*  
**Elena Past**, *CMLLC*

#### SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

[Core Members]  
**Marsha Richmond**, *History*  
**William Lynch**, *History*  
**Al Saperstein**, *Physics*

#### UNDERSTANDING NEGOTIATION AND ITS OUTCOMES IN CIVIL WARS

**Fred Pearson**, *Political  
Science and Director of Center  
for Peace and Conflict Studies*  
**Perry Mars**, *Africana Studies*  
**Al Saperstein**, *Physics and  
Astronomy*  
**Melvin Small**, *History*

# Working Groups

## WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

### AGING AND DIVERSITY

Ruth E. Ray, *English*  
Donyale Griffin,  
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*English*

### EARLY MODERN CULTURES: GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Jamie Goodrich, *English*  
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### INTERGRATING ONLINE LEARNING COMPONENTS THROUGH COURSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN FOREIGN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

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*CMLLC*  
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Haiyong Liu, *Director,  
Confucious Center*

### THE "INVENTION" OF MINOANS: A KEY ISSUE IN CRETAN STUDIES

Michele V. Ronnick,  
*CMLLC*  
Thomas Killion,  
*Anthropology*  
Brian Madigan, *Art and  
Art History*

(Classics Association of the Middle West and South) meeting in April. The casual setting of group discussions provided students a unique opportunity to collaborate with experts and address topics that are too specific and detailed for many courses to cover. The students in the group would like to thank the Humanities Center and the members of the group, Drs. Madigan, Basset, Killion and Ronnick and fellow Classic student Bryan Ales and others, for making this discussion group a reality.

### REGIONS OF PRACTICE: POETICS ACROSS LANGUAGES

*Group Leader: Barrett Watten*

This working group constitutes a program-based network of scholars, writers, and students working on poetics in multiple languages and traditions, and in various regions or sites. The core concept of this inquiry is "region," seen as simultaneously a site of artistic and cultural production and a trans- or post-national geographical area (or pattern of dispersion) as it bears on this production. To pursue a poetics of "region" could mean to focus inquiry on the sites of art and literature in metropolitan areas such as Berlin or New York, and their precise spatial coordinates (artistic spaces of exhibition and performance; social spaces of everyday life and culture). It could mean an inquiry into modernist poetics in relation to the "uneven development" of capitalist social relations as a theoretical framework. It could mean a report on Francophone writers of Maghrebi origin writing in the banlieue of Paris, or writers of the Near East negotiating conditions of transnational residence and displacement. It could mean organizing readings of a Francophone writer from Quebec, or a

German avant-garde poet on tour in the United States, or post-Tiananmen Chinese poet now living in exile in Brooklyn.

### RETHINKING GLOBALISM

*Group Leader: Alexander Day*

The group's participants, who come from various disciplines in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, all share an interest in many of the global themes that resonate locally: capitalism, work, race, and the unfulfilled promise of modernity, for example. Exploring the question of whether Detroit is simply a singular exception among contemporary American cities or rather a representative of the global challenges of modern urban societies, this working group attempts to provide a unique environment and vantage point to think through various problems in the history and theory of globalism. "Globalism" we define simply as the critical position of thinking about local problems in a global frame; "globalization," by contrast, is an economic and political process of international integration. The group met about four times each semester over the last academic year as a reading group. We discussed key texts written by Detroit authors who address local conditions that reverberate globally as well as texts written by their international interlocutors. These meetings have had an attendance of up to fifteen members, including both faculty members and graduate students. On occasion, we invited members of the Detroit community who have been politically active locally to our meetings. Their added perspective greatly helped to enhance our understanding of the issues presented in the readings. In addition, members of the group organized a very successful public showing of the film *Finally Got the News*-highlighting significant issues related to the revolutionary union movement in Detroit in the 1960s and 1970s-at the

# 2008-2009 Sponsored Programs

## Working Groups

MOCAD in March 2009. The film showing was followed by a discussion with some of the members of the movement. Moreover, in order to help generate a wider discussion, several of our members presented their work at the Humanities Center brown bags or conferences. Finally, we have arranged to bring a speaker to campus for a lecture and seminar in September, and will continue meeting in the summer.

### SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

*Group Leader: Marsha Richmond*

The Working Group on Science and Society (WGSS) has been supported by the Humanities Center for the past seven years. This support has enabled a cohort of individuals from different departments across the campus to share 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, however, was interrupted owing to the year-long sabbatical leave of the Coordinator, during which time she was frequently away from campus. As a result, there was only one lecture held this year:

Dr. Manfred Laubichler, Professor in the School of Life Sciences, Arizona State University, who spoke on "From Darwin to Davidson: Episodes in the History of a Mechanistic Theory of Evolution and Development" on 13 February.

This talk opened the WSU commemoration of 2009 as the Darwin Year and was well attended.

Members of the WGSS did meet, however,

in October 2008 to plan for next year's proposed "Year of the Environment" lectures to be held on campus throughout the year, and which will coordinate with the Humanities Center symposium on the Environment. We also worked out the details of another lecture to commemorate the Darwin Year to be held on 22 October 2009, when Dr. Janet Browne, Professor of the History of Science Department at Harvard University and author of the award-winning two-volume biography of Darwin, will be visit the campus to deliver a lecture.

### UNDERSTANDING NEGOTIATION AND ITS OUTCOMES IN CIVIL WARS

*Group Leader: Fred Pearson*

The world experienced approximately 150 civil wars from 1946 to 2000. The pace of such wars reportedly has picked up considerably since the end of the global cold war in 1990. Remarkably only 43 (29%) of these conflicts have ended in a successful negotiated settlement while 60 conflicts were ended with government military victory; insurgent groups won 16 conflicts. Yet, it is noteworthy that over 70 percent of conflicts engaged in at least one or several negotiation attempts that did not end successfully. Thus successfully navigating a negotiation route out of domestic political violence is a most challenging mission especially in the humanitarian reality that civilians are the main victims of such violence today. This working group devotes itself to thoroughly understanding, exploring, and improving negotiations and their outcomes in civil wars.

### WORKING GROUPS IN THE HUMANITIES

#### REGIONS OF PRACTICE: POETICS ACROSS LANGUAGES

**Barrett Watten**, *English*  
**Charles Stivale**, *CMLLC*  
**Lisabeth Hock**, *CMLLC*

#### RETHINKING GLOBALISM

**Alexander Day**, *History*  
**L. Todd Duncan**, *English*  
**Carla Harryman**, *English*  
**Elena Past**, *CMLLC*

#### SCIENCE AND SOCIETY

[Core Members]

**Marsha Richmond**, *History*  
**William Lynch**, *History*  
**Al Saperstein**, *Physics*

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**Perry Mars**, *Africana Studies*  
**Al Saperstein**, *Physics and  
Astronomy*  
**Melvin Small**, *History*



## 2008-2009 Sponsored Programs

# Open Competition

### OPEN COMPETITION GRANT WINNERS 2008-2009

**TAMARA BRAY**  
Associate  
Professor  
Anthropology

**MARION JACKSON**  
Professor  
Art and Art History

**CAROLINE MAUN**  
Assistant Professor  
English

*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; but the Center also recognizes that some themes or topics inadvertently might exclude important and exciting research at critical moments in their developments. The intent of the "Open Competition" grant, then, is to compensate in some fashion for these unavoidable eventualities. This year, the Humanities Center awarded the Open Competition Grant to three scholars in three different disciplines.*

**Tamara Bray**, Associate Professor, Anthropology  
*Roots of Imperialism: The Inca Empire*

This project aims to enrich our understanding of the range of political practices invented and developed by the Inca, as well as highlight the connections between past and present in the current imperial moment of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Her book will examine this last autochthonous Andean empire in terms of the structures that were created and mobilized in order to keep conquered and other dependent populations in check.

