



Simpson Center for the Humanities Awards for 2004-2005

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RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS: SOCIETY OF SCHOLARS

The Society of Scholars is an intellectual community in which humanists of diverse generations, academic ranks, and departmental affiliations contribute to and learn from one another's work. Members are selected competitively and are awarded research fellowships from the Simpson Center in order to pursue individual projects. The group meets biweekly throughout the year to discuss their research in progress and is composed of faculty, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows.

Shuli Chen (Dissertator, Comparative Literature)
Third World Filmmaking and the City

Chen's dissertation project explores "polycentric multiculturalism" through a study of relations between contemporary Chinese, Iranian, and Latin American urban films that have emerged in the last two decades. Calling attention to the connectedness of diverse "others," this cinematic analysis redraws prevailing East-vs.-West or the First-vs.-Third World binarisms.

Donald Gilbert-Santamaría (Assistant Professor, Spanish & Portuguese Studies)
Among Friends: Narrating Private Space in Early Modern Spain

In his project, Gilbert-Santamaría argues that the alienation that accompanies the rise of the modern dichotomy between private and public discourse in the literature of 16th-century Spain finds a unique compensation in reworked notions of friendship.

Gillian Harkins (Assistant Professor, English)
Legal Fantasies: Domestic Belonging and the American Incest Scene

Harkins' project explores the representation of national law in late 20th-century United States incest narratives. Her work situates recent writing about incest in the context of broader arguments about kinship and U.S. literary and political nationalism, arguing that post-modern narratives of incest can be read as theorizing new forms of domestic belonging in a period marked by changing political bonds between family and nation.

Dalton Anthony Jones (Postdoctoral Fellow, American Ethnic Studies)
Black Market: The Reification of Louis Armstrong (Technology, Articulation, and Cultural Production)

Jones argues that interpreting the subjective and political effects of black cultural expression requires attending to its technologies of articulation. Systematically tracing Louis Armstrong's engagement with expressive technologies (i.e., his voice, the horn, the typewriter, sound recording, radio, film, and television), Jones situates black aesthetic discourses and cultural production within the processes of production, distribution, and consumption, examining black popular culture as an extension of labor markets, national political processes, and the governing ethics of consumer culture.

Alissa Karl (Dissertator, English)
Modernism and the Marketplace: Anglo-American Literature and Consumer Ideologies

Karl's project examines the ways in which Anglo-American modernist literary productions negotiate the strategies and ideologies of capital: as texts which address the tensions within and anxieties about consumer capitalism as it evolved in the interwar period, and as material practices both subject to and resistive of its economic, psychic, and political mandates. Karl argues that, as both theorization and practice of consumerism, modernist literary production registers the emerging and shifting means through which gendered, national, and indeed literary identities come to be rendered intelligible through the tropes of the marketplace itself.

Jamie Mayerfeld (Associate Professor, Political Science)
The Dream of Justice

Drawing guidance from classical works of political theory, Mayerfeld's book project examines how the quest for justice can alternately create peace and inspire war. He argues that a conception of justice based on human rights may help guard against justice's potential to fuel violence.

**Walter Chapin Simpson
Center for the Humanities**

University of Washington
College of Arts + Sciences
Communications 206
Box 353710
Seattle, WA 98195-3710

p 206.543.3920
f 206.685.4080

www.simpsoncenter.org
uwch@u.washington.edu

Jackie Murray (Alvord Graduate Fellow in the Humanities)

The Polyphonic Argo: Similes, Text, and Intertext

Murray's dissertation examines the function of similes in Ancient Greek and Latin epic. It compares the function of oral similes in Homeric poems to the function of literate similes in the poems of Apollonius, Virgil, and Ovid.

Michael Oishi (Dissertator, English)

Writing the Usable Past: Colonial Containments and Postcolonial Ruptures in Hawaii's Literary Histories (1945-Present)

Oishi's project examines the colonialist logics and practices informing the production of canonical literatures and literary histories in Hawaii since World War II. Focusing on Hawaii's emergence as a test site for nationalist strategies of imperial disavowal, colonial containment, and diversity management in postwar U.S. culture, it argues that two specific genres—Hawaii's literatures and literary histories—played critical roles in the reification and contestation of dominant ideologies of American exceptionalism, racial liberalism, and capitalist development in the U.S. national imagination.

Vicente Rafael (Professor, History)

The Promise of the Foreign: Nationalism and the Technics of Translation in the Spanish Philippines

Rafael's project asks about the origins of nationalism in the Spanish Philippines from the perspective of translation practices. It inquires into the power of Castilian, among other things, to incite a dialectic of recognition and misrecognition among Filipinos and Spaniards by serving as a telecommunicative technology in such sites as nationalist novels, vernacular theater, journalism, and the secret societies which emerged on the eve of the revolution of 1896.

