

**SIMPSON CENTER FOR THE HUMANITIES**  
**Institute on the Public Humanities for Doctoral Students**

*Outcomes and Projects from Previous Institutes*

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COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HUMANITIES PROJECTS

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Fellows involved in the Institute continue to develop and submit grant proposals for collaborative research and/or community engagement projects to both the Simpson Center and other funding agencies. Multiple projects have received competitive Simpson Center funding awards or discretionary grants. Some projects such as the *Urban Archives* project and the *Public and Counterpublic Scholarship* events have found other institutional locations or sources of support.

The Institute provides the setting in which students can begin to imagine and design such projects in the company of others with like interests, but it also offers them language important for situating, legitimating, and arguing for these projects. In leading these projects, students learn how to frame compelling project narratives, organize substantive and generative public events, track budgets, and raise additional support, developing important institutional knowledge as well as professional skills in the process.

Project Descriptions

**Seeing What Queer Youth Know**

*Calla Chancellor* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '06) organized and received Simpson Center 2008-2009 funding for this participatory Photovoice investigation of visibility and cultural identity together with queer youth on Capitol Hill. The project will culminate in a local exhibition.

**Critical Animal Studies**

*Dipika Nath* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '04 and '06) and *Matthew Walton* (Political Science, Institute Fellow '06), with others in Philosophy and Political Science, organized this research cluster on the place of non-human animals in natural, social, and mental worlds. Over 2007-2008, they will be developing and convening dialogues with university and community stakeholders on "the question of animals" and their rights in specific contexts of practice.

**Students Writing in Public**

*Mona Atia* (Geography, Institute Fellow '05) and *Mark Pitner* (Asian Languages & Literatures, Institute Fellow '07) with others in English, Near Eastern Languages & Civilization and History, received funding to continue a research collective promoting individual and collaborative graduate student writing and publication in media outlets other than traditional academic journals.

**Queer Worlds**

*Calla Chancellor* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '06) and *Jason Morse* (English, Institute Fellow '05), with others in Anthropology and English, organized this research/colloquium series that aims to situate the study of sexuality transnationally and to investigate the role of public scholarship and non-academic cultural production in thinking sexuality. Funding for 2007-2008; renewed 2008-2009.

### **Seattle Reads *The Namesake*: Community Dialogues and Book Group Discussions**

*Kellie Holzer* (English, Institute Fellow '05), *Dipika Nath* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '04/'06) and *Vince Scheitwiler* (English, Institute Fellow '06), together with other graduate students and Professor Chandan Reddy (English) developed a set of community dialogues with Seattle public library members and South Asian cultural and political organizations, using the reading experience to shed light on Lahiri's novel *The Namesake* and issues of Asian immigration to the U.S.

### **Public Rhetorics Permanent War**

*Keith Feldman* (English, Institute Fellow '04), *Anoop Mipuri* (English, Institute Fellow '05), and *Georgia Roberts* (English, Institute Fellow '04) received competitive Simpson Center funding for a year-long symposium and a year-long follow-up research cluster, *Public Rhetorics in an Age of Permanent War*. With the support of other local organizations, they brought to campus Suheir Hammad (poet), Van Jones (Executive Director, Ella Baker Center for Human Rights), and Michael Denning (American Studies, Yale University) in 2005-2006; their investigations continued in quarterly colloquia with visiting scholars Derek Gregory (Geography, University of British Columbia) and Angela Davis (History of Consciousness, UC Santa Cruz) in 2006-2007.

### **Creating Community through Blogging**

*Honni van Rijswijk* (English, Institute Fellow '05) and *Matthew James Vechinski* (English, Institute Fellow '06) received 2006-2007 Simpson Center funding for an interdisciplinary research cluster on *Creating Community through Blogging*. The cluster explored the potential of blogs for classroom practice and for university-community partnerships and collaborations.

### **WPA: Public Arts in a Time of Crisis**

*Kara Reilly* (Drama, Institute Fellow '04) organized faculty and graduate students in Drama, American Ethnic Studies, History, and English a public symposium, *WPA: Public Arts in a Time of Crisis* examining the lessons and legacies of this ambitious governmental social and cultural program for the present. The May 2006 events included a keynote address, a full day of panels, a performance based on the life of Federal Theatre Project founder, Hallie Flanagan, and a Special Collections Library exhibit of rare, architectural models crafted by relief workers in the Seattle Units.

### **Urban Archives**

*Giorgia Aiello* (Communication, Institute Fellow '03) and *Irina Gendelman* (Communication, Institute Fellow '03) organized the *Urban Archives* research and teaching project together with others in the Information School. Using photography, students carry out field research by capturing urban texts such as graffiti, public art, advertising, signage and architectural design. These undergraduate and graduate documentary projects—archived, annotated, and shared for further analysis and research within communities—contribute to a growing body of knowledge on urban communication (See <http://www.urbanarchives.org> )

### **Public and Counterpublic Scholarship**

*Deborah Kimmey* (English, Institute Fellow '05), *Lisa Thornhill* (English, Institute Fellow '05), and *Steve Tobias* (English, Institute Fellow '05) received a competitive grant from the Learning

for Leadership Council to organize and run a practice-based workshop and roundtable discussion on scholarship and activism. These events brought visiting guest speaker Jenny Worley (Media Studies, University of San Francisco) into dialogue with 15 graduate student seminar participants, and into roundtable discussion with UW assistant professors from English, Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, and Women Studies, and a larger university/community audience.