**Marion Jackson**, Professor, Art & Art History  
*Bandits & Heroes, Pets & Saints - Popular Art from the Northeast of Brazil*

Marion Jackson's research for a majority of the past ten years has focused on the popular arts and culture of Brazil's culturally diverse but economically impoverished Northeast. She would like the outcome of her research to culminate in a major nationally touring exhibition entitled *Bandits & Heroes, Poets & Saints - Popular Art of the Northeast of Brazil*. This project will be part of an exhibition comprised of three freestanding but related components, each dealing with a particular aspect of the rich culture of Brazil's Northeast. Each component will present 90-100 objects, including paintings, prints, photographs, sculptures and other objects made by artists and artisans as well as explanatory photo/text wall panels and a kiosk at which visitors may access the exhibition Web site, for which initial "seed funding" is provided by the Humanities Center.

**Caroline Maun**, Assistant Professor, English  
*Mosaic of Fire: The Poetry of Evelyn Scott, Lola Ridge, Charlotte Wilder, Louise Bogan and Kay Boyle*

This work will bring attention to a group of women writers working in New York during the years of 1915 to 1945 who participated in the major currents of American modern poetry. These writers, as Burton Hatlen has noted, "radically and permanently transformed the role of women poets within American culture." They form a cohort of writers that were part of a larger community that included more canonical figures such as William Carlos Williams, Marianne Moore, Amy Lowell, H.D., Ezra Pound. They cohere as members of a network of women authors who came of age the nineteen teens, who primarily thought of themselves as professional writers, who sought to grapple with major social issues in their poetry, and who had direct, personal connections with one another that served to advance their careers as poets. Aesthetically, they each participated in a tendency to blend concerns for the personal, social justice, and modern artistic forms in their work. Each artist negotiated a path from Imagism in the early periods of their careers toward alternative aesthetics as they matured, including in several cases moving from free verse toward more formal poetry.

# 2008-2009 Sponsored Programs 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 conferences and exhibitions. To apply for this funding, graduate students must include 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.



## RECIPIENTS

JILL DARLING

ENGLISH

RICHARD FRY

HISTORY

DEBBIE JAMES SMITH

MEDIA ARTS AND SCIENCES

JAYNE YATCZAK

ANTHROPOLOGY

IAN CHAP

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES

LAURA ESTILL

ENGLISH

MICHAEL MURPHY

HISTORY

MARLYNNE POWELL

GEOGRAPHY

KIMBERLY LACEY

ENGLISH

SHARON LINDHORSE

SOCIOLOGY

EGLÉE RODRIGUEZ-BRAVO

CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES, LITERATURES,  
AND CULTURES

## CONFERENCES ATTENDED

*LIFTING BELLY HIGH: A CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S  
POETRY SINCE 1900*

*SOCIAL SCIENCE HISTORY ASSOCIATION*

*SCREEN CONFERENCE*

*SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF OCCUPATION*

*HASTAC III CONFERENCE*

*SHAKESPEARE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA*

*POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN  
CULTURAL ASSOCIATION*

*AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION*

*COMPUTERS AND WRITING 2009 CONFERENCE*

*SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL PROBLEMS ANNUAL  
MEETING*

*29TH CINCINNATI CONFERENCE ON ROMANCE  
LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES*

A Look Ahead: 2009-2010 Activities  
**2009 Fall Symposium**

November 6, 2009

## “Representation of Health and Disease in the City”

### EXPLICATION

The city has from ancient times been seen as a nexus of confluences. In its glory, the polis, Athens for instance, represented the center of balance and enlightenment, where a man like Orestes could find justice and be released from mental and physical torment. In its decadence, the city becomes the site of pollution and infection: the pestilence in Thebes stands for crimes against king and nature. Medieval cities, ravaged by the plague, lost two thirds of their citizens through death; other, more fortunate inhabitants could take refuge in the country, away from the hot points of contamination; The Decameron is an entertainment for just such refugees. Revolutions were fomented in cities. Spectacles such as ritual processions, marches through arches of triumph, public executions, all required the collective gaze of multitudes to achieve their greatest effects. During the Industrial Revolution and in its aftermath, as cities increased their populations more than five times, these pullulating centers fostered both the most horrific sites of congestion, filth, and diseases, as well as the greatest advances in sanitation known in human history. Competing and overlapping discourses about eugenics and degeneration in general took their “data” from urban populations. Psychoanalysis began as an investigation of Viennese bourgeois malaise.

