



## Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities Awards for 2002-2003

September 19, 2002

### **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS**

The Society of Scholars is composed of ten to fifteen UW faculty and graduate students holding research fellowships from the Simpson Center. The group meets regularly throughout the year to discuss their research in progress and common scholarly and intellectual interests.

**Eric Ames** (Assistant Professor, Germanics)

*Wild Things: Hagenbeck, Kafka, and Early German Cinema*

Ames' project explores the fascination of German audiences with the "exotic," analyzing in particular the historical reception and cultural implications of Carl Hagenbeck's famous 19th-century ethnographic exhibitions and zoo.

**Jane Brown** (Professor, Germanics and Comparative Literature)

*Psychomachia: Allegory and Classical Form in European Drama*

Brown's manuscript seeks to clarify the shift from allegorical to mimetic representation on the European stage from the 16th to the 19th centuries, arguing that the emergence of the more modern form took place gradually over some three hundred years and is closely tied to the secularization of European culture and the emergence of interiorized individual identity in the 18th century.

**Alain Gowing** (Associate Professor, Classics)

*Empire and Memory: The Representation of the Roman Republic in Imperial Culture*

Gowing's project explores the ways in which representations of the Roman Republic affected early imperial Latin literature and culture. The study examines the evolution of the "memory" of the Roman Republic and how that memory influenced the culture of the early Principate or Empire from 31 BCE to 117 AD.

**Alexandra Harmon** (Associate Professor, American Indian Studies)

*Rich Indians: Historical Repercussions of Wealth in American Indian Hands*

Harmon's project is an historical inquiry into American Indian affluence. The project examines responses to Indian affluence on the part of Indians and non-Indians alike, including concepts of "Indianness," shifting attitudes about poverty, changing values and relationships, and cultural contrasts in ideals and rationales for the distribution of wealth.

**Moon-Ho Jung** (Assistant Professor, History)

*"Coolies" and Cane: Race, Labor, and Sugar Production in the Age of Emancipation*

Jung's book project focuses on the attempts of Louisiana sugar farmers to import Asian "coolies" as replacement labor for the recently emancipated African American laborers. Arguing that these schemes originated from similar occurrences in the Caribbean, the project belies theories of American exceptionalism, demonstrates how transnational forces shaped ideas of race and labor, and expands ideas surrounding the Asian American experience and the study of race.

**Nicole M. Merola** (Dissertator, English)

*Reading the Environment: Land Practices as Ethical Performance*

Merola's dissertation traces how contemporary America manages, represents, and constitutes encounters with the environment through an examination of the National Parks movement, environmental ethics texts, contemporary literary texts, and the Earthworks visual arts movements. The project participates in the production of a culture of environmental concern, encourages dismantling traditional paradigms for looking at land, and proposes contingent ethical modes as a new paradigm for encounter.

**Uta G. Poiger** (Associate Professor, History)

*Consumption, International Relations, and Empire in Germany, 1890-2000*

Poiger's book project studies the connections between consumer culture and changing visions of German empire from the Wilhelmine era to the present. The project discusses the political relations that have enabled the flow of commodities in and out of Germany throughout the past century and examines changes in how Germans expressed their attraction to the foreign and the exotic, especially in the context of globalization and the end of the Cold War.

**Robert C. Stacey** (Professor, History)

*The Ritual Crucifixion of Adam of Bristol: An Anti-Jewish Tale from Medieval England*

Stacey's project includes an edition, translation, and analysis of a previously unknown ritual crucifixion tale which sheds new light on popular piety, private reading practices, and modes of transmitting anti-Semitic "knowledge" in 13th-century England.

**Amy Dunham Strand** (Dissertator, English)

*Gender and National Language Ideologies in American Literature and Culture, 1830-1930*

Strand's dissertation examines how ideas about gender increasingly surfaced in conversations about American language and national identity during the 19th and 20th centuries, the same period in which American English moved from the status of a "dialect" of British English to a "national" language to a "global" language. Built around several literary case studies and opposing viewpoints from American English linguists, the project explores how cultural conceptions of gender complicate the changing relationship of language and nation.

