



Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities Awards for 2001-2002

July 1, 2001

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS

Marshall Brown (Professor, English and Comparative Literature)

The Gothic Text

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for work on a book manuscript which traces the gothic novel from its origin in the mid-eighteenth century through the romantic period and argues that inwardness is the distinguishing characteristic of Romantic gothic novels rather than the sensationalism for which they have typically been admired or scorned.

Jessica Burstein (Assistant Professor, English)

Steeled Against Intimation: Anglo-American Modernism, 1895-1939

As a recipient of an ACLS Fellowship for 2001-02, Burstein will work on a study of the recovery and reorientation of the critical understanding of modernism and modernist aesthetics. This project follows a genealogy of nonpsychological approaches to the human form and to artistic construction and outlines a context for the cultural preoccupation with coldness, machinist aesthetics, and seriality.

Gordana Crnkovic (Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages and Literature and Comparative Literature)

The Many Faces of Anti-Nationalism: A New Perspective on Cultural Nationalism

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for work on a book which will contribute to the literature on aggressive nationalism as the main cause of recent violence in the Balkans by demonstrating that there was a vibrant culture of "anti-nationalism" which existed simultaneously with the official nationalist culture in all of the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

Kriszta Kotsis (Dissertator, Art History)

Representations of Middle Byzantine Empresses

A Dissertation Fellowship for work on a study of representations of Middle Byzantine empresses from religious, political, ideological, and gender perspectives. The aim of the project is to provide new insights into the concept of female imperial power, the role of women, the conception of gender, female sanctity and religious practice, and portraiture in Byzantium.

Raymond Jonas (Professor, History)

Carnal Vision and Sainly Ambition in the Great War: The Story of Claire

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for work on a book which will explore what happened after the Catholic hierarchy in the France of WWI began to reconcile, belatedly and grudgingly, with the French Republic. The project is constructed in the form of a personal narrative and is told through the lens of the life of Claire Ferchaud, a peasant woman whose vision and ambition took her to Paris and the office of the president of the Republic.

Benjamin Schmidt (Assistant Professor, History)

Inventing Exoticism: The Project of Dutch Geography and the Expansion of the World circa 1700

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for work on a book-length study of exoticism in Europe circa 1700. During this critical moment of European expansion the Dutch Republic produced an extraordinary quantity of works dedicated to the depiction of distant places, peoples, and landscapes just as their colonial efforts were lessening. This project seeks to account for the Dutch project of geography and for the strategy of "exoticism" adopted in marketing a world that the Dutch no longer had a primary stake in possessing.

Jennifer Seltz (Dissertator, History)

Embodying Nature: Health, Work, and Place in Nineteenth-Century America

A Dissertation Fellowship for work on a project which unravels nineteenth-century preoccupations with the body in the Pacific Northwest, East Texas and San Francisco to reveal the resulting cultural and physical story of those places. The study explores how claims to power and to knowledge of nature hinged on arguments about health, labor, and consumption. Questions of who belonged could be answered by looking to the effects of local nature and local habits on different bodies—slave or free; white, Indian, or Chinese; sickened or thriving. In the process of asking these questions diverse groups of people revealed how Americans learned to draw sharp boundaries between themselves and the rest of the natural world.

Sarah Abrevaya Stein (Assistant Professor, History)

Making Jews Modern: Yiddish and Ladino Newspaper Cultures in the Russian and Ottoman Empires

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for work on a book which explores the emergence and popularity of Jewish newspapers in Yiddish and Ladino in order to compare the very different ways in which turn-of-the-century Jews of the Russian and Ottoman Empires envisioned modernity.

Carol Thomas (Professor, History)

Humanizing History

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for research and writing of the Autumn 2002 Fordyce Mitchel Memorial Lectures, University of Missouri, which will form the core of a book. The project will build upon recent developments in cultural and social history and archaeology to provide a new, fuller perspective in the effort to move from abstract processes to human experience in an understanding of Greek antiquity.

Christina Vester (Dissertator, Classics)

Polis and Reproduction: The Role of the Mother in Euripides and Menander

A Dissertation Fellowship for a project focused upon the role of the mother in Greek drama of the Classical Greek period. Given the biological necessity of the mother, and the ideological desire of the Greek democracy to construct itself as the parent of citizen offspring, a contest necessarily developed over who or what is the mother. This study argues that this contest is foregrounded in Euripidean and Menandrian domestic dramas—works that focus on the household, its inhabitants, and perpetuation.

Sabine Wilke (Professor, Germanics)

White Women in Furs and African Women in Atlas Silk

Research Fellowship, providing one quarter of release time for research on the German colonial imagination. The study explores the central function of colonial images for the construction of German cultural modernity, investigating the construction of the white woman as the cruel woman in furs in the masochistic imagination and the role of (male) masochism in the context of German colonial discourse.

OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2001-02 SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS INCLUDE:

Rebecca Lemov, Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow, Simpson Center for the Humanities (History and Anthropology)

Lemov's dissertation, *The Laboratory Imagination: Experiments in Human and Social Engineering, 1929-1956*, delves into the file cabinets of the first half of the twentieth century, those of the prewar Yale Institute of Human Relations and the postwar Harvard Department and Laboratory of Social Relations, and describes the tests and catalogues that the two institutions devised in order to "experiment on and change the nature and functioning of human beings, both as individual and social entities." Though the concept of social and human engineering was prevalent before the twentieth century, Lemov's research highlights the fact that the twentieth century was unique in the common belief that social and human engineering could and would take place within a *laboratory*.

Ana Munk, Alvord Fellow in the Humanities (Art)

This project, titled *St. Simeon's Shrine in Zadar (Dalmatia): Holy Relics as Political Instruments During the Reign of Lovis of Anjou (1242-1382)*, examines Saint Simeon's shrine and other late medieval reliquaries made in Zadar, Croatia from a historical, political, devotional, artistic and gender point of view. As artistically powerful cult objects which encased holy relics and gave visual definition to the cults of Zadar patron saints, reliquaries (and St. Simeon's reliquary shrine) figured as markers in collective consciousness of the commune. Gender issues are raised by a number of personal scenes showing the wife of Louis of Anjou, Queen Elizabeth of Bosnia, the donor of the shrine.

Melek Ortabasi, Alvord Fellow in the Humanities (Comparative Literature)

This project, titled *Japanese Cultural History as Literary Landscape: Scholarship, Authorship and Language in Yanagita Kunio's Native Ethnology*, examines the diverse writings of Yanagita Kunio (1875-1962), the so-called "father" of folklore study in Japan. Yanagita is most often characterized as having abandoned his youthful interest in literature for the more objective methodology of social science. Many critics see this "transformation" as crucial to Yanagita's development of the field called minzokugaku (native ethnology). Ortabasi's dissertation will counter this common viewpoint and show that Yanagita's minzokugaku was deeply influenced by, and in fact based upon, his literary knowledge and poetic sensibility.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

The Modern Girl Around the World

Lynn Thomas (History), Tani Barlow (Women Studies), Madeleine Yue Dong (Jackson School of International Studies), Susan Glenn (History), Uta Poiger (History), Priti Ramamurthy (Women Studies), and Alys Weinbaum (English)

This collaborative and comparative project investigates the phenomenon of the Modern Girl as she made her appearance in societies all over the world during the twentieth century, with a special focus on international commodity flows, colonial relations, new media, the rise of welfare states, and protectionist ideology. Vicki Ruiz (History and Chicana/Latino Studies, UC Irvine) will lecture on the Modern Girl on November 5, 2001; Tim Burke (History, Swarthmore) will lecture on February 23, 2002.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times: Artifacts from China's Cultural Revolution

Stevan Harrell (Anthropology, Burke Museum)

Support for an exhibit, "Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times: Artifacts from China's Cultural Revolution," at the Burke Museum from January 15 through March 5, 2002, and for an accompanying public symposium, scheduled for February 8-9, 2002, on the Cultural Revolution in Memory and Artifact.

A Sense of Where We Are: History and Literature of the Pacific Northwest

John M. Findlay (History)

Support for a Summer 2001 undergraduate course, lecture series, and website which examine the intersection of Pacific Northwest history and literature. Prominent regional writers Ivan Doig, Tess Gallagher, James Welch, Mary Glearman Blew, David Wagoner, and David James Duncan will work and talk with students and public audiences on topics in regional literature. This course is designed especially for K-12 teachers, who have expressed the need for coursework in the realms of regional history and literature.

The Languages of Emotional Injury

Roger Simpson (School of Communications) and Jeffrey A. Cantrell (Radiology)

Support for a public program which will bring distinguished poets and journalists of trauma together to present their work and to engage in dialogue about their different ways of representing human suffering and resiliency. Five evening programs, scheduled for April 22-26, 2002, will present the paired readings of a poet and a journalist. Morning sessions will engage the poets and journalists with smaller audiences. The entire content of the readings and conferences will be streamed for an international audience on www.counterbalancepoetry.org. Among the poets are Carolyn Forché, Frances Driscoll, Semezdin Mehmedinovic, and Jimmy Santiago Baca; among the journalists, Ted Conover and Debra McKinney.