Sonnet Retman (Assistant Professor, American Ethnic Studies)

"How Was it We Were Caught?": Race, Nation, and the Real in 1930s Documentary and Satire

Retman's project investigates how seemingly incompatible genres popular in the 1930s—documentary and satire—construct and articulate an emergent racialized, modernist American identity. Focusing on New Deal-sponsored documentary endeavors, ethnographic accounts, and satirical fiction, she explores the contestation over an American collective founded upon invocations of the "real."

David Silver (Assistant Professor, Communication)

Dot.mil

Silver's book project considers three interconnected foci of contemporary U.S. cyberculture: the militarization of digital technologies, economies, and cultures; the continued commercialization of military technologies, especially those digital; and the intersections and interchanges between the two.

Vinay Swamy (Assistant Professor, French & Italian Studies)

Identification Clusters: Resisting Marginalization in Francophone and Anglophone Novels and Films

Swamy's project develops the notion of *identification clusters* as a critical tool of analysis which underscores the process of subject formation in different social contexts and conceives of it as one dynamic system. He explores the implications of the workings of such a system in the construction of social categories—such as race, class, sex, and gender—by examining how the marginalized protagonists of certain postcolonial novels and films from France and Britain stage moments of tactical resistance within mainstream society.

Simon Werrett (Assistant Professor, History)

The Flames of Enlightenment: Fireworks and the Sciences in Early Modern Europe

Werrett's project explores a series of rich debates amongst the diverse groups that made and consumed fireworks in early modern Europe. It thereby traces how and why courtly firework displays developed into modern military rocketry. Methodologically, writing this transnational history of fireworks requires breaking down boundaries between the arts and the sciences, even as it shows how those boundaries were negotiated historically.

CROSSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INITIATIVE FOR ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

This grant program is designated 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. Faculty involved in this initiative devote Winter Quarter of the academic year to a research project that will benefit from expertise in another area. Each chooses 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.

Kathie Friedman (Associate Professor, Jackson School of International Studies)

After Ethnic Cleansing: Bosnian Refugees and Transmission of Historical Memory

Friedman's project explores emerging forms of collective belonging and identifying among Bosnian refugees and their children through the interpretation of in-depth interviews. Sarah Stein, Assistant Professor of History, is assisting her in developing a greater understanding of historical memory, its mediations and transmission, and how the representation of cultural traumas or repressed memories of genocide may relate to the formation of Bosnian refugee identities in the United States.

Mark Patterson (Associate Professor, English)

From the Day Before the Day After Everyday

Patterson's book project conducts an archaeology of the "everyday" from two complementary perspectives. He first investigates the 19th-century construction of the everyday (the day before everyday): that is, the prototypical form of modernity that conceptually organizes our world in its accepted and repetitive forms, including the separation of production from consumption, the division of modern life into work and leisure, and the emergence of panoptical surveillance as the prevailing form of power. Matthew Sparke from Geography will be collaborating on this project by introducing current critiques of the everyday emerging from poststructuralist perspectives on the global circulation of neoliberalism (the day after everyday).

Albert Sbragia (Associate Professor, French & Italian Studies)

Modernity in Rome

Sbragia's book project examines the evolving discourse on cosmopolitanism and modernity in Rome from the time of the European Grand Tour in the 18th century to the present. He will be collaborating with Katrina Deines, Associate Professor in the College of Architecture and Urban Studies, to examine the role played by architecture and urban planning in the debate on the modernization of Rome once the city became the capital of the Italian nation state in 1870.

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

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

This collaborative research group seeks to explain the emergence of the Modern Girl as a global phenomenon in the early- to mid-20th century through an interdisciplinary investigation of global commodity and cultural flows, and modern processes of gender, racial, and national formation. In 2004-2005, the project comes to fruition with a culminating event, a major workshop, taking place in Tokyo in September 2004, and the completion of a manuscript, *The Modern Girl Around the World: Globalization, Modernity, and Consumption*, an anthology of essays by group members and invited scholars.

Islam, Asia, Modernity

Organized by Stephen Hanson (Political Science), Cabeiri Robinson (Jackson School of International Studies), Laurie Sears (History), K. Sivaramakrishnan (Anthropology), Keith Snodgrass (South Asia Center), and Sara Van Fleet (Southeast Asian Studies Center)

This two-day conference co-sponsored by the Asia centers of the Jackson School of International Studies brings together faculty, students, community intellectuals, and scholars from Asian and western societies to share their perspectives and diverse views about the changing practices and politics of Asian Islam—how these are studied, documented, taught, and represented in the academy and the media and how these practices affect society, politics,

art, and culture in Asia. The conference consists of a public lecture by Ziauddin Sardar, two days of panel discussions, a cultural/musical performance event, and a dissertation workshop for invited graduate students working on issues related to the conference themes.

