



## Simpson Center for the Humanities Awards for 2006-2007

Kathleen Woodward  
Director

Miriam Bartha  
Assistant Director

Lauren Fleming  
Program Manager

Lynette McVey  
Fiscal Specialist and  
Travel Coordinator

Renée DeLong  
Administrative Coordinator

### 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.

**José Alaniz** (Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages & Literature)

*Death, Dying, and Disability in East European Visual Culture*

Through an analysis of both major and marginal visual culture productions of the last fifteen years, this study seeks to decipher the ways Eastern Europe, at a time of massive socio-economic transformation, has admitted, foreclosed, and problematized opportunities for the representation of disability, death, and dying. Alaniz highlights key works in which the disabled and dying themselves have seized the reins of self-representation in accord with their growing demands for full citizenship and a turn to identity politics, particularly in the ubiquitous medium of cinema and the much-neglected peripheral genre of comics.

**Ruby Blondell** (Professor, Classics)

*Dangerous Beauty: Containing Helen of Troy*

Blondell's project examines Helen of Troy as a figure of power and danger, more specifically, as an embodiment of the threat posed by female sexuality. After analyzing the nature of that threat in its ancient Greek cultural context, it studies some of the numerous attempts to contain Helen's power in Greek texts and on the modern screen.

**Jeffrey Chiu** (Dissertator, English)

*Secular Modernity and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Asian American Culture*

Chiu's project constructs a genealogy of modernity by examining how "religion" has been defined by disciplinary knowledge production as well as how it has been contested in Asian American culture in the 20th century. His work considers how this category has been deployed in the U.S. to regulate and manage Asian populations, as well as other racialized groups. His analysis of religion reveals epistemologies and social formations at once produced by expanding capitalism and yet occluded by secular modernity's norms. He thereby recovers Asian American religious practices and representations as sites for alternative modernities, where norms of race, gender, and sexuality are re-articulated to suggest other modes of social collectivity.

**Katrina Hagen** (Dissertator, History)

*Internationalism in Cold War Germany*

Hagen's project traces East and West German responses to struggles for independence and national liberation in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. It explores debates about decolonization and national liberation in the context of Cold War rivalries, and in relation to contested interpretations of the ethical implications of European colonialism and Nazi imperialism and genocide.

**Danny Hoffman** (Associate Professor, Anthropology)

*Life in Motion: Alternative Ethnography of the West African War-scape*

"Life in Motion" is a research project exploring recent trends in multimedia experimental ethnography and African photography. The results of that research will guide the creation of an ethnography of the conflict in Sierra Leone and Liberia which combines the author's text and still photographs in a way that evokes both the trauma and creativity of the contemporary African experience.

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

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

**Kellie Holzer** (Dissertator, English)

*Nation-breeding Fictions: Marriage in the Age of Empire*

Reading 19<sup>th</sup>-century Indian and British social reform movements, marriage laws, and domestic novels together, Holzer constructs “conjoined genealogies” for marriage in England and India to suggest that similar processes of government power functioned at both sites to manage the population through the institution of marriage. The project seeks to decenter Europe in histories of marriage by focusing on several of the institutions “ordinary moments” formed within the intimacies of the British Empire in India.

**Amanda Poole** (Alvord Fellow, Anthropology)

*Refugee Resettlement and Place-making in Lowlands Eritrea*

This project in Environmental Anthropology explores the dimensions and perceptions of citizenship and stewardship arising within multiethnic returnee communities, questioning the meaning of “home” to returnees and locals as they establish social relations through resource use and reclaim a symbolic space of remembered violence and displacement. She argues that peace-making is an active project that intersects with place-making—investing the landscape with social meaning, values, and relationships.

**Chandan Reddy** (Assistant Professor, English)

*Migrating Present: Alienage, Race, and the Politics of Black Internationalism, 1898-1953*

This project investigates different instances in the 20th century in which the mass movement of black people to industrialized cities in the U.S. and U.S. imperialism in the Asia-Pacific reconstituted the meanings of blackness, of “race,” and of the political public sphere that black intellectuals engaged in their textual and social practices, producing a “narrative of black alienage.” While for the U.S. reading public the “Asiatic alien” within U.S. territory is a paradigmatic figure of permanent alienage and a disavowal of U.S. imperialism in Asia, for African American intellectuals the “Asiatic alien” figured as an important contrast for thinking about the political conditions of life and work for recently migratory black social groups living in the U.S. and subject to the social violences of U.S. citizenship. Designating a black/white racial binary as a mystification produced by the U.S. nation form, Reddy argues that the “non-national” is defined as a terrain of intersecting racialized histories of colonialism, slavery, imperialism, and migration.