The Silk Road

Daniel C. Waugh (History and Jackson School of International Studies), Joel Walker (History and Comparative Religion), and Cynthia Bogel (Art History)

Support for a rich variety of public education projects involving the University of Washington, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Seattle Symphony, as well as individuals and organizations outside the Puget Sound region. The subject is "The Silk Road," understood as shorthand for the chronologically and geographically broad cultural and economic interactions across all of Eurasia. Among other activities, this project will include a photography exhibit, a website, teacher workshops, and a lecture series with Daniel Waugh on March 28, 2002; Boris Marshak (Head of the Central Asian and Caucasus section of the Oriental Division of the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, Russia) on April 11, 2002; and Roderick Whitfield (Percival David Professor of Chinese and East Asian Art, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London) on April 25, 2002.

SYMPOSIA, COLLOQUIA, AND RESEARCH CLUSTERS

Project Cinema: Film Studies in the Twenty-First Century

Jennifer Bean (Cinema Studies), Yomi Braester (Comparative Literature and Asian Languages and Literature), and Eric Ames (Germanics)

Support for a research cluster dedicated to the exploration and elaboration of theoretical and historical paradigms now developing in film and media studies. A lecture series composed of three public speakers, one per quarter, will be inaugurated in collaboration with a film conference, "Emergent Forms," to be held on November 7-9, 2001. The speaker series will extend the conversations raised by the conference across the course of the year, offering an opportunity to reflect on themes of political, aesthetic and cultural interest in today's visual world.

Emerging Forms: Cinema, Narrative, and Technique in the Twenty-First Century

Rahul Gairola (English) and Members of the UW Film Colloquium

Support for the Second Annual Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Film Conference and Short Film Festival to be held November 7-9, 2002, in conjunction with the research cluster "Project Cinema: Film Studies in the Twenty-First Century." The conference will highlight innovative studies of cinema, both nationally and internationally, offering panels and films which investigate such topics as postcolonial/world cinema, emerging voices, film forms, marginal narratives (ethnicity, queerness, gender), and innovations in filmmaking (DVD, digital video).

New Studies in Slavery Symposium

Stephanie M.H. Camp (History)

Support for a one-day symposium on the topic of "New Studies in American Slavery," scheduled for May 24, 2002. Participants will discuss and debate the new ways slavery is being studied, with a focus on the implications of this research for politics and for the study of race and race relations in contemporary society.

Studies in the History of the English Language

Anne Curzan (English)

Support for an interdisciplinary conference devoted to the history of English to be held at the University of Washington on March 22-24, 2002. This conference will bring together some of the world's leading scholars in English historical linguistics to discuss unresolved questions about the development of English as well as pedagogical issues involved in teaching the history of English.

Early Modern Research Group

Barbara Fuchs (English) and Benjamin Schmidt (History)

Support for an interdisciplinary research cluster of faculty and graduate students featuring lectures dedicated to the exploration of society and culture in the early modern period. This group will explore early modernity from a transnational perspective—looking not only across Europe but also to the Americas, Asia, and Africa—and within a generous time frame, producing a more holistic perspective of cultural production than traditionally allotted to the Renaissance and thus allowing a deeper excavation of the period between the Middle Ages and Modernity. The lecture series will begin with Claire Sponsler (English, University of Iowa) on October 15, 2001.

2001 Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism

Gary Handwerk (English and Comparative Literature) and Marshall Brown (English and Comparative Literature)
Support for the ninth annual meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, to be held at the University of Washington, August 16-19, 2001.

Paradigms Lost and Found: The Implications of the Human Genome Project

Felicia Gonzalez (Henry Art Gallery)

Support for a symposium on April 5-7, 2002 at the Henry Art Gallery. The symposium will explore issues raised by the exhibition "Gene(sis): Contemporary Art Explores Human Genomics," gathering together some of the most prominent thinkers in the country. Visual art, along with other media, can provide the metaphors and images to connect scientific findings with our daily lives, and this symposium will provide a forum for stimulating discussion among artists, scientists, and museum visitors.

Human Agency in a Globalizing World

Uta G. Poiger (History) and Nikhil Singh (History)

Support for a year-long lecture series on "Human Agency in a Globalizing World" featuring Amy Kaplan (English and American Studies, Mount Holyoke College) on October 11, 2001; Paul Gilroy (Sociology and African American Studies, Yale University) on January 28, 2002; Mahmood Mamdani (Herbert Lehman Professor of Government in the Departments of Anthropology and Political Science, and Director of the Institute of African Studies at Columbia University, New York) on March 7, 2002; Michael Hardt (Literature and Romance Studies, Duke University) on April 8, 2002; and Aihwa Ong (Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley) on May 9, 2002. The series will draw together a broad audience from the humanities and social sciences through discussions of the issue and concept of agency, especially germane today given that processes of globalization have come to overwhelm many of our discussions of social and political projects.