**Sarah Stroup** (Assistant Professor, Classics)

*A Political Muse: Cicero, Catullus, and the Body of the Text in the Late Republic*

Stroup's book project focuses on the formation of a literary culture in the late Roman Republic (ca. 80-40 BCE), a culture characterized by a self-consciously isonomic system of literary reciprocity distinct from an earlier model of literary production that focused on hierarchical relationships in which a socially superior patron protected, promoted, and "published" the literary efforts of a socially inferior client. The focus is on a period of social discord and political upheaval, showing how the praxis of the late Republic suggests a shift toward the creation of a new literary culture of equals distinct from the trials of political life and capable of providing shelter in a time of trials.

**Molly Wallace** (Dissertator, English)

*Ecology, Romance, and Re-Enchantment in an Age of Empire*

Wallace's dissertation studies "nature" and "nation" in contemporary U.S. literature and culture, examining what happens to "nature's nation" in an increasingly transnational and post-natural context. Structured as a series of six exploratory chapters on these topics, the dissertation suggests that the contemporary natural landscape models a mode of "enchantment" that is promising for ecological ethics and politics.

#### **OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE 2002-2003 SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS INCLUDE:**

**Susan Bragg** (Alvord Graduate Fellow in the Humanities, History)

*Marketing the "Modern Negro": Gender, Race, and the Culture of Racial Activism in the NAACP, 1909-1945*

Through both institutional activities and the promotion of artistic expression, the NAACP shaped an emerging image of the modern racial activist, a process that influenced black social class identity and provided a political framework for integrating gender, family, and community relations into the struggle for racial justice. Bragg's dissertation considers the culture of activism within this organization, the first interracial civil rights group with a national membership base.

**Jodi Melamed** (Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow, English)

*Killing Sympathies: U.S. Literature and Dilemmas of Racial Liberalism, 1940-1960*

Melamed's dissertation explores the relationship between liberal reform endeavors and the production of 20th-century African American literature. Melamed discusses how authors such as Himes, DuBois, Hurston, and others used literary staging to challenge liberal thinking about literature, racial identity, reform, and nation. Although Melamed's project focuses on literary texts, she approaches these texts from the vantage point of cultural anthropology, providing valuable conclusions for social scientists.

**Karin Waidley** (Alvord Graduate Fellow in the Humanities, Drama)

*Intervening with Theatre into the American Crisis of Youth Violence*

Waidley's dissertation is a theoretical and descriptive examination of how diverse models of theatre with youth can potentially address, intervene, and perhaps prevent adolescent and social crises. Analyzing both single performance events and ongoing theatre programs for at-risk youth focusing on outreach, education, and social change, Waidley both examines discourses on causes of violence and discusses why theatre as a medium and art form is effective in dealing with issues of youth aggression and school shootings.

## **CROSSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS**

This is the first time that the Simpson Center has earmarked a grant program for associate professors, who undertake a large share of teaching and committee work but rarely have resources for research and course development committed specifically to them. These quarter-long grants will enable associate professors to devote the winter quarter of 2002-2003 to a research project that will benefit from expertise in another area. Each applicant will work with a faculty counterpart—in any department, discipline, or school other than the applicant's own—with whom she or he would value regular conversation and guidance, communicate throughout the year, and present their research at the Simpson Center during winter quarter.

**Lou Cabeen** (Associate Professor, Art)

### **Contingent Subjects: Gender, Place and the Construction of Meaning**

Cabeen's project involves the development of a body of artwork exploring the ways that construction of meaning is influenced by gender and locale. Cabeen will consult with Martha Kingsbury (Professor, Art History), an historian of 19th- and 20th-century material culture. The work will be displayed at Marylhurst University, and Kingsbury's essay accompanying the works will add to the current debate on gender, place, and meaning in culture, placing these artistic works in cultural and historical context.

**Jeanne Heuving** (Associate Professor, Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, Bothell)

### **Restive Eros: Poetic Possession and Dispossession in the 20th Century**

Working with Professor Stephen Hinds (Professor, Classics), an expert on Ovidian love traditions, to address how 20th-century poets are utilizing and altering prior conceptions of eros, Heuving's project will study the relationship between cultural, erotic, and poetic production.

**Katharyne Mitchell** (Associate Professor, Geography)

### **Citizenship Formation and Historical Memory in the Wake of 9/11**

Mitchell will study how adolescent students develop the concept of citizenship through the learning surrounding moments of national crisis, examining in particular the terrorist events of 9/11 and their aftermath. She will consult with Walter Parker (Professor, College of Education), whose field of specialization is social studies curriculum and instruction K-12, with particular emphasis on democratic citizenship education.