**Ileana Rodríguez-Silva** (Assistant Professor, History)

*A Conspiracy of Silence: Disentangling Blackness, National Identities, and Colonial Regimes in Puerto Rico (1850-1920)*

Rodríguez-Silva’s book project provides a historical analysis of the construction of silences surrounding issues of racial inequality, violence, and discrimination prevalent in Puerto Rico. The study examines how Puerto Ricans from both upper and working classes on the island and in the diaspora collaborated in the construction of a national myth about racial harmony that, in turn, censored debate over racial inequality. The island’s case shows that silence is a crucial guarantor of persistent myths of racial democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean, discouraging political mobilization around issues of racial inequality and undermining the important work of anti-racist organizations.

**Kristin Stilt** (Assistant Professor, School of Law)

*The Space, Meaning, and Embodiment of Islamic Law in Medieval Cairo*

Stilt studies the space, meaning, and embodiment of Islamic law in the first half of the political regime of the Mamluk Sultanate (1250 C.E. to 1517 C.E.) in its capital city, Cairo. Law in general, and Islamic law in particular, is not an autonomous field of study that can be examined discretely on its own, but rather influences-and is influenced-by-the social setting. Thus examining the face of the law, the content of the law, and the geography of the law’s reach offers the possibility of learning a great deal about life in the place and time period under study.

**James Tweedie** (Assistant Professor, Comparative Literature)

*The Age of New Waves: Globalization and Art Cinema from 1959*

This book project examines the origins of the concept of the cinematic “new wave,” the proliferation of new waves on the contemporary international film festival circuit, and the relationship between these claims to cinematic newness and the “economic miracles” from which they often emerge. With chapters on French cinema in the late 1950s and 1960s, Taiwan’s new wave in the 1980s, and mainland Chinese film in the 1990s, the project situates these recurrent claims to novelty within a longer trajectory of world film and examines the increasingly ambivalent invocations of transnational image flows during the current era of globalization.

**Alys Weinbaum** (Associate Professor, English)

*The New Biologic: Rethinking Reproductive Labor in Transnationalism*

Weinbaum’s project explores transformations in contemporary cultural production (literature, film, and visual art) that reflect the emergence of new biotechnologies, the mapping of the human genome, and the creation of a global market in body parts, genetic materials, and medicalized and biologized human labor power. In the broadest sense, *The New Biologic* is an interdisciplinary feminist and science studies project that attempts to understand how culture functions as a repository of contestations over the meaning of human reproduction, and how culture can be mined as a political resource that enables apprehension of transformations in the meaning of human reproduction that might otherwise remain inchoate.

### **FULL PROFESSOR CROSSDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATION AWARD**

This award encourages faculty to engage in crossdisciplinary conversation throughout the span of their careers. Through this award, faculty at the rank of full professor can bring to their research the expertise of a faculty member from another discipline. Each chooses a collaborating faculty member--of any rank and may belong to any department, discipline, or field other than the applicant’s own--with whom she or he would value regular conversation and guidance.

**Ruby Blondell** (Classics)

*Dangerous Beauty: Containing Helen of Troy*

Blondell’s project examines Helen of Troy as a figure of power and danger, more specifically, as an embodiment of the threat posed by female sexuality. She will use this award to draw upon Sandra Joshel’s (History) expertise in feminist and screen theory in order to assist with her project for the Society of Scholars.

### **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 committed specifically to them. Faculty involved in this initiative devote a 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.

**Ann Anagnost** (Anthropology)

*Embodiments of Value*

Anagnost’s project is to examine the changing relationship between conceptions of value and the physical body in China’s economic reforms (1990-present). With the assistance of Phillip Thurtle (CHID), she will examine a literature at the intersection of science studies and feminist theory exploring how new conceptions of life itself have become central to the emergent logics of capital accumulation in the global economy.

**Katherine Beckett** (Sociology)

*Discourses of Banishment, States of Exception, and Spaces of Exclusion*

Beckett’s project explores discourses of banishment as they relate to the reconstruction of urban public space in Seattle. In particular, she will explore how discourses surrounding the debate over Seattle’s parks exclusion law construct a public norm against a banished other, how they invoke assumptions about subjectivity that allow for the curtailing of liberal public access rights, and how those alienated from the resulting spaces of exclusion are understood given the ostensibly universal embrace of liberal civility. Beckett will be working with Katharyne Mitchell (Geography) on this research.