In the United States as well, cities have been the object of pronounced ambivalence. Jefferson described cities as a canker on the body politic and urged parents to forbid their sons to visit European capitols. Progressives regarded cities as a source of liberation once they were “cleansed” of corruption. The anomaly of New York City as the cultural center of the U.S. and Washington, D.C., as the capital points to the American ambivalence about cities.

The Humanities Center invites proposals for talks that address the ways in which health and disease have been represented as located in the city. What is the significance of the urban setting in the pursuit of health and/or disease? How our attitudes about cities formed by the discourses of health practitioners, innovative medical geniuses, social reformers, novelists, artists, and composers in depicting the vectors of health and disease among citizens of the polis? How, in turn, are our views of disease and health colored by cultural notions of the city as both a center of medical expertise and an environment where pollution, noise, germ transference, and adulterated food supplies promote the spread of disease?



# 2009-2010 A Look Ahead

# Brown Bag Colloquium Series

*The 2009-2010 Brown Bag series promises to be as exciting as the 2008-2009 season. Below is a list of 61 talks already scheduled.*

September 9	<b>Robert M. Ackerman, Dean, Law</b> "Communitarianism and Taking Responsibility"
September 15	<b>Claude Schochet, Professor, Mathematics</b> "The Two Cultures" by C.P. Snow — 50 Years Later"
September 16	<b>Robert J. Burgoyne, Professor, English</b> "Homeland/Promised Land: Gangs of New York"
September 22	<b>Erica Stevens Abbitt, Assistant Professor, University of Windsor, School of Dramatic Art,</b> "Body and Breath: Inspiring Feminist Research and Practice"
September 23	<b>Bruce Russell, Professor, Philosophy</b> "Pedro Almodovar's Films: Explorations of Love"
September 29	<b>Steven Shaviro, Derooy Chair &amp; Professor, English</b> "Dangerous Modulations: Grace Jones' "Corporate Cannibal""
September 30	<b>Thomas W. Killion, Associate Professor, Anthropology</b> "Corktown Archaeology: Recent Research at the Workers Row House"
October 6	<b>Christine Evans, Ph.D. Candidate, University of California, Berkeley, History</b> "From Truth to Time: The Cold War and the Transformation of Soviet Central Television's Evening News, 1961-1982"
October 7	<b>Ross J. Pudaloff, Associate Professor, English</b> "Lila Jimerson's Two bodies"
October 13	<b>Tamara Bray, Associate Professor, Anthropology</b> "Inca Imperialism on the Northern Frontier"
October 14	<b>Afira Javed, Lecturer, Sociology</b> "Acculturation Stress"
October 20	<b>Marc Kruman, Chair &amp; Professor, History</b> "Abraham Lincoln: Bicentennial Reflections"
October 21	<b>Krista Brumley, Assistant Professor, Sociology</b> "Globalization and Organizational Culture: Accommodation and Resistance in Mexico"
October 27	<b>Vanessa Jill De Gifis, Assistant Professor, CMLLC</b> "Scripture and Pious Rhetoric in Abbasid Politics"
October 28	<b>Marvin Zalman, Professor, Criminal Justice</b> "Citizenship Explains Changes in Police Interrogation Practices and Supreme Court Confessions Rulings"
November 3	<b>Roslyn Abt Schindler, Associate Professor, CMLLC</b> "A Search for Connections: Exploring Personal Roots and Professional Community in Poland"
November 4	<b>Francis Brockington, Associate Professor, Music</b> TBA
November 10	<b>Annie Higgins, Assistant Professor, CMLLC</b> "Woman's Smile, History's Gaze: Authority in Arabic Currencies"
November 11	<b>Dora Apel, Associate Professor, Art &amp; Art History</b> "What is Radical Art Today?"
November 17	<b>Jaime Goodrich, Assistant Professor, English</b> "Who is Mrs. M.B.?: Monastic Authorship and the Case of Dame Clementia Cary's Psalms"
November 18	<b>Marion Jackson, Distinguished Professor, Art &amp; Art History</b> "Bandits & Heroes: Art and Popular Imagination in Brazil's Northeast"
November 24	<b>Eric H. Ash, Associate Professor, History</b> "The Unrecovered Country: The Non-Drainage of Cambridge Fens, 1619-1620"
December 1	<b>Therese Tuohy Volk, Associate Professor, Music</b> "The WPA/DSO Music Manuscripts: Collaborative Research & Website Development"
December 2	<b>Kenneth Walters, Associate Professor, CMLLC</b> "Old Money, New Money"