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## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

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Workshop: “Public History and the Challenge of Liberal Nationalism: Documenting Racism and Civil Rights Movements in the U.S.,” Imagining America Conference, Los Angeles, CA (October 2008).

Organized and facilitated by *Trevor Griffey* (Institute Fellow, '05) to reflect and strategize collectively regarding challenges and best practices for university-community collaborative history and humanities projects that challenge liberal assumptions about race in the U.S.

“Public Humanities and...” Roundtable, Imagining America Conference, Los Angeles, CA (October 2008).

Organized by *Miriam Bartha* and *Bruce Burgett* (Institute Co-directors, 05-08), to explore historical and potential linkages between scholarly and engagement practices that are organized under the rubric of “public humanities” and those that are organized through the domains of social sciences, natural sciences, arts, and humanities.

“The *American Sabor*: Engaged Cultural Studies” Roundtable, Cultural Studies Association-U.S. New York, NY (May 2008).

*Miriam Bartha* organized and moderated panel on cross-sectoral project and university-community partnership involving UW faculty, graduate students, and staff of the Seattle Experience Music Project producing a major traveling exhibit on Latinos in U.S. Popular Music.

“Cultural Studies and ...” Roundtable, Cultural Studies Now Conference. London, UK (July 2007), and, Cultural Studies Association-U.S. Portland, OR (April 2007).

*Bruce Burgett* organized and moderated a roundtable on connections between cultural studies engagement and scholarship practices and those of other practice fields. As a roundtable participant, *Miriam Bartha* presented on “Cultural Studies and...Public Humanities,” featuring the Institute as an example of research/teaching praxis.

“Bridges, Buffers, and Byways: Educating Students and Institutions for the Public Work of the Humanities,” Imagining America Conference Roundtable and Workshop, Columbus, OH (October 2006).

*Miriam Bartha* and *Bruce Burgett*, with *Lisa Thornhill* (Institute Fellow '05/06) and *Dipika Nath* (Institute Fellow '04/06), led a workshop session evolved from their collaboration on the design and running of the 2006 Institute.

“Cultural Studies as Cultural Praxis: Reshaping the Research University,” Invitational Seminar, *Cultural Studies Association Conference*, Washington, D.C. (April 2006). (Organizers/Moderators: *Miriam Bartha* and *Bruce Burgett*). A seminar/workshop evolved from collaborative work on the 2005 Institute.

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#### AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND ENGAGEMENTS

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- Associate Director, PAGE Network, Imagining America, 2008-2009

*Lisa Thornhill* (English, Institute 05/06) will serve as Associate Director of the Publicly Active Graduate Education Network of Imagining America for 2008-2009. Duties include organization and facilitation of the PAGE Summit for the annual IA conference, recruitment, selection, and mentorship of PAGE fellows, and representation of PAGE issues on the IA National Board.

- Franklin Humanities Seminar Postdoctoral Fellowship

*Dipika Nath* (Women Studies, Institute '04/'06) to participate as postdoctoral fellow in the seminar on “Alternative Political Imaginaries” at Duke University, 2008-2009

- Carter G. Woodson Institute Pre-Doctoral Fellowship

*Anoop Mirpuri* (English, Institute '05) received a two-year pre-doctoral fellowship from the Carter G. Woodson Institute for Afro-American and African Studies at University of Virginia for work on his dissertation, “The Human Problem: Race, Criminality, and Politics as Warfare in an Age of Formal Equality.”

- Christopher Isherwood Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library

*Matthew Vechinski* (English, Institute '06) for residential research in its collections, Summer/Fall 2008.

- 6 Graduate Mentor Fellowships, 2006-2008

Competitively selected to help co-design and co-facilitate the Institute on the Public Humanities, in collaboration with the Institute’s faculty/staff co-directors:

2008

*Tim Jones* (Political Science, Institute Fellow '05)  
*Amanda Soto* (Music Education, Institute Fellow, '06)

2007

*Teresa Mares* (Anthropology, Institute Fellow '06)

*Paul Teske* (Education, Institute Fellow '06)

2006

*Dipika Nath* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '04)

*Lisa Thornhill* (English, Institute Fellow '05)

- 7 Project for Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (PIP) Teaching Fellowships, 2006-2009

*Tami Blumenfield* (Anthropology, Institute Fellow, '06), *Tim Jones* (Political Science, Institute Fellow '05), *Melanie Kill* (English, Institute Fellow '05), *Kevin Ramsey* (Geography, Institute Fellow '06), *Georgia Roberts* (English, Institute Fellow '04), *Jeanette Sanchez* (Drama, Institute Fellow, '05), and *Matthew Sneddon* (History, Institute Fellow '03) were awarded competitive teaching fellowships to teach in the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences program at UW Bothell. The PIP development and mentorship program focuses on interdisciplinary course design and pedagogies.