Placing the Humanities: New Locales, New Meanings

Organized by Bruce Burgett (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, English) and Kanta Kochhar-Lindgren (Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences)

This collaborative workshop series is a sequence of nine events conducted on the UW Bothell campus by visiting scholars and at local sites where humanities-based inquiry intersects with creative and community practices. It brings together faculty from three local campuses to address two related questions: 1) How can the best traditions of humanities-based scholarship be (re)integrated into public conversations that emerge within diverse practices of place and community? 2) How can scholars most effectively engage with and learn from local community workers and sites? The project seeks to provide faculty with an opportunity to bridge the organizational divides among the campuses and sites, to develop models for integrating community workers into classrooms as well as providing students with access to community sites, and to advance the diverse research agendas of individual workshop participants.

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.

Critical Medical Humanities

Organized by Janelle S. Taylor (Anthropology), Kelly Fryer-Edwards (Medical History & Ethics), Kari Tupper (Comparative History of Ideas), Lorna A. Rhodes (Anthropology), Linda Nash (History), and Sara Goering (Philosophy)

This crossdisciplinary research cluster engages scholarly work currently emerging at the intersections of a number of fields that is focused on the study of medicine in its many dimensions: as a socially authoritative form of knowledge about nature and the body; as a set of social practices; as a congeries of institutions; and as a site for the formation of subjectivities and for the exercise of governmentality. A faculty and graduate student reading group features visits from three outside speakers, once each quarter. The project seeks to lay the groundwork for establishing critical medical humanities as a strong, active, and visible research community at the UW by bringing together people with shared research interests who are currently relatively isolated within their respective departments, building community, and fostering substantive interdisciplinary conversations.

Digital Media Working Group: Interdisciplinary Conversations in Digital Media

Organized by Kirsten Foot (Communication), David Silver (Communication), Travers Scott (Digital Media Program), and Chunhua Weng (Biomedical and Health Informatics)

This interdisciplinary group of scholars engaged with the cultural transformations associated with new media sponsors study groups and presentations and encourages members to collaborate with community members and other disciplines. Activities throughout the year include presentations from UW faculty, graduate students, and invited speakers, panels on current issues in digital culture, and networking receptions that provide outreach and facilitate collaboration opportunities among people in various disciplines whose interests include new media.

Understanding Stereotypes, Prejudice, and Discrimination

Organized by Jason Plaks (Psychology), Ratnesh Nagda (Social Work), Maurice Green (Information School), and Sonnet Retman (American Ethnic Studies)

This interdisciplinary research cluster is dedicated to research on stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, and intergroup relations. It features a lecture series of nationally and internationally-regarded speakers from a variety of fields including psychology, law, history, and ethnic studies. In parallel with the speakers series, the research cluster also features a program of allied seminars and workshops in which members of the UW community discuss theoretical and applied issues raised by each speaker.

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.

Broadview University

Organized by Amy Reddinger (English)

During Autumn Quarter, four University faculty and graduate students from the English department lead a series of literature classes at Broadview Shelter—a housing program for homeless women and children. This program makes the University and its resources available to a population traditionally excluded from academia, and seeks to both empower the women as students and enrich and strengthen ties between the University and the community at large.

Children of War

Organized by Anthony Geist (Spanish & Portuguese Studies)

Children of War is a multi-layered project that explores the war experience in children's perspectives. The project showcases "They Still Draw Pictures: Children's Art in Wartime from the Spanish Civil War to Kosovo," an exhibition of drawings done by children caught in some of the 20th-century's most devastating conflicts. Accompanying the exhibition is a film series, an undergraduate course, and a public symposium convening survivors, historians, literary scholars, and psychologists.

Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project

Organized by James Gregory (History)

The Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project is a multi-year research project involving UW students, faculty, community, and labor organizations. Its mission is to collect oral histories, photos, and other materials documenting the long history of civil rights struggles in Seattle and western Washington and to generate new research on the links between labor and racial justice campaigns in this region. A museum exhibit, K-12 curricula, and a project website are planned.

The September Project

Organized by David Silver (Communication)

The September Project is a coordinated effort to foster a public dialogue on democracy and citizenship on September 11. Public spaces such as local libraries will serve as meeting places for talks, roundtables, and performances. The Project seeks to make 9/11 an annual day of reflection and discussion, locally, across the United States, and internationally.

CROSSDISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIA, COLLOQUIA, AND CONFERENCES

The following conferences and symposia bring scholars from a variety of disciplines and institutions around the world to the University of Washington. Several of the projects feature a public dimension, such as an art exhibition or performance, which expands their boundaries beyond the campus to the Seattle-area community as a whole.

Africa in the World: Rethinking Area Studies

Organized by Lynn Thomas (History and African Studies, Jackson School of International Studies)

This speakers' series seeks to create a campus-wide discussion on developing an expansive and outward-looking African Studies Program. The series includes three invited speakers, one per quarter, whose lectures are linked to related courses. The series will be of interest to a broad cross-section of the University of Washington community interested in international studies, area studies, and colonial/postcolonial studies.

American Jewish Writing Today

Organized by Naomi Sokoloff (Near Eastern Languages & Civilization and Jewish Studies, Jackson School of International Studies)

This project explores the explosion of American Jewish writing in fiction, drama, and essays since 1990 by organizing a new undergraduate course and campus symposium on the subject, and by coordinating these efforts and inquiries with Seattle's observance of the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America and the public programming of Nextbook, a Jewish literary and cultural arts organization.

Feminist Conversations: Forging Articulations Between Anti-Racist and Transnational Scholarship

Organized by Judith A. Howard (Women Studies and Sociology), Nancy Kenney (Women Studies and Psychology), Serena Maurer (Women Studies), Michelle McGowan (Women Studies), Dipika Nath (Women Studies), and Priti Ramamurthy (Women Studies)

This series of interdisciplinary colloquia explores the relationships between U.S.-based anti-racist/multicultural scholarship with postcolonial/transnational feminist scholarship. These colloquia are intended to foster, on the one hand, analyses of the transnational in the U.S., and on the other hand, racialized examinations of the transnational. It is hoped that these modes of analysis will function as liberating models of scholarship and pedagogy for the academy as well as praxis in liberatory struggles globally.

Feminist Epistemologies, Methods, Metaphysics, and Science Studies

Organized by Lynn Hankinson Nelson (Philosophy)

This interdisciplinary conference brings together feminist scholars whose interests lie in epistemology, methodologies, metaphysics, and science studies. The conference is a forum in which to explore the diversity of feminist analyses in these areas, both as they diverge from established traditions, and as they extend some of the more promising lines now emerging within them.

Global Languages and Literatures: Multilingual and Transhistorical Conversations

Organized by Monika Kaup (English) and Anthony Geist (Spanish & Portuguese Studies)

This series addresses the globalization debate from a transhistorical and multilingual perspective. It reconsiders the present global hegemony of the U.S. and (American) English in light of the fact that, as late as 1500, both Islam and China were much better positioned than Europe to dominate the millennium that just ended in 2000.

Landscapes Imagined and Remembered

Organized by Paul Atkins, Davinder Bhowmik, and Edward Mack (Asian Languages & Literature)

This conference explores the ways in which landscape is an “annexation of nature by culture,” as Simon Schama has written, focusing on the perceptual relationship between human beings and their environments, both natural and artificial, in Japanese literary texts from earliest times to the present. Such literary depictions, whether rich landscapes or barren anti-landscapes, are never free from the imprint of culture and cognition.

Latinos in U.S. Popular Music

Organized by Shannon Dudley (Ethnomusicology) and Michelle Habel-Pallan (American Ethnic Studies)

To lay the foundations of a long-term project that involves UW faculty and students in exhibition research and design, this project brings six scholars to campus this year for consultation and colloquia. Subsequent stages of the project will engage graduate students in ethnographic research on Latino music in the Northwest, and produce a museum exhibit in possible partnership with Experience Music Project.

Liberating Pedagogies: Locating Freedom in the Classroom

Organized by Stacy Grooters (English) and Riki Thompson (English)

In his final book, *Pedagogy of Freedom: Ethics, Democracy, and Civic Courage*, Paulo Friere writes that due to his respect for freedom, he has “always deliberately refused its distortion,” especially when theorizing freedom’s role in pedagogy. The “Liberating Pedagogies” series of lectures and accompanying workshops seeks to interrogate the role freedom plays in educational policies and theories and asks where freedom should be located in the classroom.

Luminous Psyche 2005: Selected Films of Bernardo Bertolucci

Organized by Albert Sbragia (French & Italian Studies)

This event explores the stunning cinema of Italy’s most prominent living director, Bernardo Bertolucci. Seven Bertolucci films will be screened at the Seattle Art Museum during January-February 2005. After each film screening, a UW film scholar and a local psychoanalyst will briefly comment on the film and engage the audience in discussion. The final screening will include a round-table discussion with international Bertolucci scholars; Bertolucci has also been invited. An associated course will be offered to UW students.