December 3	<b>Eldonna Lorraine May, Part-time Faculty, Music</b> "Music as Propaganda: Sergei Prokofiev's Patriotic Cantatas" *11:45 at Schaver Recital Hall
December 8	<b>Kathleen McNamee, Professor, CMLLC &amp; Judith Arnold, Librarian III, University Libraries</b> "How do we help students become good researchers?"
December 9	<b>Nicholas Fleisher, Assistant Professor &amp; Student Advisor, English (Linguistics Program)</b> "Gradability, Vagueness, and the Semantics of Inappropriateness"
December 15	<b>Mark Ferguson, Senior Lecturer, CMLLC</b> "The Fetishization of Study Abroad"
December 16	<b>Jacalyn D. Harden, Assistant Professor, Anthropology</b> TBA - Washington DC Sniper Project
January 12	<b>Robert L. Thomas, Dean, CLAS</b> TBA
January 13	<b>Richard Grusin, Professor, English</b> "Nature, Virtuality, and Masculinity in the Hollywood Western"
January 19	<b>Lothar Spang, Librarian IV, University Libraries</b> TBA
January 20	<b>Anca Vlasopolos, Professor, English</b> TBA
January 26	<b>Robert Sedler, Distinguished Professor, Law</b> "Our 18th Century Constitution Congress, the President, and our Two-Party Political System"
January 27	<b>Leisa Kauffmann, Assistant Professor, CMLLC</b> "Disguising the Man-god: Rulership and Religiosity in Colonial Nahua Histories"
February 2	<b>Melba Boyd, Distinguished Professor &amp; Chair, Africana Studies</b> TBA
February 3	<b>William Harris, Professor, English</b> TBA
February 4	<b>Xavier O'Neal Livermon, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies</b> TBA
February 9	<b>Guerin Montilus, Professor, Anthropology &amp; Penny Golboldo,</b> "Katherine Dunham (June 22, 1909-May 21, 2006): The Centennial Birthday of an African American Woman, Pioneer in Anthropology and "Matriarch and Queen of the Black Dance""
February 10	<b>Derek E. Daniels, Assistant Professor, Communication Sciences &amp; Disorders</b> TBA
February 11	<b>Norah Duncan IV, Associate Chair, Music</b> TBA
February 16	<b>Daphne Ntiri, Associate Professor, Africana Studies &amp; Merry Stewart</b> "Transformation Learning Intervention: Effect on Functional Health"
February 17	<b>Osumaka Likaka, Associate Professor, History</b> "Colonialism, stereotyping, and New Ethnic identities in Congo"
February 18	<b>R. Khari Brown, Assistant Professor, Sociology</b> "The Impact of Religion on African American Immigration Attitudes"
February 23	<b>Alicia Nails, Lecturer, Communication</b> "Recruiting, Retraining, and Retaining the Urban Student"
February 24	<b>Monica M. White, Assistant Professor, Sociology</b> "D-Town Farm: Conversations about Race and the Urban Gardening Movement in Detroit"
February 25	<b>Marilyn Zimmerman, Associate Professor, Art &amp; Art History</b> "Detroit Photography"
March 2	<b>Jose A. Rico-Ferrer, Assistant Professor, CMLLC</b> "Poetic Friendships: The case of Boscan and Garcilaso"
March 3	<b>Eugenia Casielles, Associate Professor, CMLLC &amp; Dolly Tittle, GTA, CMLLC,</b> "Spanish & English in contact: Codeswitching strategies and radical bilingualism"
March 9	<b>Mary Cay Sengstock, Professor, Sociology</b> "Voices of Diversity - Interviews with People on the 'Assimilation Side' of Multi-Culturalism"
March 10	<b>Patricia K. McCormick, Associate Professor, Communication</b> "Transforming Intergovernmental Satellite Organizations into Private Equity Assets"
March 23	<b>Elizabeth Dorn Lublin, Assistant Professor, History</b> "Citizens and Social Work in Meiji Japan"
March 24	<b>renee c. hoogland, Associate Professor, English</b> "Abjection and Neo-Aesthetics"
March 30	<b>Lisa Maruca, Associate Professor, English</b> TBA
March 31	<b>Dennis Tini, Distinguished Professor, Music</b> "The Brain in Music and Martial Arts"
April 6	<b>Simone Chess, Assistant Professor, English</b> "Disability, Cheap Print, and Shakespeare"
April 7	<b>Jeff Pruchnic, Assistant Professor, English</b> "What is Virtual Life?"
April 13	<b>Karen Liston, Librarian III, University Libraries</b> "Research in a Global Context"
April 14	<b>Ronald Aronson, Distinguished Professor, History</b> TBA
April 20	<b>Sarika Chandra, Assistant Professor, English</b> TBA
April 21	<b>John Corvino, Associate Professor, Philosophy</b> "Just My Opinion"
April 27	<b>Michael Darroch, Assistant Professor, University of Windsor, Communication, Media and Film,</b> "From Anonymous History to Acoustic Space: Marshall McLuhan Between Urban and Media Studies"
April 28	<b>Andrew Port, Associate Professor, History</b> "German Reactions to Genocide since 1945"