## **CROSSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CLUSTERS**

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

### **Creating Community Through Blogging**

*Organized by Matthew Vechinski and Honni van Rijswijk (English)*

This research cluster is built on the premise that blogging creates practices and texts that can produce multiple connections within the university and between the university and the wider community. The organizers are interested in considering the status of blogs as texts as well as ways in which blogs challenge conventional paradigms of research. The cluster will also investigate ways in which blogs are emerging as pedagogical practices and how they can be used in classrooms across the disciplines to engage students.

### **Critical Medical Humanities**

*Organized by Janelle Taylor (Anthropology), Kelly Fryer-Edwards (Medical History & Ethics), Linda Nash (History), Sara Goering (Philosophy), Helene Starks (Medical History & Ethics), Lorna Rhodes (Anthropology), Mark Sullivan (Psychiatry & Behavioral Health Sciences), Rachel Chapman (Anthropology), and James Pfeiffer (Health Services)*

This research cluster is a cross-disciplinary effort that brings together scholars with shared interests in critical and interdisciplinary perspectives on health, illness, and medicine. In its third year, *Critical Medical Humanities* will focus our activities on the theme of global health and invite three outside speakers to give public lectures and participate in classroom discussions and reading groups with faculty and graduate students. Audiences at each event are invited to attend receptions, a primary goal of which is to build community among scholars with shared interests at the University of Washington. The group also maintains a listserv for sharing notice of local events of interest.

### **Global Futures**

*Organized by Ann Anagnost (Anthropology), Andrea Arai (Anthropology), Jane Dyson (Jackson School), Danny Hoffman (Anthropology), and Craig Jeffrey (Geography)*

The core theme of this project explores how youth are linked to converging crises in public life around education, labor, militarization, criminalization, and technology and how global processes affecting young people are playing out in different locations, with particular emphases on Africa, East Asia, and South Asia. A retreat for cluster participants, a speaker series, and a website are planned alongside the launch of new courses on the theme of youth and globalization.

### **Modernist Studies Group**

*Organized by Matthew Levay and Ted Wayland (English)*

The *Modernist Studies Group* is a research cluster of graduate students who engage in interdisciplinary studies of modernism and modernity. The cluster will provide a forum for members to collaborate on their research—from conference papers to dissertation prospectuses and chapters—and to learn about the research methods of established modernist scholars through a work-in-progress series with faculty from the University of Washington and other institutions.

### **Public Rhetorics Permanent War**

*Organized by Georgia Roberts, Anoop Mirpuri, and Keith Feldman (English)*

*Public Rhetorics Permanent War* is a collective of humanities graduate students and faculty who share a scholarly interest in understanding and clarifying the production and role of public rhetorics during what increasingly appears to be a state of globalized permanent war. This research cluster will focus its attention on the overlap and articulation of three particular sites transformed by globalization from which we believe public intellectual work can emerge, namely, humanistic scholarship, organic social activism, and artistic cultural production. Although the relationship between activist and academic work has often been fraught, our project seeks to bring the work of artists, performers, and scholars together in order to both enable and understand the linkages forged by intellectual and creative engagement with larger communities of global citizens.

## **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 scholars towards a renewed sense of civic responsibility and participation in the public sphere.

### **Broadview University for Teens**

*Organized by Amy Reddinger (English)*

*Broadview University for Teens* will focus on building practices of literacy for homeless teens through a summer reading group centered on hip-hop culture. These sessions will be co-facilitated by graduate students Amy Reddinger and Georgia Roberts, and will engage teens through the relevant popular cultural realm while simultaneously challenging participants to read and think critically about the readings as well as the larger issues these readings evoke.

### **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 University of Washington students and faculty as well as 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.

### **Silk Road Lecture and Seminar Series**

*Organized by Cynthea Bogel (Art History), Selim Kuru (Near Eastern Languages & Civilization), Florian Schwarz (History), Kyoko Tokuno (Jackson School), Joel Walker (History)*

This project continues the *Silk Road Lecture and Seminar Series* begun in 2005-2006 with lectures and seminars focusing on Buddhism along the Silk Road. Co-sponsored by the Silkroad Foundation, the *Silk Road Lecture and Seminar Series* will bring to campus specialists at the cutting edge of the study of Eurasian cultural history. Each will offer a public lecture and a seminar presentation. The focus of the 2006-2007 series will be pre-modern Islamic Western and Central Asia.

## **LARGE-SCALE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND/OR PUBLIC PROJECTS**

The following projects forge ties between disciplines and extend the academic work of the university into the community at large, fulfilling both aspects of the Center's mission. Diverse University of Washington scholars with shared research interests come together to both seed new activity in the humanities and engage the public in this activity.