- 2 Project for Interdisciplinary Pedagogy (PIP) Second-Year Mentorship Award, 2007-2008

Selected as second-year PIP mentors: *Melanie Kill* (English, Institute Fellow '05) and *Georgia Roberts* (English, Institute Fellow '04).

- Alvord Fellowship in the Humanities, 2007-2008

*Trevor Griffey* (History, Institute '05) received this full-year dissertation fellowship for dissertation “‘Integrating a Burning House’: Black Worker Struggles for Affirmative Action in the Age of Deindustrialization” a topic developed in conjunction with research for the *Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project* <http://depts.washington.edu/civilr/>.

- Society of Scholars Dissertation Fellowships

2008-2009

Honni Van Rjiswijk (English, Institute '05)

“The Poetics of Personal Injury: Liability for Suffering in Twentieth-Century Law and Literature”

2007-2008

Tami Blumenfield (Anthropology, Institute '06)

“Visual Representations of the Na: Reclaiming a Medium”

Vince Schleitwiler (English, Institute '06)

“Shades of a World Problem: Reading the Literatures of Black and Asian Migrations”

2006-2007

Kellie Holzer (English, Institute '05)

“Nation-breeding Fictions: Marriage in the Age of Empire”

2005-2006

Nicole Calian (Germanics, Institute '03)  
 “Re-Inventing the Human Being: Kant and the Discourse of Anthropology”

Kara Reilly (Drama, Institute '04)  
 “Automata and Mechanical Theatres: A Spectacular History of Machine-Based Mimesis”

2004-2005  
 Alissa Karl (English, Institute'04)  
 Modernism and the Marketplace: Anglo-American Literature and Consumer Ideologies

Michael Oishi (English, Institute '03)  
 “Writing the Usable Past: Colonial Containments and Postcolonial Ruptures in Hawaii's Literary Histories”

- 2 Summer Dissertation Research Fellowships, 2008

Jennifer Lavy (Drama, Institute '04)  
 “Pathological Theatre: Infection, Contagion, Performance”

Dipika Nath (Women Studies, Institute '04/'06)  
 “Feral Disorders and Colonial Exclusions: Animal-reared Feral Children, Discourses of Animality, and the Treatment of Animals in Colonial India”

- 1 Graduate School Flanagan Dissertation Fellowship, 2007-2008

A \$25,000 award to *Keith Feldman* (English, Institute '04) to complete his dissertation, “Racing the Question: Palestine and U.S. Imperial Sovereignty.”

- 8 PAGE Fellowships from 2004 -2006

Six Institute Fellows were competitively awarded PAGE (Publicly Active Graduate Education) Fellowships between 2004 and 2006; two were awarded fellowships a second time as returning PAGE Fellows for a total of eight awards over these years. *Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life* distributes 10 fellowships/year, meaning that Institute Fellows have received 1 out of 4 available fellowships for these years. Fellowships help network graduate student leaders in the public humanities by defraying the cost of attending the IA annual conference. (In several instances the Simpson Center has also contributed funds to support graduate students' conference travel for *Imagining America*.)

- Graduate School Medal Recipient, 2006-2007

*Karen Rosenberg* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '04,) won the 2006 Graduate School Medal, which is accompanied by a \$10,000 fellowship and is awarded to scholar-citizens. Rosenberg is researching the relative effectiveness of models for social justice, focused on the domain of domestic violence by working with and studying local and state agencies in Washington and Canada.

- 3 Excellence in Teaching Awards, 2005- 2008

*Rachel Goldberg* (English, Institute '06), *Jennifer Lavy* (Drama, Institute Fellow '04,) and *Georgia Roberts* (English, Institute Fellow '04) received this university distinction for outstanding contributions in the classroom in 2008, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

- 2 Huckabay Fellowships, Graduate School, 2004-2006

*Giorgia Aiello* (Communication, Institute Fellow '03), to develop a course on “Theoretical and Methodological Approaches to Visual Communication,” tied to research and teaching on the Urban Archives project; *Alka Arora* (Women Studies, Institute Fellow '05), to develop intergroup dialogue as a pedagogical method for engaging students with inter-related questions about religion, spirituality, and political activism, and to integrate this method into a pre-existing Gender and Spirituality course.

- Practicum Grant, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

*Georgia Roberts* (English, Institute Fellow '04) received a “Humanities at Work” practicum grant from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation to lead a public library reading group on “The Textual Appeal of Tupac Shakur.” She will also be teaching a service learning course on the political imagination of the hip-hop generation through the Carlson Center in 2005-2006.

- Service Learning Instructor Award, UW Carlson Center

*Jason Lillis* (English, Institute Fellow '04) received the 2004-2005 Carlson Center Service Learning Instructor Award. His English composition courses for 2004-2005 focused on homelessness and poverty and featured a community engagement component.