Nature and its Publics in the Tropical World

K. Sivaramakrishnan (Anthropology), Gary Handwerk (Comparative Literature), Lucy Jarosz (Geography), Linda Nash (History), and Priti Ramamurthy (Women Studies)

Support for a collaborative research group and a series of colloquia focused on the representations of nature and debates over the natural in tropical contexts around the world. The lecture series will explore the ways in which issues of ethno-nationalism, race, class, and gender have influenced public culture, the literary imagination, and political disputes over the conservation of nature in the tropics. Speakers include Ann Gold (Religious Studies, Syracuse) on January 31, 2002; Donald Moore (Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley) on February 21, 2002; Warwick Anderson (History of Science and Medicine, University of California, San Francisco) on April 18, 2002; and Alan Bewell (Comparative Literature, University of Toronto) on May 30, 2002.

Luis Buñuel: The Liberating Eye

Cynthia Steele (Spanish and Portuguese) and Steve Shaviro (English)

Support for a one-day symposium, scheduled for November 10, 2001, which will focus on the cinema of Spanish director Luis Buñuel, in conjunction with a new team-taught course, "The Liberating Eye: The Cinema of Luis Buñuel" (SPAN 491/C Lit 497), and a Teachers as Scholars seminar. This conference will bring together scholars from Europe, the U.S., and Mexico, to reevaluate Buñuel's unique symbiosis of surrealism, anarchism, melodrama, and contradictory gender politics. The project will also include a film series in the fall quarter.

Western Conference on Linguistics

Richard Wright (Linguistics)

Support for keynote speakers for the annual Western Conference on Linguistics to be held on October 26-28, 2001. The conference will feature sessions on syntax, phonology, semantics, pragmatics, phonetics, sociolinguistics and historical linguistics, in addition to two sessions of particular regional interest: a special session on Spanish linguistics and a special session on languages of First Nations.

SIMPSON CENTER CROSSDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SEMINARS

Post-National American Studies

Bruce Burgett (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW-Bothell) and Nikhil Singh (History)

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar will ask the question: how do we study the culture of the United States in an age of globalization? The question will be approached by mapping the wide range of meanings attached to the term "globalization" and by focusing specifically on three geographic regions that are serving as sites of exciting research in American Studies: the Black Atlantic, the American Southwest, and the Pacific Rim.

Abstraction: Modernism in Literature, Music, and the Visual Arts

Marek Wieczorek (Art History)

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar will examine parallel pioneering approaches to abstraction in literature and poetry, music, and the visual arts from the first decades of the twentieth century. The course will explore the rich cross-fertilization between the arts and different interpretations of abstraction, both text-based and visually and acoustically driven, by calling on the expertise of guest speakers from the University of Washington.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Texts and Teachers

Gary Handwerk (English and Comparative Literature) and Willis Konick (English and Comparative Literature)

Support for the expansion of the UW Texts and Teachers program, a curriculum development and outreach effort that enables the collaborative teaching of university and high school courses. The one-week summer workshop is designed to welcome new high school teachers to the program.

Program in Textual Studies

Raimonda Modiano (English and Comparative Literature) and Míceál Vaughan (English and Comparative Literature)

Support to bring guest speakers to campus to enrich the three core courses of the graduate program in Textual Studies. Concerned with the maintenance, preservation, and transmission of texts, Textual Studies offers three core courses, Hypertext, Textual Theory, and Oral and Scribal Texts. These visitors will also contribute to a faculty-graduate student colloquium on the development of undergraduate general education courses in textual studies.

In Vivo: Traversing Scientific and Artistic Observations of Life

Phillip Thurtle (School of Communications, CHID), Elizabeth Rutledge (School of Medicine), and Marta Lyall (Art)

Support for the development and offering of a team-taught course which will encourage students to consider the commonality in all human understanding and observation through a study of the theme of emergence. The course's most innovative element is an optional laboratory component that will involve the overlaying of the latest laboratory techniques from biological science, art, and digital communications. Experiment will not only be used as an instrument of discovery, but also as a powerful critical tool.

SUPPORT FOR THE ARTS

Honoring Nikkei Heritage in the American West

Gail Dubrow (Urban Design and Planning) and Karen Cheng (Art)

Support for an artbook and Seattle Humanities Forum on the subject of sites significant in Japanese American heritage, with the focus on the meanings these sites hold in the collective memory of Nikkei communities in the American West. The richly illustrated publication is poised at the intersection between public art and scholarly work and includes original works of art.

People of the Forest Project

Matthew Krashan (Meany Hall for the Performing Arts)

Support for a Seattle Humanities Forum developed in collaboration with the UW Program on Africa. It will address the issues of Mbuti culture, the environment, and the rights of indigenous peoples, and will be offered in conjunction with Alonzo King's "People of the Forest Project," a presentation in the UW World Series, Meany Hall for the Performing Arts, October 29 through November 3, 2001.