## **COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH**

Collaborative Research Groups consist of faculty members and graduate students from various departments pursuing interdisciplinary research projects in the humanities. These groups may invite outside guests and speakers and are encouraged to develop a Humanities Graduate Seminar focusing on the subject of the research project.

### **The Modern Girl Around the World**

*Lynn Thomas (History), Tani Barlow (Women Studies), Madeleine Yue Dong (Jackson School of International Studies), 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 20th century, with a special focus on international commodity flows, colonial relations, new media, the rise of welfare states, and protectionist ideology. Following a successful lectures series and presentations of their initial findings at several conferences last year, this group is entering the next phase of the research project, including the development of a database.

### **The Second Golden Age of Mexican Cinema**

*Anne Doremus (Spanish and Portuguese Studies), Cynthia Duncan (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, UW-Tacoma), and Cynthia Steele (Spanish and Portuguese Studies)*

This group examines how the leading Mexican directors of the 1990s and early 2000s engage with Golden Age (1930s –1950s) Mexican cinema, challenging received notions of national, transnational, ethnic, class, and gender identity. Viewing and discussion of fifteen films and related theoretical and critical readings will lead to the preparation of a collection of essays and interviews for publication. The project will also include the screening of films by two leading Mexican directors in the Seattle and Tacoma communities, an invitation for the directors to discuss their work with classes, and a Teachers as Scholars seminar on Mexican cinema for K-12 teachers.

### **Thinking Sex in Transnational Times**

*Bruce Burgett (American Studies, UW-Bothell) and Chandan Reddy (English)*

This project assesses cross-regional and cross-cultural studies in sex and sexuality as well as the global dimensions of modern sexual discourses, practices, and histories. Bringing seven speakers to campus and inspiring three seminar courses, this project is designed to break new ground in Lesbian-Gay and Queer Studies, Area Studies, and Ethnic and Gender Studies.

## **PUBLIC HUMANITIES: ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY**

One of the missions of the Simpson Center for the Humanities is to knit together the academic and civic communities through public humanities projects. The following projects combine research, teaching, and public events to share humanistic learning broadly, extend the teaching mission of the university outside the campus to the community and the polis as a whole, and urge on scholars a renewed sense of civic responsibility and participation in the public sphere.

### **Contemporary History in Northwest Coast Native American Art**

*Robin Wright (Art History, Burke Museum)*

This public lecture series accompanies the Burke Museum's major exhibition, *Out of the Silence: The Enduring Power of the Totem Pole* (October 2002 – September 2003). The lecture series will examine the dramatic history of Northwest Coast Native art over the last fifty years through presentations by leading scholars and Native artists.

### **Myra's War**

*Steven Pearson (Drama), Robyn Hunt (Drama), Maria Simpson (Dance), and Peter Kyle (Dance and Drama)*

This performance project consists of a new theatre/dance/music work, performances, and lectures inspired by the work of Myra Hess, the British pianist who filled the empty National Gallery with concerts while bombs fell on war-torn London. Designed not only to create a new work of art, this project will also facilitate discussion regarding the role of the artist in society, especially as it is re-defined by political or social crisis.

### **Seattle Humanities Forum: From the Missing: A Conversation on Theresa Hak Kyung Cha**

*Robin Held (Henry Art Gallery)*

Held in conjunction with *The Dream of the Audience: Theresa Hak Kyung Cha* at the Henry Art Gallery, this panel will take as its focus the proliferating, complicated significance of "missing" as a conceptual and linguistic cue from which much of Cha's work is produced and to which it responds. The panel will entertain, among other things: the terms of Cha's engagement with the politics of nostalgia of suffering and loss; the ways in which the focus on the exilic subject challenges the logics of different modes of representation; the dilemmas and problems of Cha's attempts to speak "from the missing," from the displaced female subject in particular, and from the hidden gendered circuits of global migrancy; and the relationship between corporeality or materiality and the vanished or un-representable.

### **Texts and Teachers**

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

Now in its third year, the Texts and Teachers program is a curriculum development and outreach program designed to foster ongoing curricular development and collaboration between university literature departments and high school English programs. UW faculty and local teachers participate in a summer workshop and plan courses that they teach in tandem at both the high school and university levels during the academic year, enabling productive interaction between faculty and students at these levels.

### **UW Young Humanities Scholars Program**

*Marc Lange (Philosophy)*

This enrichment program in the humanities for advanced Puget Sound high school students, to be taught by UW faculty on the UW Seattle campus, will expose students to crossdisciplinary scholarly traditions that are outside the scope of traditional secondary education. Students will experience the intellectual challenge and rewards of serious study in areas such as art and architectural history, comparative religion, literature, philosophy, international affairs, classics, film, politics, linguistics, and history.