Narrating Colonial Encounters: Germany in the Pacific Islands

Organized by Miriam Kahn (Anthropology) and Sabine Wilke (Germanics)

This international and interdisciplinary conference explores colonial encounters between Germany and the Pacific Islands, focusing on the rich body of literary and anthropological documents that narrate the encounter. It brings together

people from a variety of disciplines and institutions around the world. In addition to the academic panels, a public component is included with such events as a reading by a Pacific Island author and a film showing by an award-winning Pacific Island writer and filmmaker.

Religion and Democratic Culture: The Problems and Possibilities for Peace

Organized by Cabeiri Robinson, Kyoko Tokuno, and James Wellman (Comparative Religion Program, Jackson School of International Studies)

This project undertakes a series of lectures and colloquia designed to produce cutting edge research analysis on the topic of religion, violence, and peace in the contemporary world. It extends the study of religion, conflict, and violence that was the focus of a year-long colloquium series and symposium in 2003-2004 to address the possibilities for peaceful resolution of religious conflicts within and between states and across global cultures.

Science Studies

Organized by Arthur Fine (Philosophy) and Simon Werrett (History)

This speaker series explores dramatic and important changes in our understanding of the sciences, technology, and medicine. Established speakers whose work exemplifies the most innovative and promising cross-disciplinary approaches to the sciences will present their work in lectures and discussions.

CRITICAL ASIAN STUDIES FELLOWS

The Forum on Trauma, History, and “Asia” is an initiative of the Project for Critical Asian Studies, a Rockefeller Foundation grant-funded four-year program hosted by the Simpson Center. The program is directed by **Tani Barlow** (History and Women Studies) and **Madeleine Yue Dong** (Jackson School of International Studies and History). Each year the Forum hosts intellectuals located in Asia and an annual international conference. The Simpson Center is pleased to host three Visiting Fellows during 2004-2005, who are leading an investigation into the matter of how scholarship treats trauma, broadly defined as unread or unspoken injustice.

Boreth J. Ly is Assistant Professor of Asian Art and Visual Culture in the Department of Art and Art History at the University of Utah. Born in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Ly was educated in Paris and the United States, receiving his Ph.D. in Art History from the University of California, Berkeley in 2002. He is currently working on two book-length projects: *Storytelling on Stone: Patterns of Pictorial Narrative Intentions on Ancient Cambodian Temples* and a collected volume of essays titled *Mekong and Memory*. His residency at the Simpson Center is devoted to writing this collected volume of essays, which addresses issues of trauma and memory in the post-Vietnam War period as manifested in the contemporary arts of Southeast Asia and its diasporas. Ly’s research interests include Buddhist and Hindu narrative art, film studies in Southeast Asia, and representations of the body, gender, and sexuality in South and Southeast Asian art. His interdisciplinary interests include traditional theaters and material cultures of India and Southeast Asia.

Ramnarayan S. Rawat recently completed his doctoral degree in the Department of History, University of Delhi. His Ph.D. dissertation, entitled “Struggle for Identities: A Social History of the Chamars of Uttar Pradesh, 1881-1956,” historicizes the many conceptions of Chamar (Dalit/“Untouchable”) identity that were put forward by colonial and nationalist/Hindu elites and takes seriously the counter-representations made by Chamar ideologues and organizations. Rawat’s research has focused on the subaltern struggles manifested in Dalit politics and narratives of the past as they seek to contest dominant accounts of India history. As a fellow at the Simpson Center, Rawat will explore Dalit histories written in Hindi for popular audiences, bringing these largely ignored accounts into conversation with colonial and nationalist narratives.

Fadjar Thufail is a Research Associate at the Research Center for Regional Resources, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta, and editor of *Sejarah: Journal of the Association of Indonesian Historians*. A member of the Indonesian Fulbright Society and the Association of Indonesian Historians, Thufail has received a variety of fellowships, scholarships, and grants, including a Fulbright Scholarship and a MacArthur Global Studies Fellowship. Currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, his dissertation, “Trauma at the Interstices of Memory Work: Narrating Communism and Religious Violence in Post-Soeharto Indonesia,” develops the category of “trauma” in order to explore the social ramifications of long-term violence. In his Rockefeller residency, Thufail will focus on how religion affects the political work of memory, examining the massacre of Indonesian Communists in 1965-66 and its contemporary narrations as a central case study.