### **Cultural Studies Praxis Collective**

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

*The Cultural Studies Praxis Collective* is a multi-year collaboration of faculty and academic staff at University of Washington-Bothell, University of Washington-Seattle, and Cascadia and Bellevue Community Colleges. It focuses on the integration of diverse projects intended to accomplish three long-term goals: first, to generate and disseminate new research on the multiple locations of the humanities; second, to initiate and institutionalize curricular innovation across the three campuses; and third, to build and develop arts and cultural pathways for community-based research and teaching. Members of the *CSPC* will co-design and co-teach a series of praxis-based workshops and graduate courses (see Crossdisciplinary Graduate Seminars for more information).

## **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. These projects may 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.

### **Explorers and Scientists in China's Borderlands**

*Organized by Stephen Harrell (Anthropology)*

Anthropologists, historians, botanists, and filmmakers from China, Hong Kong, Europe, and the US will gather at the Burke Museum and the Washington Park Arboretum to present lectures, films, exhibits, and garden tours that illuminate the careers of a variegated group of scientists, explorers, writers, photographers, and missionaries from America and Europe who were active in exploring, collecting, and writing in the northern and western borderlands of China in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Presented in conjunction with the exhibits "Vanished Kingdoms" and "Tibetan Religious Art" at the Burke Museum.

### **Inventions of the Imagination: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Imaginary Since Romanticism**

*Organized by Richard Gray (Germanics), Nicholas Halmi (English), Gary Handwerk (Comparative Literature), and Michael Rosenthal (Philosophy)*

This international conference will interrogate the category of the human "imagination" from multiple disciplinary perspectives: literary, philosophical, anthropological, scientific, and sociopolitical, among others. Conference participants will investigate not merely those ideas or objects the creative imagination is thought to have produced, but above all different ways in which the very faculty of the imagination has been "invented" and conceived at distinct historical junctures.

### **Liberalism, Governance, and the Geographies of Law**

*Organized by Steven Herbert (Geography)*

*Liberalism, Governance, and the Geographies of Law* will be a two-day conference to explore the geographic predicates and consequences of contemporary legal practices. Particular emphasis will be directed toward the exclusionary and inclusionary dynamics that arise from current practices of politics, punishment, and culture. The conference will feature three leading West Coast scholars whose work concentrates upon the intersections between geography and law. Each of these guests will deliver a public presentation and lead a workshop discussion of working papers authored by graduate students at the University of Washington.

### **Performance and History: What History?**

*Organized by Herbert Blau (English/Comparative Literature, & School of Drama), with the cooperation of Marshall Brown (Comparative Literature)*

Over the last generation there has been a mandate to historicize in performance studies, but much of it has been undertaken through a revisionist or quasi-Marxist model filtered through psychoanalysis, feminism, and queer theory. This conference will examine alternative views of history, with foremost scholars in performance studies addressing a multiplicity of issues, including the long distrust of the theater itself in the canonical drama. *Modern Language Quarterly* will be publishing a collection of essays from the conference.

## **SIMPSON CENTER CROSSDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE SEMINARS**

Taught under the rubric of Humanities 596, 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 is unavailable through regular departmental graduate seminars.

### **Cyborg Democracy**

*Organized by Tom Foster (English)*

The goals of this seminar are to assess the political claims made for new media and technologies and to define possible points of articulation and/or conflict and critique between Marxist traditions and theories of radical

democracy, on the one hand, and new technocultural formations, on the other hand. Our objects of study will include both popular reflections on new technologies and social movements organized around them. The course will bring together three strands of inquiry: the ongoing structural transformation of the democratic public sphere and the mass mediation of social relations and models of citizenship; the emergence of new models of cultural belonging out of debates on intellectual property, including copyleft, the creative commons, and open source cultures; and debates about the political meanings of new forms of technological self-transformation, including post- and transhumanism, as well as biotechnology and cognitive theories of the expanded mind or the “natural-born cyborg.”

### **Public Humanities and the Digital University**

*Taught by Grey Kochhar-Lindgren and Ron Krabill (Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, Bothell)*

The digital revolution is powerfully reshaping the nature of university/community relationships—as well as identity formation and embodiment practices. In this course we will explore, assess, and create new forms of public scholarship that address this transformation, examining the relationships between research, the production of knowledge, and community engagements that address us at the outset of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Workshops (physical and virtual) with several of our local and global partner organizations will allow us to consider the uses of the public humanities as a means of building stronger bridges across various “digital divides,” as well as the implications of the digitization of the university for new pedagogical strategies, for emerging university/community partnerships, and for the concept of the human itself.