## **CROSSDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIA, COLLOQUIA, AND CONFERENCES**

These symposia, colloquia, and conferences appeal to scholars of various disciplines and from a variety of institutions around the world. In many cases, the proceedings will be compiled by the organizers for publication.

### **Asian Cinema and Visual Culture**

*Yomi Braester (Comparative Literature)*

Held in conjunction with the Seattle International Film Festival, this conference brings the Asian Cinema Studies Society to the University of Washington and will include a one-day workshop for junior scholars, who will produce an edited volume of works on cinema and visual culture in modern China.

### **A Celebration of Polish History and Culture at the University of Washington**

*Kat Dziwirek (Slavic Languages and Literature)*

Focusing on contributions to Polish and American cultures by several prominent Polish-Americans through a series of lectures in diverse fields including, film, history, literature, architecture, politics, and art, the project, which marks the fiftieth anniversary of teaching Polish at the UW, will enhance the Eastern European component of the Slavic department and stimulate intellectual exchange on cultural issues in the broader community.

### **Criticism and Social Action: Rhetorical Dimensions of Electronic Texts**

*Barbara Warnick (Communication)*

The conference centers on an undeveloped area of research that brings rhetorical critical study and humanistic perspectives to the study of new media texts on the Internet and World Wide Web. Providing mentorship to young scholars in this area, as well as promoting an emerging field of interest in the analysis of digital media, the conference will feature thirty papers, eight of which will be published in a special issue of *The Electronic Journal of Communication*.

### **Displaced Dialects: From Local Language to Panhellenic Poetics**

*Timothy C. Power (Classics) and Olga A. Levianouk (Classics)*

This symposium explores the changing nature of the study of Greek dialects from the specialized realm of historical linguistics to a subject around which to organize the discussion of communal identities and literary production. Bringing together scholars who approach the questions posed by ancient dialects from a variety of crossdisciplinary perspectives, the symposium will explore the manifold social, historical, ideological, and poetic implications of the use of local dialects in panhellenic poetry.

### **Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.) Reunion 1966-2002**

*Patricia Failing (Art History)*

This symposium and performance event showcases the history of Experiments in Art and Technology (E.A.T.), a legendary group of 1960s and 1970s artists and engineers whose groundbreaking collaborations paved the way for new art using electronic media. The project will include a reunion of E.A.T. founders and Northwest artists and engineers to highlight the accomplishments and regional influences as well as consider the legacy of E.A.T. for artists working with new technologies in the 21st century.

### **Historical Aspects of the Chinese Language**

*Anne Yue-Hashimoto (Asian Languages and Literature)*

This international symposium brings together scholars in the forefront of the field of Chinese linguistics on the centennial birthday of the late Li Fang-Kuei, one of the pre-eminent founders of modern Chinese linguistics, and the date of the opening of a Chinese Linguistics Center in his name at the UW. The symposium will address current questions on the central problems of Chinese language history.

### **Music in the Making, Music in the Mind: The Next Forty Years of Ethnomusicology at the University of Washington**

*Phillip D. Schuyler (Music)*

The state of ethnomusicology in the 21st century is the topic of this conference, which coincides with the fortieth anniversary of the Ethnomusicology Program at the University of Washington. The conference will examine the intellectual tradition and evolution of the field of ethnomusicology, as well as plot the trajectory of the field in the future. UW Visiting Artists will discuss the impact of the discipline on music and music education in non-Western countries. Symposium sessions will feature discussion among scholars from a variety of fields and a dialogue with past and present UW Visiting Artists, emphasizing the interdisciplinary and collaborative nature of ethnomusicology and highlighting the historical ties of this program with community arts organization Jack Straw Productions.

### **Recasting Asia America**

*Shawn Wong (English)*

Located at the intersection of the principal political, economic, and cultural forces of the U.S. nation-state and the set of international political economic conditions that are generally termed globalization, Asian American Studies, like other interdisciplinary endeavors, has in the last decade been engaged in critical conversations about the nature and context of its inquiry, its objects and methods of study, its institutionalization, and its changing political constituencies. This year-long speaker series designed to foster a better understanding of the effects of these transformations, aims, in particular, to rethink the national biases that currently characterize the fields of Asian American studies and stress multiplicities, differences, and non-equivalency across situated positions as a new ground for inquiry.