# A Look Ahead: 2009-2010 Activities

## Open Competition Grant

APPLICATIONS DUE: NOVEMBER 13, 2009

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 in some fashion for these unavoidable eventualities.

### 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 (maximally 6 double-spaced pages) describing the project and indicating clearly and in detail how this project contributes to the humanities. The narrative should emphasize, in particular, why support is needed at this particular time in the project's development, future plans for publication. Some attention should also be given to why this project is not eligible for other Humanities Center or university competitions.
- A budget
- A CV

**Fifteen (15) copies of the application and CV** should be submitted to the Director, Humanities Center, by 5:00 PM on November 13, 2009.

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

A Look Ahead: 2009-2010 Activities  
**2010 Faculty Fellows Competition**  
APPLICATIONS DUE: APRIL 3, 2010

## “Gender and Sexuality”

### EXPLICATION

Since the introduction of feminist theory to the academy in the 1970s, studies of gender and sexuality have become among the most rapidly evolving, influential, and pressing areas of scholarly inquiry and political activism. This year’s Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship Competition encourages projects in the areas of genders, sexualities, their representations and asymmetrical power structures. Inherently interdisciplinary, this work allows us to better understand the overlapping intersections among identities, behaviors, experiences, histories, and cultures. For example, recognizing representations of early modern crossdressing can provide context for and insight into contemporary genderqueer identities. In the domain of visual art, exploring the work of artists like Artemisia Gentileschi or Frida Kahlo provides us with complex ways of rethinking the female body, violence, sexuality, and cultural identity. This work can also cross the traditional boundaries between theory and praxis, as academic research impacts communities, curricula, and policy. For example, the urgency of examining the marginalization of and violence towards women within the dominant masculinist context of warfare—past and present—might perhaps be best expressed by considering the current ongoing systematic rape of women in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has already claimed some 500,000 victims. In our own community, theorizing technologies of gender can enable new methods for considering the experiences of women and men in Detroit’s manufacturing crisis.

The Humanities Center welcomes applications from all disciplinary perspectives, on topics related to the broad topics of gender and sexuality—literary, artistic, historical, economic, philosophical, political, journalistic, and scientific. **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, 2010**.

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WAYNE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

HUMANITIES  
*Bringing Humanists Together  
for Collaborative Research* CENTER

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*The Humanities Center  
2008-2009 Annual Report  
Produced by Veronica Machak,  
Beth Kersey, and Jennifer Leonard*

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