### **Visual Documentation Practice**

*Taught by Danny Hoffman (Anthropology) and Keri Lerum (Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, Bothell)*

This course will explore a diverse range of visual practices, from video activism to graphic political journalism. At a time when so much knowledge transmission outside the university depends on the production and circulation of images, students will focus on building skills and relationships to participate meaningfully as scholars, activists, and partners. Participants will explore how literature from visual anthropology and sociology, participatory action research, and activist ethnography intersect with efforts to democratize visual technologies and techniques. Drawing from examples on and off campus, we will consider how new visual technologies can generate alternative community archives. Through visual production exercises, on-site visits with collaborating institutions, and classroom discussion, students will explore how visual production can expand their research interests and forge unexpected connections within and beyond the university. By translating their “vision” of research from text to digital videos and photographs, participants will consider how their work intersects with other spheres of visual production, from public access television to grassroots community documentary and video activism programs.

### **SUMMER RESIDENCY DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS**

The Simpson Center Executive Board recognizes the need for additional graduate student dissertation support, given the very limited number of dissertation fellowships available to UW doctoral students and the number of excellent proposals submitted annually to the Society of Scholars. To pilot an alternative mode of supporting dissertators, the Simpson Center is offering Summer Residency Dissertation Fellowships to six dissertators with high ranking in the recent grant proposal competition.

#### **Giorgia Aiello (Communication)**

*Visions of Europe: The Construction of Collective Identity in Contemporary European Visual Discourse*

Aiello’s dissertation examines the ways in which a sense of a collective European identity is being constructed in contemporary European visual discourse. Aiello examines visual texts such as public communication materials, photography exhibits, and film in light of European integration and overall processes of globalization; she also highlights how visual imagination has increasingly become cross-culturally strategic and thus also a privileged site for the construction of transnational identities.

#### **Gabriele Eichmanns (Germanics)**

*The Dialectical Relationship between Heimat and the “Foreign” in the Age of Globalization*

Eichmanns argues that the current German discourse on *Heimat*, up until now a merely national discourse on an allegedly purely German topic, can only be viewed and examined with regard to recent theories on nation and globalization. She posits that the concept of *Heimat* as an exclusively German discourse needs to be re-evaluated in an age when the local and the global are inseparably intertwined. Thus, scholarship must be informed by and engage with a more extensive cross-disciplinary approach in order to arrive at an accurate picture of *Heimat* in the 21st century.

**Rahul Gairola** (English)

*Queering Home: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Post-World War II Diasporic Culture*

Gairola's project attempts to comparatively survey cultural texts (literature, film, music) by queer African and Asian diasporas. Gairola argues that these texts evince the ways in which such subjects complicate and re-appropriate the notion of "home." While, on the one hand, the nation-state sets the terms for exclusion of these subjects according to race and sexuality, Asian and African diasporas "queer" the very notion of home in acts of resistance that emerge in diverse cultural sites from the end of World War II to the present.

**Jill Gatlin** (English)

*Nature, Waste, and the Everyday Landscape of Resistance: A Genealogy of U.S. Literary Environmentalism*

Gatlin's dissertation excavates a counter-history of American literary environmentalism, accounting for representations of pollution, waste, and toxics from 1860 to the present. Redeploying and revising traditional literary tropes of the natural landscape—such as the pastoral, the sublime, the frontier, and the wasteland—the texts she examines advance culturally and historically specific understandings of non-human nature and environmental hazard. In doing so, they challenge problematic formulations of nationalist identity and delineate barriers to and catalysts for environmental justice.

**Yurie Hong** (Classics)

*Gendered Conceptions: Reproductions of Birth and the Body in Greek Literature*

Hong's dissertation investigates the ways in which culturally influenced notions of the reproducing female body are mobilized in Greek medical, poetic, and historiographical texts of the classical period. It examines how literary constructions and uses of images of pregnancy and childbirth are appropriated in male discourses about elite literary, intellectual, and cultural production.

**Ji-Young Um** (English)

*War without End: 20<sup>th</sup> Century U.S. Wars in Asia and Empire Structured in Dominance*

Um's dissertation project situates and theorizes America's wars in Asia as a central rubric for understanding racial, national, and imperial formations in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her work explores the ways in which war narratives reveal the contradictions of and contestations over national and imperial formations, as well as the ways in which "war" and "peace" overlap and constitute one another.