### **Semantics and Linguistic Theory**

*Toshiyuki Ogihara (Linguistics)*

The Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) conference in Spring 2003 will focus on natural language semantics. The keynote lectures will be compiled into a publication.

### **Transnational Times, Transnational Literacies: A Lecture Series on Critical Pedagogies**

*Todd Tietchen (English), Rahul Gariola (English), Leslie Larkin (English), Kellie Holzer (English), and Jeff Chiu (English)*

This graduate student-organized lecture series aims to increase communication and interaction between disciplines in the humanities and re-invigorate the university as a public forum. Speakers will be asked to imagine and model transdisciplinary methodologies that can encourage educators to overcome the compartmentalization of knowledge and reconstitute spatial, relational, and intellectual boundaries of traditional classrooms and disciplines.

### **CROSSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CLUSTERS**

Simpson Center Crossdisciplinary Research Clusters are intended to bring together, from various departments and disciplines, faculty and graduate students with shared research interests to seed new and vital activity in the humanities. Lecture series and colloquia generally accompany the research clusters.

#### **Digital Media Working Group**

*David Silver (Communication), Beth Kolko (Engineering), and Kirsten Foot (Communication)*

The Digital Media Working Group explores the cultural, social, and aesthetic elements of digital media and is organizing a lecture series comprised of scholars, artists, and technologists working in the field.

#### **Early Modern Research Group**

*Louisa Mackenzie (French and Italian Studies) and Benjamin Schmidt (History)*

The Early Modern Research Group explores 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 project features lectures dedicated to the exploration of society and culture in the early modern period.

### **SIMPSON CENTER CROSSDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SEMINARS**

Taught under the rubric of Humanities 596, these crossdisciplinary graduate seminars focus on faculty members' current research. The seminars are open to graduate students across disciplines and departments and allow both faculty and graduate students to enrich their work through multi-disciplinary exchange that would not normally be possible through regular departmental graduate seminars.

#### **Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Language Use and Acquisition (Winter Quarter)**

*Julia Herschensohn (Linguistics)*

This seminar brings together scholars from across campus to study language use and acquisition from several perspectives. The course will investigate language from the framework of both formal and functional theories, using core empirical data for analysis through cognitive, ethnographic, and linguistic perspectives.

#### **Exoticism (Winter Quarter)**

*Benjamin Schmidt (History)*

This seminar explores the forms and functions of exoticism in Europe during a period of expansion from the 15th through the 19th century, seeking to account for the nature of exoticism as it succeeded among a wide range of Europeans. Although the seminar will focus on exoticism in European culture, it will also study how engagement with the non-European world shaped colonial policy and the social, cultural, and political lives of those who lived under European rule in the age of empire.

#### **Modern Bodies and Modern Environments (Spring Quarter)**

*Linda Nash (History)*

This course addresses the perceived relationships between human bodies and their environments in modern American history and culture by exploring issues that have framed these relationships, historical linkages, and the cultural context and political significance of the struggle between popular concerns of environmental health and professional discourses of medicine, epidemiology, and risk.

### **PROPOSAL WRITING INCENTIVE AWARD**

In an effort to encourage the submission of large-scale proposals in the humanities, arts, and humanistic social sciences, the Simpson Center sponsors faculty at any rank who are intending to write proposals to major agencies and foundations, such as the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Rockefeller Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Ford Foundation.

#### **Cultural Production and Collective Memory in East Asia**

*Tani Barlow (Women Studies) and Madeleine Yue Dong (Jackson School of International Studies)*

A grant proposal, subsequently funded by the Rockefeller Foundation as *Critical Asian Studies: Forum on Trauma, History, and Asia*, a four-year Rockefeller residency site exploring the representation of traumatic histories and injustices across Asia and Asian America. The project, which will be housed in the Simpson Center, will bring together UW scholars with visiting fellows from a variety of East and Southeast Asian countries to foster new work in this area, participate in annual workshops, and allow students to participate in New Asianist scholarship.

#### **Ottoman Texts Archive Project Grant Proposal**

*Walter G. Andrews (Near Eastern Languages and Civilization)*

A grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the collection of Ottoman Turkish texts transliterated into a Romanized alphabet in an online archive. The archive will provide accessibility to the primary texts of the Ottoman Empire, the majority of which are currently inaccessible to Ottomanist scholars. The project has been underway at the University of Washington since 1986.